

**DISASTER, RESILIENCE, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
Council of the County of Maui

**MINUTES**

**October 4, 2023**

**Online Only via BlueJeans**

**CONVENE:** 9:00 a.m.

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Chair  
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair (In 9:07 a.m.)  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (In 9:09 a.m.; Out 2:23 p.m.)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member (In 11:41 a.m.; Out 11:52 a.m.)  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member

**STAFF:**

Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst  
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Samantha Tanck, Legislative Analyst  
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney  
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary  
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
David Raatz, Director of Council Services  
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst

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

Angela Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin  
Laura McDowell, Executive Assistant to Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins  
Jared Agtunong, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Cook  
Stacy Takahashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Cook  
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama  
Haunani Madela, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez  
Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez

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Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci  
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci  
Jocelyn Moniz, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sugimura  
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson  
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson

**ADMIN.:** Josiah Nishita, Deputy Managing Director, Department of Management  
Lori Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns  
Darryl Oliveira, Interim Administrator, Maui Emergency Management Agency  
Garret Smith, Deputy Director, Department of Planning  
Jordan Molina, Director, Department of Public Works  
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Curtis Brown, Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer for Geographic Operations - Maui, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Jesus Ceja, Individual Assistance Team Member, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Cory Fast, Individual Assistance Team Member, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Keaton Browder, Public Assistance Team Member, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Jan Stout, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Lt. Col. Christopher "Ryan" Pevey, Honolulu District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Col. Jess Curry, Recovery Field Office Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Cory Koger, Chemist and Debris Subject Matter Expert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Brandon Boatman, Community Relations Specialist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Tara Fitzgerald, Deputy Incident Commander, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Dana Barnicoat, Assistant Public Information Officer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Barry Faulk, Chief Elected Liaison, American Red Cross  
Dean Uyeno, Acting Deputy Director, Commission on Water Resource Management, State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Ryan Imata, Chief, Groundwater Regulation Branch, Commission on Water Resource Management, State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Neal Fujii, Acting Chief, Planning Branch, Commission on Water Resource Management, State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Alexa Deike, Legal Fellow, Commission on Water Resource Management, State Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Rebekah Uccellini-Kuby, Founder, Grow the Change  
Craig Downs, Executive Director, Haereticus Environmental Laboratory

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Darrah Kauhane, Project Vision Hawaii  
Chad Falkenberg, CEO, Soilworks

Testifiers

Dennis Ka'aihue  
Susan Pcola-Davis  
Makana Reeves  
Cord Muñoz  
Dick Mayer  
Robin Knox  
Junya Nakoa  
Testifier Y Bee  
Jasee Law

(69) additional attendees

**PRESS:**     *Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.*  
              *KITV, 'A'ali'i Dukelow, KITV*  
              *Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Christie Wilson*  
              *Civil Beat, Nathan Eagle*

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CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the October 4th Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee come to order. The time is 9:00 a.m. If I can ask everyone to please silence their cell phones at this time, that would help our cause. Members, under the Sunshine Law, if you are not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. My name is Tamara Paltin, and I'll be your Chair for today's meeting. Our Vice-Chair, Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, is an...excused at this time. Bom dia to...and aloha kakahiaka to Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair. Aloha all.

CHAIR PALTIN: Good morning. And aloha kakahiaka to Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and oi, como vai.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oi, como vai. Also, aloha kakahiaka to, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I'm at the Moloka'i District office...well, no, I'm not alone. I have a minor with me on my side of the office. And we have our Community Outreach Specialist Zhantell Lindo and my EA Haunani Madela on the other side of the office reporting no testifiers at the moment.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And we have --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- in the Chambers, Councilmember Shane Sinenci. Aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. Hau'oli wau ma'ane'i. It looks like there's no testifiers at the Hāna District office.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And looks like Member Sugimura is excused at this time. We have Non-Voting Committee Member Council Chair Alice Lee. Bom dia, oi, como vai, and aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Bom dia, Chair. Oi, como vai. I would...I would like to ask if we can close at least that door, and leave this door open? Is there a...a fire code to open two doors?

CHAIR PALTIN: I'll refer that question to our Staff, who is more knowledgeable than I am.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I can see closing one door.

MS. GRECO: Chair, we can double-check. But our understanding is both need to be open, but we'll check.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And our other Non-Voting Committee Member, Councilmember Gabe Johnson, is not required to be here, but we welcome his presence at any time. This meeting of the Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee of the Maui County Council is located on the traditional 'āina of the Kānaka 'Ōiwi, who never ceded their sovereignty to the United States. We recognize that Her Majesty Queen Lili'uokalani yielded the Hawaiian Kingdom to the U.S. in duress under threat of violence to avoid the bloodshed of her people. We further recognize that Hawai'i remains an illegally occupied nation-state by the U.S. as documented in a 2021 scholarly article for the *National Lawyers Guild Review* by Andrew Reid, adjunct professor of law at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. Generations of Kānaka Maoli and their knowledge systems have sustainably cared for Hawai'i, and continue to do so. We are grateful to occupy this space and learn the ways in which we can contribute as a Committee. We seek to support the varied strategies that the indigenous people of Hawai'i are using to protect their land and their communities, and commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity. And from the Administration today, we have Department of Housing and Human Concerns Director Lori Tzuhako; from the Department of Public Works, Director Jordan Molina; from the Maui Emergency Management Agency, Interim Administrator Darryl Oliveira; from the Department of Planning--let's see, hopefully somebody--from the Office of the Manage...Department of Management, I'm not sure who will be there; from the Commission on Water Resource Management, we have Dean Uyeno; from the Federal

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Emergency Management Agency, we have Curtis Brown, Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer for Geographic Operations on Maui; Jesus Ceja, Individual Assistance Team Member. From the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we have Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Ryan Pevey, Honolulu District Commander, as well as Colonel Curry. From the Environmental Protection Agency, we have Brandon Boatman, Community Relations Specialist; Tara Fitzgerald, Deputy Incident Commander; Dana Barnicoat, Assistant Public Information Officer. From the American Red Cross, we have Barry Faulk, Chief Elected Liaison, as well as Ben Donner. From the Growing with Change, we have Rebekah Uccellini-Kuby, Director. And from Haereticus Environmental Laboratory, we have Dr. Craig Downs, Executive Director. And we have also invited Department of Health and Project Vision Hawai'i, not sure if they were able to come. I would like to designate the individuals just mentioned, as well as the people they brought, as resources...resource persons under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council, given their involvement in recovery efforts related to the August 2023 wildfires on Maui Island.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. At this time I would also like to recognize Committee Vice-Chair Nohe U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Good morning. Our Committee Staff, we have Committee Secretary Maria Leon, Legislative Analyst Paige Greco, Senior Legislative Analyst James Krueger, Legislative Analyst Sam Tanck, Legislative Attorney Richard E. Mitchell, and Assistant Clerk Lei Dinneen, and Jean Pokipala. Members, because we only have one item on the agenda today, I will ask for opening comments and presentation from our department representatives before receiving testimony.

**ITEM 2(12):      UPDATES ON RECOVERY EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE**  
**AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES ON MAUI ISLAND      (Rule 7(B))**

CHAIR PALTIN: So, since we have so many resources, if we could keep it kind of tight and brief, that would help our cause. And I'll just...let's see. I'll start off with our Curtis Brown from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

MR. BROWN: Good morning.

CHAIR PALTIN: Good morning.

MR. BROWN: Aloha. My name is Curtis Brown. I'm the Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer for the Maui wildfire disaster, and we are here at the invitation of Governor Green, on behalf of the State of Hawai'i, in support of the County of Maui. More than a dozen Federal agencies and departments are mobilized to assist the State, the County, nonprofit, and private sector partners to help the people of Hawai'i with the recent

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devastating wildfires. Personnel from FEMA, Federal agencies, and volunteer organizations have been partnering with the State and the County to support all response efforts and recovery. I welcome this opportunity to meet with you, to update you on our activities, and quell any questions that you may have. And thank you for the opportunity, Chairman, Members of the Committee, as well as other Councilmembers, and those that are online. With me today is...as you already mentioned is Jesus, Cory Fast from Individual Assistant from FEMA, and then also Keaton Browder from Public Assistance with FEMA. And I'll hold the remaining comments for the rest of the meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Brown. And just as a explanation, not all of--oh. Also, we have Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, bom dia, and oi, como vai.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Repeat that after you. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Ditto.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, ditto. Good morning, everybody. Nice to see you, Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Good to see you as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, good to see you. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: And it was just an opportunity because, you know, the Administration has free access, and so, if Members had questions about...or concerns about things. So, I invited these resources to give us an update and briefing on what's going on in...in the response. Thank you so much.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: And we also have, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Ryan Pevey--or Colonel Curry.

MR. CURRY: Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers. Again, thanks for having us here today to be a part of this session, and provide some important information, and...and opportunity to answer your questions. As you mentioned, I wanted to...to state that I'm Colonel Jess Curry from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I command the Recovery Field Office here on Maui. Also here with me today, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Pevey, the Honolulu District Commander, and with Honolulu District still in...in large support to the RFO and the recovery efforts here on Maui. Additionally, we have Dr. Cory Koger, who is our...one of our several subject-matter experts here to help us continue to work through the complex issues associated with...with this recovery effort. As we...just as a way of introduction, and just very briefly, the two primary lines of effort that the Corps is focused on currently as part of the recovery effort; first, as many...as all of you are aware, is the debris removal mission that the Corps of Engineers is...has been...has been given, through FEMA, in order to provide that

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important service as part of that...that effort. Right now, those...those are continuing to move forward on schedule. At this time we do have several of our personnel that are supporting the Disaster Recovery Centers to provide advice, to provide...to answer questions as...as they pertain to rules...to...excuse me, to rights of entry, and the...what will occur once the Phase 2 operations really start in earnest. Additionally, our contracting personnel are continuing to move...make progress in establishing the contracts that will be important to...to see that mission through, which include cultural monitoring contracts, and then a variety of debris removal contracts, which we have discussed before, and will be glad to answer questions about today. Additionally, the...we were also participating in as many of these opportunities as we can to...in order to communicate better what the Corps is focused on doing going forward on behalf of the...of Maui County, and...and the....the people of...of Maui, and Lāhainā and Kula specifically, for those debris removal efforts. The second major effort for the Corps of Engineers is focused on is critical public facilities, and specifically the temporary elementary school construction in Lāhainā. Now...so, that...that is...is just in its initial stages, but I will report initially that it is...it's on schedule. We're deep and close to being complete with design...now, that's in close consultation with Department of Education, several County...County offices, as well as FEMA, and...and others that...to provide input to ensure that that school is...meets its purpose for temporary....temporary schooling for the children of Lāhainā. Both very important missions that we're extremely proud to get to be a part of, and look forward to discussing further later in the...in the day today. Anything you'd like to add? Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much, Colonel Curry. Next up, from the Environmental Protection Agency we have Tara Fitzgerald, Deputy Incident Commander.

MS. FITZGERALD: Good morning. My name is Tara Fitzgerald, I'm the Deputy Incident Commander for the EPA, Maui fires response. Thank you for inviting us to give an update, and be able to answer questions. EPA is here, tasked by FEMA, to conduct household hazardous material removal at residences and commercial properties. We've been continuing our work, and at this point we are about 66 percent complete with all the properties in Lāhainā and Kula. At this time, we're continuing to work with County and other stakeholders to ensure that we work safely within the evacuation area in Lāhainā. And we are working with the County to prioritize working and completing residences in zones that are scheduled for re-entry. So, with that, we are looking at having our Community Resource Specialists present and be available during the re-entry process, and we have fact sheets that are available for residents who are coming in in multiple languages, and they show kind of what they may see from our work on the back, including signs that will show that the work is complete. And we also are updating our story map, which can be found by Googling EPA Maui Fires to show our daily progress, the zones that are complete...that EPA has completed, and also the zones that we are working in each day. So, if other stakeholders wish should know where we are, they can know, and we can work safely. We --

CHAIR PALTIN: Can you repeat that site real quick?

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MS. FITZGERALD: So, I...it's...it's kind of a long site. It is on the story map...it is on the fact sheet. But if you Google EPA Maui Fires, it will be the first thing that pops up.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much.

MS. FITZGERALD: That's kind of the easiest way to...to get to it. We are beginning to look more into the commercial properties that we have been tasked to remove hazardous materials from with the understanding that we're prioritizing the residential parcels for re-entry process. But we are beginning that, and that's going to require a little bit more coordination with the County as we...as they may be slightly more complicated to complete. But we are beginning that process, and that's where we are, about 66 percent.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. FITZGERALD: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: I just had one more clarification, when you say 66 percent, is that 66 percent of all structures, or 66 percent of residential structures?

MS. FITZGERALD: That would be of all structures, so a total of about 1,600, but we have about 150 commercial parcels. So, it's...it's really mostly residential.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. FITZGERALD: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Next I wanted to go to--let's see. We had, on the request of some Members, Dr. Downs, and he's been doing some research on Soiltac and the alternatives. Dr. Downs, are you available?

MR. DOWNS: Yes. Can you hear me?

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes, I can.

MR. DOWNS: Okay, great. Not able to figure out how to turn my screen on, but my name is Dr. Craig Downs, I'm Executive Director, Haereticus Environmental Laboratory. We're a 501(c)(3) nonprofit science organization, and we do a lot of ecotoxicology and environmental forensics. I've been asked to...to provide some comments regarding the use of dust suppressants on the...the Lāhainā ash. And the first point I want to make is, I recognize the critical importance of using dust suppressants on ash. They have to be used. The storms and wind can kick up dust, and spread a number of the toxicants and chemicals that are in the ash. So, I'm in agreement with EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers of using the dust suppressant. My question is the product, or the type of dust suppressant used. So, my understanding is that the EPA is recommending a dust suppressant made out of plastic, specifically a product called



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Soiltac. We don't know what the composition is of Soiltac. We know that it's plastic. We know from a 2020 U.S. EPA report that it's a copolymer of vinyl acetate, ethylene, vinyl esters with mineral fillers and productive colloid liquid product in a synthetic vinyl copolymer dispersion. We don't know if there's any UV filter stabilizers. We don't know if there's any type of biocide stabilizers in it...we just don't know. And so the question is...that I have is, is this the safest and best product that we can use as a dust suppressant? In that same 2020 U.S. EPA report, they give a list of probably a dozen other types of suppressants. Others are polymer, some are enzymes, others are pine rosin, some are...are mineral-based, like potassium chloride and sodium chloride. And...and so, that's the question I have is, is this really the safest thing to be using? Because...and even though Soiltac says that they...they have an MSDS sheet, and that they did aquatic toxicology testing--and this isn't their fault--there was no methodology provided with the toxicology test, the aquatic toxicology testing. So, for example, did you use the powdered form? Did you use the weathered form, did you use newly polymerized form? And is it toxic to fish, is it toxic to corals, is it toxic to a whole range of organisms? My concern is whether or not the Army Corps of Engineers can move quickly enough that once the dust suppressant is...is applied to a lot, can they remove it as fast as they can? And if they can't--and that's, you know, pretty reasonable if...if they're delayed--the plastic...the dust suppressant plastic Soiltac can weather. It could be weathered by UV light from the sun, and that weathering can cause an abundance of micro and nanoplastics. And those plastics can enter into the environment either through atmospheric entry or when it rains, and it can be washed off in the ocean, what type of impact will it have? And I...I think the U.S. EPA 2020 report, which is titled "The Final Report, Evaluation of the Potential Toxicity of Dust Palliatives used in Alaska"--and this is a Region 10 report--it is a report that doesn't have any conclusion. It doesn't really say what is safe and what is best to use, they just say...they basically conclude is, we don't have enough information. And I...and so, I...I don't know how U.S. EPA could recommend this product without having adequate information. We don't want EPA to commit the same sins of the past of like recommending a pesticide that will get pulled or a PFAS product that will get pulled because of environmental toxicity because it causes chronic toxicity. We know microplastics cause chronic toxicity. So, I'm...I was just...I just...I'm testifying as to the concerns of whether this has been tested, and...and is there a...a...a rigorous confidence that this is the safest product for dust suppressant that we can use. And...and also, I want to state that plastics, any type of plastics are not biodegradable, including vinyl esters. So, this is not a biodegradable product. Recognize that. And again, if the Army Corps of Engineers can get in and quickly remove it, great. But if it sits for a week or two, and it begins to weather, that poses an environmental concern. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Dr. Downs. And that Alaska report has been uploaded to Granicus as Granicus number 1. Next up, from the Commission on Water Resources Management, as part of this will also cover at Member Kama's request about housing, and we know that the upper West Side has ground and surface water designation. And I just invited Interim Deputy Uyeno just to educate us on what that means for the upper West Side.

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MR. UYENO: Good morning and aloha, Councilmembers. This is Dean Uyeno, Acting Deputy Director for the Commission on Water Resource Management. On the call today I also have Ryan Imata, head of our Groundwater Regulation Branch; Neal Fujii, head of...currently Acting Branch Chief for our Planning Branch; and Alexa Deike, our Legal Fellow. So, as you folks are aware, on August 9th and...the day following the fires, Emergency Proclamation 3 was issued by the...the Lieutenant Governor, suspending the State Water Code. The Governor, subsequently, on September 8th reinstated the State Water Code in Emergency Proclamation 7. As you may also be aware, the Commission held a meeting on September 19th on O'ahu at the request of several community members. At this time we are looking to return to Maui, or...or come to Maui on October 24th, which is the fourth Wednesday, because it's not our typical meeting time, but a week later from our usual third Wednesday. Anyways, we are looking for a location to hold that meeting still, and we are hoping to confirm that shortly. And so, we'll have more details on that. At the September 19th Commission meeting, we did provide to the Commission a briefing on the status of wells in the...in the...that were impacted in the fire permit...fire impacted area, as well as provide update on the status of interim instream flow standards in West Maui, an update of the water management area of the Lāhainā sector area, and water use permit applications, which coincidentally were due to the Commission on August 7th, the day before the fires. And then also, long-term alternative resource options in West Maui. We did also meet with County Staff, including County Public Works, Housing and Human Concerns, FEMA, and Maui Department of Water Supply to discuss potential options for temporary housing and the temporary schooling that's currently being constructed on our understanding. At this time, we're recommending...or in...in those discussions, we're...ideally the source for those projects should...we would like them to come from the County...under the County's existing supply options. And so, it really...what we're looking at really depends on...on where the housing will be placed. We don't know what final decisions are being made by the County, but we'll...we'll let them answer those questions first. And so, otherwise we are here, and available for any questions that you may have. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Interim Deputy Uyeno. Let's see. I think that's everyone...oh, that needed to leave early except for...we also got Director of Housing and Human Concerns Lori Tsuhako. Any opening comments or updates for the Committee?

MS. TSUHAKO: Morning, Madam Chair and Members. I think that Deputy Managing Director Josiah Nishita spoke yesterday about the ongoing attempts...our ongoing efforts toward recovery, and the creation of the Housing Work Group that's being led by our Deputy Director Saumalu Mataafa and Deputy Director of Public Works Wendy Taomoto. I will not discuss that further here, but the Department's operations continue forward. We also have a required presence at the Emergency Operation Center, where we are coordinating the Human Services grant. So, many of the services geared toward the financial assistance and the emergency housing efforts have been organized, and pulled off with the...with the help of our partners at the EOC to take care of people. We're going to be doing a little bit more consultation and fact-finding with Ms. Kauhane, who's on the call this morning, about the State's emergency shelter that was just erected recently to take in people who might have been

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unsheltered pre-fire, and see how we can best utilize that resource for larger community good. So, there's a lot of coordinating, and those sorts of efforts going on in terms of addressing the emergency, as well as looking forward to long-term recovery. That's it. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Director Tsuhako. And I did see Ms. Kauhane of Project Vision join the call. Did you have any update to provide us, Ms. Kauhane?

MS. KAUHANE: Good morning, Chairman Paltin and Councilmembers. Thanks for having me on this morning. Aloha mai kākou Darrah Kauhane with Project Vision Hawai'i. With the State, we established the Pu'uhonua o Nēnē, the temporary shelter, to serve individuals experiencing homelessness pre-disaster to recover from...from the fires. We have around 60 folks that are present on site right now, but we have the capacity for 150 individuals with full wraparound services. So, I'm here today to answer any questions, provide any information. Mahalo for having me.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And just verifying, there's currently 60 people there, 6-0, and you have the capacity for 150, 1-5-0; is that correct?

MS. KAUHANE: Correct.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. KAUHANE: Correct. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: And then next up we'll call, from the American Red Cross, Chief Elected Liaison Barry Faulk.

MR. FAULK: Aloha. Good morning. Thank you so much, Chair Paltin and Councilmembers, for this opportunity to share a little bit about our work with the American Red Cross with respect to the August 2023 wildfires here in Maui. My name is Barry Faulk, I am one of over 1,300 Red Crossers who have been deployed here to Maui since the wildfires. Currently there's over 300 Red Crossers that have been deployed that are here on the island currently. In my normal role, I serve as the Chief Executive Officer for our Missouri and Arkansas Region, and I'm here supporting today, and really sharing a little bit about our operation on behalf of...of the operation itself. Our Job Director, Dave Gutierrez, as well as our...our Regional Executive here on the islands, Diane Peters-Nguyen. The Red Cross continues to remain completely focused on meeting immediate needs of survivors impacted by the wildfires. This, of course, is most notably found through our noncongregate sheltering program, where we currently have still over 7,000 survivors in over 34 hotels across the island currently. This program will, of course, continue, and remains available to anyone who is eligible regardless of nationality, and to anyone who owned or rented a home on Maui or Kula that was rendered uninhabitable by the fire. And so...so, you know, really, that is the...that is our key focus area right now. And I...I only mention that because certainly, those who were impacted by the wildfire are our biggest priority, right. I mean...and...and as we continue to seek out eligibility of those who should remain in

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that type of housing, we are doing our level best to ensure that those who are actually eligible who were impacted, or have a home that was impacted, certainly, by the wildfire is our first priority. On top of that, we are really, really pleased to be working with other partners, whether that be FEMA, whether that be the State of Hawai'i, of course, our partners at Project Vision that are supporting our pre-disaster unhoused. And so...so, we continue to really provide those levels of services. Really pleased this morning to also share that at this point, we have...we have provided over \$11.2 million of individual assistance to impacted survivors of the fires. This is money directly into the pockets of survivors or their family members. Of that \$11.2 million, \$218,000 of that is...has actually gone to family members of deceased survivors to support their arrangements for their...their families as well. As we move into the next phase of the...of the operation, long-term recovery becomes, of course, top of mind. And we are really happy and proud to have a long-term recovery team that will be led by Amanda Ree as our...as our Wildfire Long-Term Recovery Director that will be moving on to just not the next weeks ahead, but of course, the months ahead. Just yesterday, of course, the announcement was made about the partnership with, I think, CNAH [sic] to...to really begin a project to...to make sure that anyone who is a resident of Maui who might be able to house survivors, that we would be able to provide some financial assistance to those folks who...who would be able to support the housing of survivors. The...the Council for Native American Hawaiian Advancement [sic], the County of Maui, and, of course, the Red Cross, and the Hawai'i Community Foundation, are committed to...to supporting that particular program. But beyond that, there will be a number of long-term recovery programs. And in long-term recovery, the American Red Cross' intent and desire is ultimately to be a convener and a facilitator for community-led, community-focused long-term recovery efforts. That's a really important distinction there, is that we are...even right now, we've sent out a survey to key elected officials, such as yourselves, as well as other members of the community, seeking what the high-level needs are for long-term recovery. Again, the Red Cross' intent here is to be the convener and facilitator...not so much the leader of that, but to really just support a community-led long-term recovery effort. And, of course, that will include additional financial assistance, which we call bridge assistance, for survivors of the fire, as well as our Community Grant Program, which will...in some of the survey information that we're seeking out is, what are the needs of community organizations that might be able to continue to provide long-term recovery assistance? And so, there will be a wide number of community grants over the next number of months that will be given to nonprofits similar to the Council for Native Hawaiian...excuse me, for Native Hawaiian Advancement to just support survivors in the months and months to come. So, really pleased to...to be here. Thank you so much for the invitation. We'll be happy to answer any questions as they arise. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And also, I'd like to call up at this time our Interim Administrator Oliveira for any updates you can give the Committee.

MR. OLIVEIRA: Morning, Chair, Members of the Council. Again, thank you for the opportunity to address you and share information. My name is Darryl Oliveira, I'm the Interim Administrator with Maui Emergency Management. I've been on the job,

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officially, since August 28th, came into a point in the operations where we were in Phase 0. Phase 0, if you recall, was the search and recovery phase where Maui PD, FBI, the Urban Search and Rescue teams, were out searching the areas, as well as we have Maui Fire and Coast Guard working the coastal areas, looking for any survivors or remains. We quickly moved in to Phase 1, which was the phase in which you heard...EPA shared they're doing the household hazardous waste collection. And before we move into Phase 2 where the Corps will do the actual debris removal, we are in, what we call, re-entry. So, we can say Phase 1.5, if you want to call it, where we are assisting residents getting back to their properties, those that lost everything, giving the...the opportunity for closure, as well as start that healing process for them, as...and inclusive in that is them looking and...having an opportunity to...looking for mementos, or things that they might want to recover from their properties. We are in the second week of doing re-entry. We've had very successful turnout. Right now we're seeing on average, with the zones that we have opened, about 50 percent of the properties have people showing up and coming in. Very good opportunities to see families actually get that closure, as well as, you know, what was really, again, representative of Maui community...neighbors coming together and supporting one another, as we saw in the early onset with many of the hubs coming together. But we see, and continue to see, with re-entry where neighbors are supporting each other in that grieving and healing process. We expect to increase our capability and capacity, and open more zones quicker, provide more access, as well as move into the capability of allowing residents who had structures survive get back to their homes. As you may be aware, many of those structures are in areas with...that don't have, currently, wastewater or water. So, we want to make sure that it's safe, healthy, and safe to be in there. And we know too that even if they have structures that survived, and the absence of water and wastewater, they're still eligible for some of the programs because their homes are not habitable, even though they're still standing. So, we continue to work with the community. We're going to do more outreach. We're going to try to make passes more accessible, and just improve on our communication, and make sure the community knows how we're moving forward, and they have a voice, and...and play in that. So, look forward to answering any questions you may have. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much. And I just got a note, if we could please designate Darrah Kauhane as a resource person. I think we left her out on that list. Is that cool with you guys?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Let's see. Mr. Nishita from the Department of Management, is now a good time for you? I know he's been in and out. Oh, hey, Josiah.

MR. NISHITA: Aloha, Committee Chair Paltin, Committee Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins, and Members of the Committee. I have to say, I apologize, my computer is kind of acting a little weird. So, I apologize if I kind of come in and out a little bit. I did have a presentation, but given kind of the format of today, maybe I'll just give some

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highlights, and then maybe we can discuss at the appropriate Committee to have kind of more a in-depth discussion about our recovery framework and whatnot.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, we're all for the presentation. We...we--I'm seeing...I'm seeing nodding heads. We...we'd love the presentation.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. Let's see. I...I might have to come down in a little bit because for some reason, the PowerPoint's not sharing, so I might have to distribute hard copies to you folks. But at this point, if...I'll just highlight some brief areas. In regards to the Office of Recovery, you know, we're...we're still in the process of getting established, setting up organizational structure, outlining, you know, recovery phases, and then ensuring there's clear roles and responsibilities, as well as getting all of our, you know, Federal...State and Federal, and then GO partners, making sure that, you know, we're on the same page. So, we're in the...we're in the process of, you know, helping to facilitate that. The recovery process itself, post-disaster, you know, it's not really a linear process, but it's cyclical and iterative, and it needs to include the community at many different phases. And, you know, we're outlining a process that would have numerous touch points for community feedback. Organizing our recovery framework would be the start of the process. And --

CHAIR PALTIN: Josiah?

MR. NISHITA: Yes.

CHAIR PALTIN: I just got a message from Staff. If you wanted to email your presentation over, Staff could screenshare it for you.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, as I kind of indicated with the computer issues we're having, we are having kind of Countywide email issues, so my email isn't working this morning.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Apologies for that. The...just getting back...just real briefly on the high-level summary, we are in the process of organizing the recovery framework, which we'll get feedback from the Council, community members, stakeholders, as well as our, you know, other partners in this process. You know, once establishing that recovery framework, we'd proceed to like a community engagement and outreach portion, which would help to identify the needs, develop strategies for recovery, and different projects and actions, prioritize and adopt those strategies, look for an implementation phase, and then, of course, on the cyclical, and iterative side, getting community feedback as to how those processes are going. And, you know, feeding back into our...identifying future needs and strategies, and making sure that we're keeping the community vision and...and their feedback top of mind. We are in the process of trying to prepare a budget amendment for Council's consideration for some of our funding and staffing needs. So, we'll be working with you folks on that here in the near future. We have set up recovery support functions, which are certain specific collaborations that help to facilitate recovery strategies post-disaster. In no particular

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order, one of them is a community planning recovery support function, we call them RSFs. So, when I mention that, that's what it's alluding to. They'll be responsible for identifying, assessing, and providing resources, and support to post-disaster community planning and capacity building in these impacted areas. They'll be the lead for the community engagement process. That recovery support function lead is Garrett Smith out of Department of Planning. And we'll have further information at...at different Committee meetings regarding, you know, the different functions that they're performing, as well action items on the horizon. Another RSF is Health and Social Services, which will oversee the assessment of medical and health needs, public health, healthcare, and social services networks. The recovery support function leads for the County in that is Kauanoe Batangan and Chris Kish from DOT, and Department of Housing and Human Concerns, respectively. For Housing, our Director of Housing and Human Concerns alluded to this a little bit already, but the housing RSF would facilitate access to housing assistance in both interim and permanent housing solutions by drawing on housing resources, including the public and private sectors, as well as design, construction, labor, materials, logistics, inspections, and financing. Those leads are Saumalu Mataafa from DHHC and Wendy Taomoto from DPW. For Infrastructure, they'll be responsible for overseeing the restoration of all infrastructure, and utility systems. Those RSF leads are Jordan Molina from DPW and John Smith from DPW. For Natural and Cultural Resources, this RSF would ensure the protection and rejuvenation of the County's ecosystems, landmarks, and cultural sites post-disaster. Those RSF leads are Koa Hewahewa from Department of Agriculture and Kaiea Medeiros from Office of the Mayor. And then on the Economic Recovery RSF, this would be the link to, you know, helping to restore necessities of jobs, and of course, housing opportunities. They will help facilitate in development of strategies to restore economic activity, as well as other services and functions addressed in that realm. Recovery support function leads are Luana Mahi from the Office of Economic Development and Layne Silva from Department of Liquor. Kind of some of the next steps is, as I mentioned, circulating, kind of, the recovery framework for a variety of feedback so that we can help to get that solidified for community implementation. We have...we are in the process of issuing a procurement for a consultant services to help us in the recovery process, as well as on the community engagement side. So, we are working on...on those areas. There's a lot more things happening in all of our different RSF areas, and, you know, we...we'd be happy to have further discussions on that, maybe even a focus committee meeting, or meetings on the different areas so that we can dive more deep into those areas. But happy to address questions at that appropriate time, and if for some reason, Chair, I'm not on the call at the time, Staff can reach out to me, and I'll...I'll try to jump on as quickly as possible. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much, Mr. Nishita. It seems you been very busy since returning from your vacation.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Next up, from the Department of Planning, Mr. Smith, do you have any update from...for us?

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MR. SMITH: Yeah, good morning, Chair and Members. I just want to reiterate some items that Josiah did identify. You know, we...we are working on a couple different RFPs, coordinating with both County Departments, State and Federal as well on, again, looking at, you know, community planning work, which is going to be a little bit on the mid- to longer-term basis. Not just the land use, but also the infrastructure that will support, you know, community members and businesses returning to Lāhainā. So, again, in...in the weeks and months ahead, I imagine there's going to be much more discussion on what that will look like as far as the recovery framework, and ensuring community members have ample opportunity to...to weigh in on...on any decisions that are going to be made that'll impact their community itself. But we...yeah, we're....we're going to be gearing up, again, just to...to bring forth more information and alternatives, again, in the forthcoming time.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much. Next up, from the Department of Public Works, Director Jordan Molina. Oh, okay, let me see if he's on the call.

MS. GRECO: Chair Paltin, he was on the call earlier, but has dropped off. We can give him a ring.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Let's see. From Growing the Change, Rebekah Uccellini-Kuby. Are you available?

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Can you guys hear me okay?

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Okay. Mahalo. Thanks for having me today. So, my name is Rebekah Uccellini. Some of you here I know from Hāna, others from the Department of Education. I worked with 41 schools across Maui, Molokaʻi, and Lānaʻi between the years of 2010 and 2015. We also ran a big Department of Health grant that was aimed at reducing health disparities among native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders across Maui, Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi throughout...through the lens of creating food forests and food deserts. I worked on getting GMOs off of our islands with . . . *(inaudible)*. . . and I've worked on restoration projects across the island. I was paralyzed and almost died in 2015 from a rare disease, and I had to be sent off island to the West Coast for medical care. As life would have it, fires began to follow me from Sonoma County, to Oregon, to Santa Cruz. We were evacuated four times in three years, and I was pulled into an unexpected training grounds, working in fire relief and recovery over the past six years. I've been working in disaster relief part-time since 2004. I've done that internationally, and suddenly it feels as if these last six years in fire relief have prepared me for this moment here, being able to support my own community through this. Throughout that time, over the last six years I've been able to individually work with over 700 families from first wave of disaster relief through long-term recovery. In that time, because of my background in permaculture, regenerative system design, and ecosystem restoration, I was brought into toxic debris mitigation, micro remediation, and bioremediation efforts. I worked most closely within the Last



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Chance, Bonny Doon, and Boulder Creek communities in California. We've also done three-year studies now across six different fire zones. And I want to honor and give gratitude out to Sonoma County, Tubbs Fire, Butte County, Paradise, and others because every fire that's happened, we learn a little bit more. The lessons that have informed the recovery in the future are really possible because of these communities, the open source information, and...and Paradise, and Butte County really helped Sonoma County and CZU fire not to make the same mistakes. And we continue to share those best practices. They were definitely hard earned, and they came at great expense. But my hope and my prayer is that we don't have to make the same mistakes here on Maui. I've been working kind of around the clock here, mostly individual case management at Kāko'o Maui. I've been supporting Maui Rapid Response and Makai Foundation. I'm a volunteer here. I get paid no money. I'm here for the last 57 days working around the clock, and I just...I'm here because this community means everything to me. I've lived on Maui longer than I have lived anywhere, and working with the keiki so closely, I can't even put into words how much I feel a sense of protection around making sure that people are not going to be getting sick right now, and that there's not going to be a secondary disaster while we're taking too long to get to holding down that ash and ensuring that it's not going to be airborne, blowing into the schools as children are going to be returning back to school. I'm sitting every day with families who are still in the burn scar Kelaweia Mauka families and others who are already having respiratory issues, and headaches, and things like that because the ash is blowing into their windows. And it's been tragic because we...we keep giving them air purifiers and things like this, but I know...I know that it's not enough. Ideally, every...ideally, we would not have people living there until we know that cleanup is complete, and we know that that toxic ash footprint is held down. And so, I'm here today to try and share anything that we can in terms of what we did in the past, and also from the future of what...like we haven't used. So, I just want to be clear, we've never used the Soiltac before. And when I first heard about it, I heard the same presentation, actually, that Dr. Downs gave earlier, and I was pretty mortified about the idea of microplastics, and things like this. And I...I ended up doing a bit more research, and I realized that I, you know, had made a mistake myself actually because I realized that he was reporting on a different product, not the one that actually is going to be used here on Maui, or the one that they used in Kula. And so, I'm kind of looking deeper into what that product is that they actually have used on the island for the last 20 years, and what they are proposing to use. And I think it would be important for us to be able to look at...at that product, and to be able to consider that as a possibility. If we choose not to use the Soiltac, I'm happy to share what we've used in other organizations, and across six different fires where we didn't have that option to use something like a Soiltac or a, you know, stabilizer like that. And it was really a coalition-led movement. We kind of had our community begin it, and then we were able to get others...like Team Rubicon, Army Corps of Engineers, and others to continue following suit. But essentially what that looks like is going through and individually, house-by-house, tarping all the areas. And so, we would first get the EPA list of where the red zones, orange zones are, ensuring to do an overview map on LiDAR and topography, and then sitting with local community members who know that land better than anybody else, and identifying where the runoff is going to be happening. We did retention basins that

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were lined, we did tarping, wattles, Filtrexx socks, and then we added layers of bioremediation, microremediation, and biochar. I'm happy to share all of that information with the community here, I'm happy to be a resource. And so, we have documents and everything that we can sit down and share with you guys. So, I just wanted to, yeah, let you guys know I'm here, and a resource, and that this feels really like the most important thing right now. And I've kind of paused all the case management I'm doing because I'm really concerned about this being, actually, one of the...the larger scales eco...ecological and health disasters that we've experienced in the...in the State of Hawai'i if we...if we don't act quickly. Ideally, we would have had things covered in week three or four following search and rescue, and it wouldn't be airborne for this long. Anyone who's over there had seen, you know, the ash tornados, ash blowing into windows. You can see the flags, and the direction of the wind a lot of times is blowing right uphill to where the schools are going to be in session. And so, I just want to make sure that we're able to get on this as soon as possible with whatever method we decide to go forward with just to ensure that it's not going to be blowing through the air and into our watershed. Mahalo.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Last call for Jordan Molina. We weren't able to reach him by phone, and he's the last of our resources that has yet to speak. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. While we wait for Director Molina, I see that Chad Falkenberg, the CEO of Solidworks [sic], is on the testifier list. And I...I was wondering if we could perhaps hear from him as a resource person before opening up for testimony to speak to some of the...the things that were brought up earlier.

CHAIR PALTIN: Members, any objection with having Chad --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Falkenberg.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- Falkenberg be designated as a resource person?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Mr. Falkenberg, would you like to give some opening comments?

MS. GRECO: Excuse me, Chair. Sorry, this is Staff. If you could just please state what his expertise is?

CHAIR PALTIN: Sure. Can somebody please state what the expertise is?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He will be speaking to Soil...Soiltac.

CHAIR PALTIN: Soiltac is your expertise --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

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CHAIR PALTIN: -- Mr. Falkenberg?

MR. FALKENBERG: Correct. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

MR. FALKENBERG: Wonderful.

CHAIR PALTIN: His expertise is in Soiltac. Okay.

MR. FALKENBERG: Aloha, and good morning, humble Councilmembers, and respected citizens of Maui. My name is Chad Falkenberg, I am the CEO and founder of Soilworks, the manufacturer of Soiltac soil stabilizer and dust control agent. Today I stand before you to address concerns, correct misinformation, and most critically, engage in transparent conversations about the role of Soiltac in the aftermath of the devastating Maui fires. The treatment of toxic ash in Maui is not merely an environmental challenge, it is a sacred duty to protect both the land and its people. We are recommending Soiltac as a viable solution, but we understand that the community has valid reservations and questions about its use. For over two decades, Soiltac has been utilized globally stabilizing soil, controlling dust, and managing toxic debris to mitigate longer-term environmental and health concerns. I want to clarify, Soiltac is environmentally and ecologically safe. It does not degrade into toxic microplastics. It does not contain UV-resistant additives. Our commitment to transparency and environmental safety has been unwavering. Every ingredient in Soiltac, including their specific cast numbers, have been fully disclosed to the EPA, along with dozens of reports from independent laboratories validating its safety and efficacy. Inaction, or delayed action, regarding ash capping carries profound implications. Without treatment, toxic ash can infiltrate water systems, jeopardizing water supply, and generate toxic airborne dust, impacting the community's health. Soiltac offers an immediate, effective, and proven means to prevent these realities until a more permanent solution can be enacted. However, it is my duty to address the disheartening pattern that has emerged during this crisis. Accurate information is the backbone of trust, and a key to solving any crisis. However, the spread of misinformation and reliance on conspiracy theories by individuals, some of whom hold influential platforms, is not only disheartening, but also dangerous. Within moments of a basic Internet search, anyone has access to my direct contact information, as well as Soilworks. To date, other than the EPA, I have been called by only three people; a musician, a media representative, and a concerned citizen seeking factual information about Soiltac. Not a single scientist or government official has reached out for clarification, additional data, yet many continue unverified and misleading narratives. Unfortunately, this has just been exemplified by the inaccurate and misleading testimony you just heard minutes ago from Dr. Craig Downs. This is not just shocking, and it's a neglect of due diligence that jeopardize that the welfare of Maui, and its people. I strongly encourage everyone here to prioritize truth, credible information, and foremost, the safety, and wellbeing of Maui and its inhabitants. Mahalo for your attention.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Is Director Molina able to join the call from the Department of Public Works? Okay. Perhaps he'll come on later. At this point...shoot. I didn't read to you folks the agenda, but it's basically updates on recovery efforts in response to the August 2023 wildfires on Maui Island, 7(B) presentation, no legislative action. At this time we can open for public testimony for DRIP-2(12). Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you are signed in, you are on the list to testify--actually, we changed that to please ask to testify in the interest of time because so many people were on that weren't testifying. So, if you've asked to testify, you will...you're on the list, and you can indicate in chat if you'd like to testify. Written testimony is encouraged, and can be submitted via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). And we have received some eComments with questions for our resource. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I'll kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Unless you want to testify anonymously, please clearly identify your name in the chat. If you prefer to testify anonymously, Staff will identify you...identify and refer to you as "Testifier" and assign you a number. You may indicate in the chat if you do not wish to testify, but chat should not be used for discussion or comments. Please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. May I please request that everyone keep their microphones muted unless it is your time to speak. Decorum must be maintained at all times. Any person who behaves in a manner that disrupts, disturbs, or impedes the orderly conduct of any Council meeting can, and at the discretion of the presiding officer or a majority of present Councilmembers, be ejected or banned from the Council meetings...or Committee meetings...or if participating remotely, muted or dropped from the meeting. Examples of disruptive behavior include heckling, shouting, use of profanity, threatening or slanderous remarks made to any member of the Council, Staff, or general public. It'll be considered a breach of decorum for members of the public to use the chat for anything other than testimony signup. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas).

**. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

CHAIR PALTIN: At this time we will call on testifiers wishing to testify on DRIP-2(12). And so the first testifier that we have signed up after Chad Falkenberg is Dennis Ka'aihue, to be followed by Susan Pcola-Davis, to be followed by Makana Reeves. And we have Dennis Ka'aihue making his way to the podium at this time.

MR. KA'AIHUE: Aloha mai kākou.

CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha.

MR. KA'AIHUE: My name is Dennis Ka'aihue from Ke'anae. My shared message...my mana'o is lāhui o lapa'au. Culture gathering...or tribal gathering of healers. Lāhui no lapa'au. Cultural or tribal gathering for healing. That's the key, okay. Now, my

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shared mana'o now is, one day I was observing a colony of ants at West. Their main purpose of survival is to protect the colony. We, as people...our attitude, emotion, and behavior should be the same; cultivate unity, and protect our loved ones. We have a broken trust between people and system. Okay, that's the reason why you have all this pilikia going on. When our natural resource, our community, business, our family are threatened, action must be taken. There's rumors and reports of water contamination in Kula, and now in Hāna. It's a priority. A monitor testing should be made to clarify claims, and verify by two or three persons. So, I submit a written letter that was given to me, and this...out of the several kūpunas, they approach me because they wasn't heard. So, I give this to...I like to submit this to Hāna District, Shane Sinenci, if it's okay. You tell the...you tell the Auntie Frances everything going be okay. Thank you. Okay, I going move on. Okay, I encourage Maui County Council to push the completion date of the modular homes being built at Kuihelani Highway and Pu'unēnē Avenue ahead, November 8th, because that's the next plan. When we fail plan A, we get plan B. We supposed to have plans, but we don't. Okay. There should be a give-and-take deal between Lāhainā resident pushing back October 8, and Lāhainā business reopening October 8. Agreement to satisfy both sides. Not am I only as a lā'au lapa'au. Okay. Businesses was always an essential part of Lāhainā. Business was, and still is, the foundation of Lāhainā . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . community, not Maui. Let me...let me, it's okay. Every victim is hanging onto the safety net support--County, State, Federal, FEMA, Red Cross, nonprofit, and et cetera. Lāhainā community gathering and business represent must be formed beginning now.

CHAIR PALTIN: If you can --

MR. KA'AIHUE: Ideas and proposals must be submitted to the County Council for action.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- wrap it up.

MR. KA'AIHUE: Okay, now on this issue here, I have...there should be -- yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: If you can conclude your testimony.

MR. KA'AIHUE: Yeah, I mention that. Wait, let me...you going to interrupt me, I getting confuse. Okay. Climate change should be...become a priority monitor, and used as the hub to work around it. The cause of damage, and loss of lives are in the billions. Okay. There should be a better emergency response procedure, and...and early precautionary procedure . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and awareness; plan A, B, and C. Our community --

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Ka'aihue.

MR. KA'AIHUE: -- our Maui County Council leadership attitude should be a two-way approach to watch resolving issue. The people's voice, and the people's eyes and ears in the community.

CHAIR PALTIN: If you want --

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MR. KA'AIHUE: -- County, State, Federal hub work around it.

CHAIR PALTIN: Mr. Ka'aihue.

MR. KA'AIHUE: Alternative means, okay. So, we seem to be very --

CHAIR PALTIN: If...if you want to continue--

MR. KA'AIHUE: -- good at --

CHAIR PALTIN: -- the rest of your testimony in writing.

MR. KA'AIHUE: -- fixing broken system. People's attitude, emotion, and behavior, and only through culture, and tribal healing --

MS. GRECO: Excuse me, Chair, could Staff please request a recess?

MR. KA'AIHUE: -- it's possible. Bringing people, community, business, government together.

CHAIR PALTIN: Recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:** 10:10 a.m.

**RECONVENE:** 10:15 a.m.

CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Thank you for that brief recess. The time is 10:15, and the DRIP Committee will return to order. Next up on the list is...let's see, Susan Pcola-Davis, to be followed by Makana Reeves, and then Cord Muñoz. And just a reminder, there's three minutes with a minute to wrap up. Thank you. Go ahead.

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: Good morning. I hope you looked at the sky today. On O'ahu, it's very clear and blue. You know, I'm going to stick on my subject about water, only because the Council needs to know a lot of the things that aren't being said. I think one of the things that I'm going to bring out from yesterday is that AP reported directly from Mr. Stufflebean's interview, that the lack of backup power for critical pumps seriously hindered firefighting in Kula--County Water Director John Stufflebean told the Associated Press. He said if all those pumps have had generators, I think there is a pretty good chance we could have kept up. This is all quotes Stufflebean said. He also says that more generators wouldn't have been made...made a difference in Lāhainā, but it may have in Kula where no one died, and few dozen buildings burned. The EPA does not require utilities to have backup systems. Stufflebean said it would cost about 12 million to install the generators needed. He says the Department will buy several diesel generators, and seeks outside funding for others. Quote, "We may need to live with whatever we can get," quote...unquote...dequote *[sic]*. Kyle Ellison says at the very end of this article, kind of like little late, don't you think, he said. So, backup generators need to be funded. There has to be FEMA or other money to

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address this. What I would like to know is, how many generators do we need, multiply it times the cost, and please be transparent with how much money this...you're talking about. Other than that, I would like to know where are all the backup generators located, and where are the pumps that don't have backup generators? This is a fair statement. Do you want to be living in an area where you don't have a backup generator? And I do not believe that Lāhainā would have been--this is my own opinion--I know the pipes . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . some of the pipes melted. Speaking to Mister...or Dr. Andrew Whelton, who came to Kula, that I've been in touch with, I told him that the Department...Maui Water Department flushed the fire hydrant. The schools opened during the week of September 16.

CHAIR PALTIN: If you can wrap up?

MR. PCOLA-DAVIS: Wouldn't there be flushing, then, thereafter, like their pipes? So, then I went to the water labs, and I noticed that hydrants and hose bibs...hose bibs at the schools were tested. He replies, hose bibs are not great for sampling. I don't know what testing has been done, or will be done. In general, Tamara, post-fire schools should have faucets sampled, and their service lines. In an earlier . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . email, he says --

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you for your testimony. Members, any --

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: -- all of those pipes in schools --

CHAIR PALTIN: -- question for the testifier?

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: -- need to be flushed. Mahalo.

CHAIR PALTIN: Seeing no questions. Thank you so much --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Tamara?

CHAIR PALTIN: -- for your testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Tamara?

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, Member Sugimura does have a question for you.

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: Question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, it's not a question. I...I...I know you have a lot to say, and you and I can email, and I can help you. And you...you had--I've been in email connection with her. So, that would help.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thanks.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Next up, we have Makana Reeves, to be followed by Cord Muñoz. Oh. Aw, shoot, we can't hear you, but you're not muted. Do you have another device in the background? No, shoot.

MR. REEVES: Check, one two. 'Ekahi --

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

MR. REEVES: -- 'elua.

CHAIR PALTIN: We got it. We got it.

MR. REEVES: Check, check. We can.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. REEVES: Okay, please start my timer now, not before. Okay. Aloha kākou. The idea that the disaster happened two months ago is misleading. It is still happening, and could grow to be much larger with the first rain over Lāhainā. When a significant rain, either from a storm or a low-pressure system, which is this season, comes to Lāhainā, if the ash has not been secured in place, it will be mobilized by storm water, contaminate the ground water, wash into the ocean, destroy nearshore ecosystems, impact ocean-based food supplies, and impose long-term health and environmental hazards, and cleanup issues. I want to mahalo Council Chair Paltin and Councilmember Sinenci. Your commitment to and care for your constituents inspired me to take a lot of time to not only find answers to your and Dr. Downs' questions, but to also repair broken lines of communications between various stakeholders and concerned parties. Those specific concerns are addressed and answered in the written testimony I submitted and emailed to each of you prior to yesterday's meeting. And if you need it, I can resend it. To be clear, Dr. Downs' concerns on this matter are about an entirely different product than the soil binder to be used in this case. None of us are chemists here, this is very confusing. His claims about plastic are not backed by evidence. He's referring to different things that he researched, and do not match EPA and Soilworks' data, and are only serving to scare the uninformed. Please, on this call, ask Chad Falkenberg about confusion between various products and the importance of something that no one's talked about, application rate. I had to learn about this. It's all in my testimony. Chad can speak to that. Emotions and distrust of Government should not override the duties of the County, State, and Federal Governments to protect the people and environment of Maui nui and pae āina. Any opt-in/opt-out process around binding the top layer of ash in place will inevitably lead to a secondary human health and environmental long-term crisis. I still have a little time. I'm going to read you what I wrote last night, it's a poem, I'm an artist. It's about two minutes long. Days turn to weeks, a town-size ash pile comprised of highly toxic materials like asbestos, lead, arsenic, dioxins, and of course, melted plastics, all freely blowing into the broad and natural habitat, unsecured, sat across roughly 20 million square feet of what was once Lāhainā. The debate about whether or not to



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secure that deadly ash stuttered on in and out of BlueJeans meetings, and private email trains, and text messages, on weekly task force Zooms, on the occasional social media post flanking rants about directing energy weapons, and smart cities. Thousands of residents continue to live adjacent to burn zones existing in a virtual airborne, Superfund toxic site. Thousands more who had lost everything to the fires continue to rummage through contaminated ash, overcome with emotions that often crowded out abstract concerns around exposure to airborne carcinogenic dust...the dust that was never bound, the ash that was never secured in place. The filtration storm socks that were too few, and too sparse. The retention basins that were never constructed. The wattles that bravely awaited that impending . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . deluge.

CHAIR PALTIN: *(Audio interference)* --

MR. REEVES: Then the rain came. Like a sudden burst of tears after months of processed pain, it was torrential, thanks to a nearby low pressure system. Like a thief in an unguarded house, it took everything it could, swiftly and unencumbered by conscience. The day after, it didn't seem all that bad. To be honest, many quietly felt good about it. Everything seemed a little bit less destroyed, less like a war zone. The air felt fresher. God bless the ocean, she just kind of drank it all up. Good thing we didn't spray that deadly plastic chemical, someone commented on an Instagram post with newly captured drone footage. A few landowners talked amongst themselves about how the Army Corps will have an easier time now that that ash is gone. But the lawai'a knew, he saw. He tried to comfort himself with the thought that it would pass. It would not, at least not for a long time. So, did the generational 'ohana, who intimately knew Kanaloa. And when the scientists went to collect data, they found their instruments destroyed, but they didn't need them. It was obvious to even the layperson, something horrible had happened, something that couldn't be undone, something that ultimately would bring more loss perhaps . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . even much more than the fire had.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, if you can wrap it up? Thank you.

MR. REEVES: Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR PALTIN: Question for the testifier? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Mr. Reeves, for your testimony today. Just to clarify, was that the conclusion of your poem?

MR. REEVES: No, I had one more paragraph. Would you like me to read it?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: May I hear it?

MR. REEVES: Okay. Days turn to weeks, Moloka'i and Lāna'i reefs too began to die off. Kanaloa, Kaho'olawe, she bore it with grace like all the other affronts. The EPA declared nearshore Lāhainā a Superfund toxic site. Algae blooms exploded, died off,

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and countless fish washed up dead at Hanakaō'ō. A whale carcass became food for manō in the 'Au'au Channel, then two more. As global media reported, tourism to Maui slumped to record lows, thousands were laid off, and a new debate emerged...who was to blame? But it didn't matter, we were all to blame.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Reeves. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Any further questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Next up we have Cord Muñoz, to be followed by Dick Mayer, to be followed by the testifier with the last four digits 3232, to be followed by Robin Knox, and then Y Bee.

MR. MUÑOZ: Oh, man. Pretty tough to follow that. Just going to the meeting today, I appreciate all the resources, and their time, and your guys' willingness to work with the community, and hear our input, everybody online too, you know. And your guys' specific Departments, I'm not sure who will be in charge of different things. So, as it comes up...as I bring it up if you, you know, have a question for me after, or want to elaborate on some things, then that'd be great. First off, I just like to say I think the community needs to take the lead in this recovery effort. As far as getting housing to folks right now, getting financial aid, distributing information...vetted information from you guys directly to the ground level is going to be key. So, it's good to have all these meetings, but if nobody is hearing your guys' words then, you know...there's a lot of scared people out there. Like, you know, uncle was here earlier, he's gone now, but a lot of people feel like him, you know, and they don't know how to feel because they haven't been made aware of what you guys are planning to do. And from what the people were saying earlier, that...they made clear that you guys intend to bring us in, and I would love to volunteer myself as a liaison to make these connections happen between community organizers on the West Side, and, you know, our County, State Government, our local resources...our crisis resources, so...just, you know, I'll be here to help if you guys need. You can get in contact with me any time. I had a few specific questions. One was about partially burnt homes. I think Josiah was talking about that earlier, I think. But partially burnt homes in the zone, people have...their home is still standing, and all the homes around them are surrounded, you know, by the...and that...that's all in rubble. These people are probably not going to be able to move back into their homes. Insurance hasn't given them enough money to do anything to...you know, to restore what they've lost. They're unable to access it even, so it's hard to become...to work with the insurance companies, and people are kind of freaking out about it. So, the problem is not just with people who have lost their homes, but people who are unable to go back. You know, and then beyond that, there's folks who haven't even lost their homes, but they're unable to work. And I know this is a big chain, it affects everybody on the West Side, and certain interests...were...were concerned with bringing tourists back. Even though it is an inevitable thing we're going to have to face, a lot of people feel it's not the right time. But I feel like it's more an issue that there are these refugees in the place where we are from. You know, we don't . . . (timer sounds) . . . have rooves over their heads or, you know, something even stable or permanent. These guys are getting calls every other day from Red Cross. I'm not saying anything bad about Red Cross, you guys are doing

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a great job, and you're working with what you have. But there are ways I think we can get these guys out of hotels, and out of these kind of transient accommodations and stuff, and create a space between the tourists and us for now so we can heal properly. So, I submitted some testimony of like a proposal. We came up with this idea the other day to ask the Governor to either use eminent domain to claim some land north of Lāhainā. Because we...they just addressed all the...all the environmental issues with people being in the burn zone, and south of it, and, you know --

CHAIR PALTIN: If you can wrap up.

MR. MUÑOZ: -- we...we all know where the wind blows, so...north of Lāhainā, obviously, would be the location. But I suggested one of the golf courses in Kā'anapali, you know, the State...I think our pension fund, or sold it for \$28 million . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . in 2021. It wouldn't be that much to procure some of that land, and through donations...efforts we've actually gotten enough tiny homes to probably secure all of the residents --

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. MUÑOZ: -- that would like to stay there.

CHAIR PALTIN: I did see that the Committee received your written testimony.

MR. MUÑOZ: Okay, great. So, you guys can go over that later --

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. MUÑOZ: -- or whatever, but I just have like maybe one or two questions, if that's okay?

CHAIR PALTIN: Do the Members have any questions for Mr. Munoz? Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. MUÑOZ: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oops. Thank you very much for being here. So, basically, your two questions are what to do with people who are next to a burnt house, and they're being impacted by the residues, or whatever, right? That's one. Number two, I didn't really quite understand. So, you want people to go back to work, and you want people to live in transitional housing?

MR. MUÑOZ: Well, I feel like the reopening is happening regardless of our input, so I think we need to do our best job to get people into semi-permanent housing options. You know, like if they're in a hotel room, and they have to worry about being moved every two days, and their kids are in the hotel rooms just hanging out while everybody has to go to work, schools are going to be reopened, and all that. But can you imagine just the logistics challenge of getting all those people in and out of a hotel every single day,

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and then having to go to work? Meanwhile, they have to rebuild their homes, and they have to focus on that, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I see.

MR. MUÑOZ: So, we're beyond the point of whether the tourists are coming or not. But we need to quickly get a solution on the table for at least stable housing. So, I don't know if people will mind living in a tiny home community, but the resources that are available to us right now, I feel like we can at least get that plan in motion. Because we have the tiny homes, we just need land, and permission for the County.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MUÑOZ: And at some point, it'll become an issue of whether we need permission, or whether people are going to be able to come to our side.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MUÑOZ: You understand?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you for the clarification.

MR. MUÑOZ: Okay. And --

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, Member U'u-Hodgins has a question for you as well.

MR. MUÑOZ: Yes, please.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I do. Thank you so much. And thank you for sharing your question. So, I understand you shared your question 1 and 2, and...but you had two more questions, 3, and 4?

MR. MUÑOZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can you provide us those questions?

MR. MUÑOZ: Yeah, sure.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. MUÑOZ: It won't take too long. I think it's cool Dr. Downs, earlier, he did some due diligence. I don't think anybody should put him down for that, for doing independent research. Even if it was wrong, it's good to present issues like that. It's going to be 11 people agree with you in the room, and the 12th person that disagrees with you, it could be the one that's right sometimes. So, it's okay to hear, you know, criticism of anything like that. Even our ideas, or things we may think is good, we need to listen to the other side. I think that's very important. I know the CNMH [*sic*] health program

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requires that...for that stipend that people are staying inside the actual permanent structure along with the families, and they have use of the kitchen and running water. I was wondering, could we expand that program to work out something for tiny homes, or trailers on people's properties? Because that at least lighten the load, and then it wouldn't force people into being so crowded inside these multi-generational family homes. You got multi-generational families relying on other multi-generational families. And 350 a person, 1,500 a month, is that helping an actual household with...you know, just...just think about like the impact of that. But we could maximize that program's effectiveness by just, you know, allowing more exceptions in that regard. The hydrants are obviously important, and then tap water...access to clean water is very crucial amongst the environmental issues right now. I do hear stories of sometimes pets getting sick, like Honokōwai area, and different things. I'm not sure how to follow up with that, or think, and just kind of wonder if we're doing enough testing. Especially with the kids, they want to put them back at the schools. Yeah, other than that, I think everything I had to say was on...is on my proposal, which, you know, we sent in. Oh, as far as that proposal goes, like securing land for tiny homes, this Friday, Pulelehua is having a presentation about their development below Kapalua Airport. So, they want to change it to 1,000 rental units, right, 60 affordable houses, I think, and then pledge 10 acres to 200 tiny homes. And in return, the County is going to give them 50 million for utilities, which is understandable, and it's a part of development. But I would...and we're going to fast track their project from ten years to five. That's supposed to be what this meeting is about. Not this meeting, but the...Friday's meeting. But my suggestion --

CHAIR PALTIN: And...and to clarify, I believe it's Thursday.

MR. MUÑOZ: Thursday. Thanks. Sorry, there's just so many. But I...I'll...I'll probably be there too.

CHAIR PALTIN: Think so.

MR. MUÑOZ: My suggestion would be that if we're going to allow these guys to develop--which they want to, and to make money, right, that's their objective--why can't the people of Maui and the County get something out of this deal for the \$50 million? I propose that we ask these developers to give us a piece of land for a hospital on the West Side, and then to make the land that the school is being built on for the County permanently. In addition to that, I'd like to say maybe we could use the entire footprint of their development for three years for a tiny home community. The utilities are already kind of going in there already, so they wouldn't be too hard to convert it. And then after the three years--at least we have kind of covered people to that point where they can start going back to homes, and finding long-term housing options--we give them back the land, and then fast track their project. So, they'll be done in eight years...because five years is their timeline now. So, it'll be fast tracked, they make money, they give us a hospital, and they let us use their land to do a tiny home community in the meantime. In return --

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

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MR. MUÑOZ: -- I'm thinking you let them develop light industrial and commercial around Kapalua Airport, kind of like in Kahului. That will give opportunities to business owners from Lāhainā in the meantime until Town is rebuilt.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins, was your question answered?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: It was. Thank you very much.

MR. MUÑOZ: Okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair.

MR. MUÑOZ: Thanks for listening guys, appreciate you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Just wanted to...the informational public meeting...I see a flyer that says Thursday, October 5th, 5:00 p.m. to sunset, at Kapalua Airport gravel lot. Bring a chair and umbrella. So --

MR. MUÑOZ: That's Thursday.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- Thursday --

MR. MUÑOZ: Oh, okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- 5:00, October 5th at the *(audio interference)*.

MR. MUÑOZ: Cool. Thanks.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. All right.

MR. MUÑOZ: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Next up we have Dick Mayer, to be followed by number 3232, Robin Knox, and Y Bee on our list. And just a reminder, some of our Federal agencies we only have until about 11:00. So, just putting that out there. Dick Mayer, go ahead, three minutes with a minute to wrap up.

MR. MAYER: Thank you very much. I've stayed away from all the discussions on Lāhainā, but I saw in your...on your Friday agenda that you're going to be asking the Mayor to make County lands available for housing. And so, I wanted to let you know that there is large parcel of land...this is not land that needs to be purchased, 1,000 acres of land above the Civic Center between Kā'anapali and Lāhainā Town that is all State land, and available for housing. Not only is it available, but when we put together the Maui Island Plan, that land was incorporated within the urban growth boundaries,

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within the...with the West Maui Community Plan, they also have indicated that land could be used for residential purposes. I've emailed you all a...the maps that were prepared for that development, the Leiali'i...Villages of Leiali'i program, which would have several thousand residences on that land. What I'm suggesting is that, given the long delay that's going to take place in Lāhainā Town to get rid of the debris, plus the fact that many of the lots are nonconforming lots, and they...there'll be lots of problems with...with just construction in Lāhainā, this is vacant land in a good location with the...all the plans already made, and a final EIS prepared for a development in that area. I would urge you to ask the State, when you do your resolution on Friday, to include the State making available the land. That will make it affordable housing as no land has to be purchased, you'll help...merely have to build the houses, and provide the infrastructure, and not purchase any land for development. I...I'm not urging any kind of development, that the people in Lāhainā should decide do they want multi-family, do they want single-family, townhouses, what...do they want stores within the community put in there? The...the final EIS has a lot of that stuff, but now, knowing the situation in Lāhainā, they may want to modify that. But I urge you to take a look at that large land parcel, and I provided you with the maps and a description of the final EIS. I have a copy of the final EIS if you have trouble accessing it. That's a large...large document that somehow I will be able to get to you. But let's...let's at least be open to not waiting for Lāhainā's debris to be all cleared, and perhaps sooner initiate housing for the residents of West Maui. I'll stop there, and see if there are any questions.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Mr. Mayer, for your...for your testimony, and your information. Would you be able to email the link for that EIS document to the Council?

MR. MAYER: I went to the website, the State website, somehow that document is no longer on the State website. I have a copy, which I downloaded in 19--in 2012 when that document was prepared in October. It's a large document, and I can forward it through a file transfer program to the County, then I could send it to whomever you suggest that I email it to, and they then can make it perhaps available to the...to the Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much. And thank you for your testimony.

MR. MAYER: So, if Staff...yeah, if Staff wants to contact me, they can contact me, and let me know to whom I should email that to.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Will do, thank you very much.

CHAIR PALTIN: Members, any . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. MAYER: But please take a look at the email I did send you because it does have the basic maps from that. It's a large document, obviously, but it also has a...has a

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description I put that, just...that you could take a look at in the email I emailed to all of you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Mr. Mayer, I...I believe...is that land the Leiali'i land, which is...belongs to DHHL?

MR. MAYER: Yeah, HFDC. The State...the...the...there are two major parcels, one around 300-plus and the other over 500-plus acres, and there's some smaller parcels as well. The HF...the smaller parcel, 300, is HFDC controlled, and the upper parcel is listed as the State is the owner. So, it's all public land already.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. So, one portion DHHL as the *(audio interference)*.

MR. MAYER: No, that...that...DHHL is even...DHHL also has land in that area separate from HFDC.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay. So, you're referring to the ceded lands.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. MAYER: The...there...there's...there's...there's ceded lands there, and Hawaiian Home Lands has parcels, the HFDC has parcel, and the State itself is a stated owner...is a State owner. That...but it's all public. In other words, what I was just saying is, you do not have to purchase land, whether it be Pulelehua or anywhere else. There's so much land available, and the County has relatively little land out there. This...these are public lands that are available that could...could more rapidly house people in West Maui.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Kama has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Mr. Mayer, all the --

MR. MAYER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- parcels of land, and the map that you sent to us, are the TMKs attached to that?

MR. MAYER: One of the...one of the maps has a TMK attached on...on there, particularly for the two largest part...yes, I think all...all the parcels are there. It may not have the Hawaiian Home Lands. That might be even a third...third entity that's there as well. But the...the...you could see where it is, and I...you can...you can easily find the Hawaiian Home Lands, which I think is on the northern end of the HFDC lands.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Mayer.

MR. MAYER: And please, if...if anybody has...any of your Staff...any of you want to call me on it, I'll be glad to talk to you, and...and guide you through the maps.



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CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Next up we have the testifier with the last four digits 3232. Oh, she dropped off. Next up we have Robin Knox, to be followed by Y Bee.

MS. KNOX: Good morning, Chair Paltin. Good morning, Committee Members. I just wanted to weigh in and reaffirm what earlier people have said about the concerns about the ash. It's both a human health and environmental concern. I think that has to be our highest priority, is protecting human health and the environment from the contaminants that are in that ash, and that impacts from it not being contained or controlled will be worse than...most likely than impacts from trying to control it. That being said, I wanted to follow up on the comments of the manufacturer of the Soiltac. Because I did look it up when it...when the questions were first asked, and I'm not absolutely sure, after this discussion today, that I was looking at the right product. But the product that I was looking at, it said that the constituents were polymers, and there was an MSDS, material data safety sheet, that had no aquatic life toxicity data, which did concern me. I wrote to EPA, and they responded back that they had reviewed the materials that it was made of, and that they weren't concerned, but they could not reveal what those materials were because it was confidential business information. So, that left me somewhat dissatisfied that there's questions. We really don't know what the environmental impacts of that material is. But we do know that the environmental impacts of not containing the ash will be pretty dire, and include, you know, long-term human health impacts, as well as potential fisheries contamination, and other long-term issues. So, it's a risk assessment, you know, and...and we have to set priorities. But I also don't think it's an and/or, I think it's something we need to optimize. We need to get whatever the least toxic way that we can quickly respond, and that, both in short-term and long-term may involve using some of the more innovative technics, like the inoculation with, you know, microbes or fungus to help actually degrade some of those wastes. So, I would encourage whoever is making those decisions to be flexible, to listen to the community, and to try to incorporate, as much as we can, less harmful ways of containing that ash, but above all, to contain the ash because that is the hugest risk to the environment.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Next up we have --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

MS. GRECO: Excuse me, Chair? See Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez?

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, a quick question. Aloha, Ms. Knox. Mahalo for your testimony. Can you tell me the name of the product, or some kind of identifier, so that later when we get into the Q&A I can, you know, help the public understand the different products being researched? Oh, you're muted. Ms. Knox, you're muted. Ms. Knox?

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MS. KNOX: Okay. Now, can you hear me?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. KNOX: Okay. Okay, I'm sorry I looked for that before I testified. It's in my email somewhere, and (*audio interference*) and forward it to you when (*audio interference*).

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, I'll watch for your email. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Any further questions for the testifier? Seeing none. We have Y Bee...Y...the letter Y, and then B-E-E, to be followed by Junya Nakoa, who is our last testifier signed up to testify. Testifier with the letter Y space B-E-E, it's your turn to testify, to be followed by Junya Nakoa. Okay. Let's move onto Junya Nakoa, it's your turn to testify.

MR. NAKOA: Eh, howzit. Good morning. You guys can hear me?

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. Good morning, good morning, good morning. Yeah. Okay, Council, I think you guys got to be translator, yeah, because I get Junya language, so those guys...the Federal guys over there, the FEMA, the Red Cross, they probably not gonna understand me. So, please, ask the questions, yeah, because they not gonna understand me. Okay. First one is...oh (*audio interference*). First one is FEMA, and all you buggahs...all you Army Corps guys, good job. Keep up the good work...but there's a Hawaiian saying, take your time, but hurry up. You know, take your time, do it right, but hurry up. Okay, you guys, mahalo, mahalo for you guys...what you guys doing. Okay. Now, I'm going to the questions. Okay, Red Cross and FEMA, I went to...you came to the meeting at the Civic Center. Now I stay at the Civic Center again. But you guys all went say how much money you spending it for the hotel for house all the displaced family. Thank you, thank you, thank you so much. Question I'm asking is, if we come up with one temporary housing option, can these displaced families use you guys, the FEMA and da kine, to go ahead and pay for their rent or lease, whatever the...the housing guys come up with? You know, so that's the...one question, can you...are you guys going to continue funding these guys so they can stay for their temporary...you guys, the Federal guys, they pay for their temporary housing so they can concentrate on paying their mortgage, because I heard some guys still paying mortgages for the house that not there, and also for pay for their permanent housing, so they can get into their permanent housing? Yeah, okay. So, that's the question for the...for the FEMA and the Red Cross, speaking on the temporary housing. Mahalo, guys. I know you guys got to leave out at 11:00. I the last guy, so you guys can go leave, I guess. Nah, nah, nah. Okay. Now, to the County level, Housing and Public Works, Saumalu and Wendy, I left message last week for you guys for call me up. I was guided by the Mayor to call for you two guys, yeah, to go help me...help us with these questions that I'm asking about the temporary housing, you know, funding, and how we can get it going because we...I been working on this thing

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since August 9th, and we got one good option for do what we doing, we get some land, and we get some...you know, we get some action. But like Dick Mayer was saying, get little bit County land, I think right above here, Civic Center, get one small piece. Think was only couple acres, but we still can make magic with that. And I know that Dick Mayer was talking about the State land, yeah, the HHFDC . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . one. I don't think we should use those land because then it opens it up because they're Federally funded, going be just like the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . and...and all that. They going open up to everybody. We should just concentrate on getting the people from Lāhainā into these houses before we open it up a whole can of worms, and then you guys that are Federally funded that way all...all these buggahs can apply for them, and kick us out of our own land, yeah. So, that is *(audio interference)*.

CHAIR PALTIN: If you can wrap it up.

MR. NAKOA: What's that?

CHAIR PALTIN: Wrap it up.

MR. NAKOA: Oh. Okay. Okay, I get couple more. Yeah . . .*(inaudible)*. . . real quick, but then, yeah, I get couple more. But let me just da kine. Yeah, Josiah, you went mention earlier that you guys get all these kine different guys in charge of different things. I hope we can put 'em down on paper so us guys can check 'em out, and we can call these people directly because...so we can get some answers . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and all that stuff *(audio interference)*.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much for your --

MR. NAKOA: Yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Just going back around --

MR. NAKOA: Yeah . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR PALTIN: Testifier Y Bee, are you on the line? At this time, are you able to unmute? Is it last four digits 7619, is it Star 6 to unmute? Star 6 would be to unmute.

MS. BEE: Hello. Can you hear me?

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes. We can.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes, we can.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

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MS. BEE: Hi, thank you. Oh, sorry. This is Y Bee. Am I...is it my turn, or...

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes, go ahead. I don't know who else that was --

MS. BEE: Oh.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- talking.

MS. BEE: Okay. Okay. Thank you. Good morning, Chair and Members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify. I just wanted to chime in just...on regarding that Solo Tack [sic] that was being applied. So, I did contact the company back in September. I actually called the EPA, and I got the exact information of what they were going to be applying, and then I reached out to the company, and I was able to obtain their safety data sheet. Initially when I requested it they sent me a technical data sheet, and so when I clarified that I needed the actual SDS, they were more than accommodating. So, I was just curious to know if maybe the CEO, Chad Falkenberg, if he could maybe reach out to the Committee and send them the information. And then if possible, this Committee can encourage our State to put a link on that will then provide correct information on the product to the community. Because, you know, I find it very discouraging that when the community brings issues, it's very quick to like step side, like oh, it's just all, you know, misinformation, and all of that. But the problem is no information. That's what's causing all this misinformation, is that we are not getting anything. So, I appreciate all that you guys are doing. And then the second question that I have is for the... for the Army Corps of Engineers. They're helping to build that school, and I was just curious if they're going to be also working with the Department of Education to provide, or help with evacuation plans that can help bring some piece of mind to the community as well? Because they have to remember that this is a community that's been highly traumatized, and they need information to help them be able to move through. And that's all that I have right now. And I just thank you for allowing me to participate in this.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you for your testimony. Members, questions for the testifier? I just had one if no one else has one. When you're talking about evacuation, are you talking about evacuation of the site that the Army Corps of Engineering is assisting in popping up, or are you talking about evacuation of the schools that exist on Lāhaināluna Road?

MS. BEE: I think probably both would be ideal. I mean, initially, I was just thinking about the pop-up only because...looking for the sense of reassurance. But I think, you know, thinking on a broad term, we got to look at everything now, considering what all has just transpired.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Seeing no further questions.

MS. BEE: Thank you.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you for your testimony. This will be the last call for anybody who would like to testify at this time that I may have missed. I think there's somebody trying to testify. If you'd like to give us your name, if not, we'll refer you to...refer to you as anonymous testifier.

MS. GRECO: Chair, we've unmuted the phone number with the last four digits 7619, if that person would like to testify.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, go ahead. 7619, did you want to testify? Okay. Last call. We have a testifier coming up to the podium.

MR. LAW: Aloha kakahiaka. Aloha, kākou. Aloha, Chair Paltin and Councilmembers. Aloha *Akakū*. My name is Jasee Law. I am kupa 'Amelika, American citizen. I stay in Kula Uka, Waiakoa ahupua'a. Hi, Shane. Good to see you again. The Hawaiian word of the day is pū'ika'ika, which means difficult to acquire or do.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much for your time.

MR. LAW: Yeah. If the Hawaiian gentleman would have stuck around, I would have gave him the remainder of my time.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony. This will be the final last call for testimony. Last call...five, four, three, two, one. Members, any objection to closing public testimony and accepting written testimony into the record at this time?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

**. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .**

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. We do have some of our resources that need to leave. So, I would direct Members, if they have burning questions--FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA, if we can start off there. And I would love to start with Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I was...I know they have to leave by noon, you said, right, which is in an hour. So, I was wondering if would be easier to take them by...by their jurisdictions. Like do all the EPA first, and then do the FEMA stuff, and then the, you know, Army Corps, if that's easier. So, I think in my mind right now is the Soiltac issue. And I was thinking if that's an EPA issue, and if that's other EPA things that our Council would have, that we could just stick with them, and then when they're done, let them go, and...and just watch the time as we allow these people.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. From FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA, who needs to leave first? You guys good? Okay. All right. Then...yeah, maybe we'll ask one question so that we're not violating the Sunshine Law, and then we'll take a recess, and then we'll set up a table for...for the...those three agencies to come down, and then we can begin discussion...further discussion after the initial question. Who wants to ask the initial question? Oh --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR PALTIN: -- Member Rawlins-Fernandez, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I...I...I'm not volunteering to ask the initial question, but I did want to check with Mr. Falkenberg to see what his timeline is also, so that way we know. Because I...I think we all have some questions for him as well, and I want to make sure we don't miss our opportunity to ask him. So, if we could...oh, there, I see him, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Mr. Falkenberg, what is your time frame that you need to leave in?

MR. FALKENBERG: Thank you for the opportunity. I will make sure that I have plenty of time for you, so whatever you need.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, great. I forgot to mention, Mr. Oliveira also would need to leave. So, does anyone have an initial question for discussion? And then we'll take a ten-minute recess, set up a table, and bring down our agencies. Oh. Council Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Question is to EPA, their response to Dr. Downs' comments?

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay. Tara Fitzgerald, Deputy Incident Commander, will be coming down.

MS. FITZGERALD: Yes, good morning again. In reference Dr. Downs' comments, he had quite a few. So, I might need a little bit of help with clarification on the specific ones. But what I can say is that EPA has evaluated the various soil stabilizers that were talked about in the 2020 report that he referenced, that is a report that EPA created. So, we have looked at those, and Soiltac came out as the frontrunner for what needs to happen in Hawai'i, specifically to be able to stabilize the ash.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Members, any objection to coming back at 11:15? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, mahalo, Chair. Sorry, did you say that EPA has to leave?

CHAIR PALTIN: No, they...they're okay with staying.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I have questions for them for later.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. So ten-minute recess, set up a table for them. I think we can use both of these koa areas, as well as a table in the middle, to accommodate our FEMA, EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, and Mr. Oliveira. So, we'll come back at 11:15 with that all set up for them. Recess until 11:15. . . .*(gavel)* . . .

**RECESS:** 11:04 a.m.

**RECONVENE:** 11:20 a.m.

CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(gavel)* . . . Will the DRIP Committee meeting of October 4th return to order. The time is 11:20. And our main person on this panel before us right now that has to leave is Darryl Oliveira. So, if there's questions for Mr. Oliveira, then let's take them first since he needs to go and assist with the re-entry process. Let's do a three-minute timer, just to make sure that everybody has a sufficient amount of time to ask their questions. Member Kama, did you want to go from this way, this way *(gestures right to left)* or this way, this way *(gestures left to right)*?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, thank you, Chair. Now, I got to...I got to jan ken po with myself. Nah, nah, nah. We can start with Member Sinenci.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Got it. All right. Go ahead, Mr. Sinenci, for your three-minute opportunity. And just a reminder, Mr. Oliveira will need to leave first.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. And, of course, mahalo to all of you for the work that you guys been doing, and...and taking time out of you guys' busy schedule to address us. We often receive a lot of communications from our constituents, our locals, so having you guys here to kind of dispel any...you know, anything, and...and that we can go back to our constituents to address those people. My question, Chair, was about the current PPEs that are used for people as they...they're going to re-entry. I was just wondering if those...you know, a lot of them...most of these people are very emotional, and they're trying to get through sifting. Are they actually sifting through this ash, or do they have the options of having teams to do it for them? And then are...are the PPEs--the gloves, the glasses, the Tyvek, the shoes, the...everything--is that appropriate for them to be sifting through this ash?

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MR. OLIVEIRA: Thank you. So, right now, the residents aren't actually doing the sifting. We have that support be provided by various volunteer organizations that have slightly better personal protective equipment in the form of more appropriate respirators, appropriate gloves, as well as the...the Tyvek suits. Reason why we're providing the residents with some of the basic exposure protections, as they're walking through the subdivision, as they're walking onto their property, although they may not be actively involved in some of the sifting and the looking, there's still particulate in the air. Some of them show up in typical Hawai'i wear, right, shorts, t-shirt. So, we want to make sure we give them something to provide them that skin protection, as well the N95 respiratory protection, all of which has been vetted by Department of Health as the appropriate protection if they're not engaged in the actual physical activity of sifting and digging. So, they are well-protected for visiting their property, and they can have the support of others who are better suited for assisting with the...the digging and the...the sifting.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Oliveira. And then is the Department doing more to...just the messaging out there to the...I know we...we see a lot of the pictures on...on the front page on the newspaper, but is the...are we getting that messaging out to these people as they go...as they conduct a re-entry?

MR. OLIVEIRA: So, as part of the re-entry process, we issue passes to the residents and property owners. During the...that step, as they come into either the Civic Center or here at the County building, they're afforded an opportunity not only to get the pass, but get some guidance from Department of Health. You'll see Dr. Pang and his team down this morning. So, we will refer someone coming in for a pass, please go sit with Department of Health because they'll explain the precautions you need to take, what you can expect to see--because that mental health aspect is also a concern. For many residents returning, that's the first time they're seeing their property since the fire, and it can be pretty overwhelming to see the level of devastation out there. So, we're trying to do our best to prepare them, both for the physical hazards of debris, ash, and the environment with the temperatures that are out there during the day. It's very hot, and especially if they're wearing that Tyvek suit, it can get very hot for them. So, we're trying our best to prepare them for that, encourage for them to be hydrated, prepare them for the mental health aspect. And then we have comfort stations on-site in each one of the zones as we're taking them through. So, we have water available for consumption, we have cooling stations, we also have medical personnel on staff there on property to assist . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . if anyone needs any assistance.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Oliveira. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. And I just wanted to clarify, if you did not have a question for MEMA, you could ask any of the resources right now. But I just wanted to point out that Mr. Oliveira has to leave. Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. First, thank you, everybody, for being here with us today. Like Member Sinenci said, I think it's really important that we get accurate information out there, especially during this time where I feel like people's



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ability to absorb information is extremely rough as they're going through all the different stages of grief. So, thank you for being here. And I apologize if this is something--oh, this is for you, Mr. Oliveira--that people might already know. But again, with all the amount of information, I don't know if it gets sifted through even, again, more than ash, but information. How long is this re-entry process going to take for our residents to get back home and see their stuff do you anticipate?

MR. OLIVEIRA: Well, we're going to maintain the re-entry process of allowing people back to their properties all the way up until when the Corps will need to start their work as part of Phase 2. So, I don't have a timeline, but we don't plan to close the areas of the zones as we let people in. What we are doing is, we are limiting access to only residents and property owners after we have the initial two days of escorted or assisted visits. So, they can continue to come back. We know for some that closure is going to take much longer than just two days, especially if they need to bring other family members who may have relocated to the mainland, or are living away, to come in and have that closure. So, we don't intend to close any of the zones, other than to restrict access only to property owners and residents, to give them that closure. And to your...your question, I should have said that there's always room for us to improve communication. So, we're looking at what other platforms we can take advantage of. And I...I think a big one is that face-to-face opportunities like this, but face-to-face, which is why, you know, I try to be out with the re-entry to not only explain things, but also to get feedback on how we can do better from the residents. So, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And thank you, Chair. I'll save the rest of my questions for everybody else later. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I also want to thank all of you for your service, your expertise, leaving your homes, coming to Hawai'i and helping our community, sharing your experiences from other locations, which I feel is invaluable. And maybe something that...as far as the messaging is something I would underline. You people are professionals who have dealt with this in a variety of locations, under a variety of circumstances--areas where it snows, areas where it rains, areas where there's dust storms. So, I just wanted to tell you all I respect and appreciate you. My question was for Army Corps of Engineers. The contracting that is occurring...well, twofold. One, when...when the tack material is applied, is it designed so that...I mean is the intent that it sort of solidifies it, and you can kind of clean it up, and the dust and the ash doesn't blow around? And so, you have something that is more manageable to package up and disburse...dispose of?

MR. KOGER: Thank you for the question. I...it's not really going to change operations too terribly much for the Army Corps because it's...it's such a thin layer that as soon as you touch it, it sort of just turns to dust on its own. So, it...it's...it won't make it more or less manageable, it will make it safer for the community.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, similarly--I'm a contractor. So, if you use hydromulch, and you're going to put the stuff on it for dust control, and if you drive on it, or you walk on it, it breaks it. Kind of similar?

MR. KOGER: Yeah, it's very similar.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, it's...will you be reapplying it as it goes? Because like it's...the area is relatively large, and as you're working on one area...and having to reapply it? I'm just curious, I'm not...I...I think that the...I don't have a problem with the product, I don't have a problem with the process. I was just curious because of the application rates, and people's curious...conveying it's going to be applied...it may have to be reapplied...it may have to be reapplied.

MR. KOGER: So...so, currently, the Army Corps isn't proposing to use Soiltac, that would be the EPA.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, okay.

MR. KOGER: What I can tell you is that after our debris removal for each parcel, we will be putting in erosion control as well.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, if I may...well, another question for the Army Corps. The contracting, is it...is all the contracts out for the debris removal, you know, excavators, dozers, loaders, labor? What's the status of that?

MR. KOGER: So, only contract that's currently out is for our ACI, Advanced Contracting Initiative Planning Cell. It's the first contract that we . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . need to award is for cultural monitoring and archeological surveys. And then the next contract would be site assessment contract. And that's...that would be nonintrusive. It's going to bulk asbestos removal, and...and basically mapping each site. So, those...that will be probably...those will be awarded, if not this week, then next week. But we have not awarded any of the actual debris removal contract.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, after those activities, you'll start doing *(audio interference)*. Thank you very much, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. My first set of questions will be for Mr. Falkenberg, and then if I have time remaining, the second set of questions will...will be for the EPA. So, my first question to Mr. Falkenberg is whether he can send us that safety data sheet please, to [drip.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:drip.committee@mauicounty.us). And then for, you know, people who are looking to research this on their own, how do they research the correct product? Because it sounds like some people may have confused your product with a different product, and then that information then was spread about some other product. And now, here we are, trying to, you know, do damage control.

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MR. FALKENBERG: Thank you. Those are great questions, and thank you for...for asking them. The Soiltac safety data sheet is available online on our website, it's publicly available. And I will be emailing you all directly with a copy of it so you have it. The version that the EPA has been disseminating is the correct version. It's...it should be dated 2022, and that is the correct version. Now, some of the confusion to clear up is that there...there is only one Soiltac which is a liquid. However, we also make a powder version of it. And a lot of what people are referencing is the powder version, which is very different...completely different patents that it falls under. And so, that's where a lot of the wrong information and concerns are coming from. The...the liquid Soiltac, which is just called Soiltac, on that safety data sheet, you will find a section that is all about aquatic toxicity, toxicity, and terrestrial toxicity. You'll see aquatic tests, and...and all results, and the results there are fantastic. It passes with flying colors. The one thing that you will not see on there is anything about microplastics or UV additives, which it does not have. A lot of those concerns were brought up from people looking at the wrong patents, the wrong product. So, this is...this is not a hot melt thermal plastic, it's very different from that. So...and that's what the EPA has looked at, and...and has confirmed. So, again, there is no UV additives in...in this version. Last thing, knowing what I know now, I wish that I had worked more closely with...with you all to provide you with this information. I...I provided everything to the EPA. We've been extremely transparent with them, and I didn't want to step on their toes, or get in their way. So...but with all of the...the new questions and concerns, I felt it was important for...for us to share, and clear up some of the misconceptions. Does that answer your question? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It did. Mahalo.

MR. FALKENBERG: Wonderful.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing. I have one more question for you, but I'll wait for my next round. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: We'll...we'll be doing rounds all day. Councilmember Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I can go last.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So, she's getting a good question together. So, I...because of seeing what is going on in Kula, and the process that, you know, you have been leading us through, one of the questions I have is comparing what we've seen in Kula versus West Maui, and it's completely different circumstances. So applying the Soiltac at the time when you did your opening for the re-entry, I'm guessing...and you...you can correct me. I'm guessing that the reason why it couldn't be applied sooner in Kula...I mean in West Maui is because of...you wanted the residents to come and check what they had first, and be sure that that they're done looking at things, and then apply this...apply the Soiltac; is that correct?

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MR. OLIVEIRA: Right. We knew that if residents came in, and we're going to use the resources to try to sift, and though...they would disturb the ash, break that...that seal, if you want to call it, and would require reapplication of the Soiltac. So, what we're doing is minimizing disturbance. And we actually encourage don't...don't dig if you don't need to, but we're going to work with you if you want to find something, but minimizing that...that dust becoming airborne.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, that makes sense. Because yesterday's meeting, people were talking about the urgency of getting this done. But I think for me, the...my perspective, because I've seen the Upcountry and what's happening versus the gradual re-entry of West Maui is, you wanted to make sure the residents saw it first before you applied any Soiltac. So, that is, to me...for myself...thank you for clarifying the reason that it was not put out immediately. And I appreciate that because of the loud voices and hurts that we heard of our GREAT Committee meeting last week Wednesday in Lāhainā. Okay, thanks for that clarification. And I guess you're going to put that soil...the...the tackifier on...online available for not only us, but if you could make it available for the public. Because it sounds like some of the testifiers...or some of the resources yesterday were also looking at the wrong product, I think, because they were saying the composition was incorrect. So, you going to put that online, right? You...yeah, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, if we get it, we'll...we'll post it in Granicus, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. That'll be good. And for FEMA, I think one of the questions that came up yesterday, and I wonder if...Mr. Brown, if you could clarify it, is the question of did the Governor ask for another 30-day extension? Instead of it be ending...I mean FEMA pulling out because of the disaster declaration, you would pull out at 10/10, October 10. But because everything that's going on, and, you know, just...the whole...the whole disaster is that the Governor asked for a 30-day extension; is that correct?

MR. BROWN: Yeah, yesterday it was announced that the extension . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . to apply is November 9th now.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, it was approved then.

MR. BROWN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, good.

MR. BROWN: For November 9th.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you very much.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Member Kama.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, everyone, for being here. So, I think...I want to preface my...my question with one of the things that we hear constantly in our meetings is that people are not getting information, you know. They're not getting good information, and they're not even sure if the information they're getting is good, bad, or ugly. So, my question to all of you is, I know that the information comes out from the press releases from the Governor, or the Mayor's Office, and it comes out like that, and you're all back there, whoever, you all are supposed to be in the press conference at that time. But is there anybody else you all are talking to besides each other? And that's for everybody. Who are you all talking to besides each other?

MR. BROWN: I can speak for FEMA. I just know that we have resources at what we call the Joint Information Center to ensure that that message gets out beyond all the agencies at the EOC, or the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . ICP. And so, if we need to do a better job of doing that, we will. The question that was just asked regarding the November 9th extension, I did see a press release that came out yesterday announcing that. So, sometimes information is a little slow, but we'll check to see if we have any gaps with the information sharing. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Anybody else? We can start with you, we'll work down that side.

MR. CURRY: Okay. Yeah, Councilmember...for the Corps of Engineers --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. CURRY: -- very similar. Personnel in the Joint Information Coordination Center, as well as members of our...they...we call members of our team that are set in the Disaster Recovery Centers ultimately working as part of that multi-agency response to provide updated information that's informed by everything that our team is doing in coordination across the agencies. So, those are two...just two examples of where we are in place to ensure that we're sharing communication.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, anybody? EPA.

MS. FITZGERALD: Hello.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Good.

MS. FITZGERALD: So, EPA is part of the JIC, Joint Information Center. But we also have, I would say, a pretty robust community involvement component, and we've been present at just general canvassing where some displaced residents are. We've been part of the re-entry process, having...having community resource specialists be present when people are getting their passes, and also when they're...they're in the re-entry so that we can answer questions...kind of...when I had the fact sheet. But they have the fact sheet, and, you know, are able to discuss it...discuss any questions that people have. And we also take questions...we have taken questions...more technical

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questions, and just general questions. We have our...our public information officers are taking them directly, and they will respond to individuals directly with concerns. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh. And Mr. Oliveira, if you wanted to respond?

MR. OLIVEIRA: Oh, I was going to share that probably what's not visible to the community, and maybe even to you is, when the EOC is activated, all of the agencies you see here at the tables, and more, are in the EOC, communicating as part of operations planning, and even the coordination piece. So, although, we're sharing information across all of our channels, it's also an opportunity for us to vet the message that goes out as a collective message, or a collective voice of all the agencies. That's where it goes, to that Joint Information Center, and out to the community. But we also...I think all of us realize that not everyone has access to, let's say, digital communication, not everyone has access to even, let's say, television, or...so, we have to look at all the tools available that includes the face-to-face meetings which, I think, are invaluable because it gives the --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. OLIVEIRA: -- public voice to come and ask their questions.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. OLIVEIRA: So, I think we'll...we'll continue, see how we can increase...and I would just ask for your help because you all have constituents.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. OLIVEIRA: I was invited to a...a meeting by Councilmember Cook, another one by Ms. Sugimura. So...and if you have meetings that you feel we can be present, I'd make the time to be there, because that face-to-face is invaluable.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: And I'd like to recognize Non-Voting Member Gabe Johnson, who's joined our proceedings at this time. Aloha awakea.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, Committee Members. I'm alone in my...my home, and I just wanted to come in and listen, and I appreciate you recognizing me. I thank everybody for coming here. A lot of resources, a lot of great information. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I'll just take my opportunity for question, and then I'll go to the two of you, Non-Voting Members. Sorry, Mr. Oliveira, it's kind of weird asking the question behind your head, but that's the setup, I guess. My first question is, you know, residents who are living within the burn zone, and are allowed to go through the barrier, would they call or email you to get a special request to also bring in their own insurance adjustor to come in?

MR. OLIVEIRA: Yes, they can reach out to our MEMA Office, or Maui Emergency Management Office. We are working with individuals, as well as businesses that need to get their insurance adjustors in. That's one of the reasons I'm leaving today, is to meet with a property that may have a HazMat situation that we're going to partner with our...our agencies here to try to mitigate. But, yes, they can work with us on that. So, you can feel free to direct them to our Maui Emergency Management number. We're also trying to set up, in partnership with County IT, a dedicated email address, or a mailbox, as well as two phone lines at the Operation Center, our area command at the Lāhainā Civic Center specifically to take calls about requests for access. Because we are getting those calls, but many times they're maybe coming via you folks, as well as other agencies or offices in the County. So, by the time it makes its way to us, they can be frustrated. So, we're trying to expedite that process.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much. I really appreciate that. The other question, I thought I heard you mention that pass cards will be distributed at more places than just the Civic. Will those other places also have all the resources that the Civic has, like the Department of Health, and, I guess, the direct relief package with all the protective equipment in there?

MR. OLIVEIRA: Yes, we're trying to ensure that wherever we set up a pass access site, we have all the wraparound services there. As I mentioned, you know, Department of Health has been invaluable, EPA has been participating, along with FEMA. So, we have several tables of information, providers, in addition to the passes. So, we are looking at additional sites to make it more accessible. That includes maybe even partnering with some of the hubs that we know have good visitation from displaced residents. So, as we identify those and set them up, we'll definitely communicate that, and share that with all of you, as well as the community.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And I noticed you shifted the hours from 8:00 to 4:00 to 7:00 to 3:00. Any thoughts to having it be like early morning before it gets too hot, and then late afternoon, after it gets too hot. Or is late afternoon still really hot, and you rather shift it more into the morning?

MR. OLIVEIRA: I think we're...we're trying to avoid having anyone in there with no light in the morning, as well as it gets dark in the evening. Anyone who's walked in the properties will see that it's...it's dangerous to be walking around on a property with...with no visibility, or low light. But we did take that suggestion from a community member, or a resident, actually, can you open up earlier, which shifted us to that 7:00 to 3:00. And we're still open, you know, to other suggestions on how to make it easier, and more comfortable to ...*(timer sounds)*... include if we have a

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special request. Let's say someone has access challenges, mobility challenged, we'll work with those families to get them access in there and support them.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. OLIVEIRA: So, we'll look at other ways to make it more comfortable.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, everybody, for being here. Mr. Oliveira, please describe the chain of command in EOC.

MR. OLIVEIRA: So, by State statute, you know, how the Civil Defense, or Emergency Management, is...is organized, you know, the...the Mayor is at the top of that chain of command at the County level, followed by the Administrator, so the position that I'm in. And then we have other staff officers, or Emergency Management positions in there that are part of that chain of command with specific function roles, such as operations, planning, et cetera. But that's the...the basic org structure of the Emergency Management at the local level...the County level.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And when you have these Federal agencies in the EOC, and...as well as State agencies, how do...how do...how does everybody rank?

MR. OLIVEIRA: So, there's always a EOC Director, which is...when I'm in the EOC, I'm the Director of the EOC helping to facilitate and coordinate the support that the EOC provides to all the organizations out there. So, if you look at what I explained earlier, we had Phase 0, which was primarily law enforcement, FBI, USAR mission or Urban Search and Rescue looking for remains and doing recovery. They were the incident commanders out in the field, was a unified command with those agencies working together. The EOC's role, then, is to support that operation, provide them the resources, help with communications to the public of what's going on...but basically provide the support and coordination in support of that mission.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, thank you. What are you doing differently today in terms of prevention that wasn't being done before?

MR. OLIVEIRA: Well, we've been looking at not so much prevention, but communication strategies. So, incorporating...as an example, we met with the local public radio stations to develop a relationship, or strengthen our relationship there, that we can use their resources to get more out to the community, not only at times of disasters or emergencies, but even for public education outreach.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We have a time limit, that's why I have to --

MR. OLIVEIRA: Sure. Sorry.



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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, in the old days, whenever there was a disaster, Civil Defense took over the radio stations. You don't have that relationship anymore?

MR. OLIVEIRA: We do have that capability, and we have...like I said, a strong relationship being built...rebuilt with the radio stations locally. So, we can do that, and we'll be looking at ways to use their resources more efficiently and effectively.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I hope so, and...and even with television, yeah. And also, is there any way to get a contract with those who are in charge of disaster messaging on TV? Have a...a local person, instead of somebody from, I don't know, China, or some place, that cannot pronounce the Hawaiian words?

MR. OLIVEIRA: So, we know that the...the EA...EAS system that does that crawler across the...the TV screen, or the radio, it...it has challenges . . .(*timer sounds*) . . . with the Hawaiian languages...or the Hawaiian language, and...and pronunciation. But we're working closely with HiEMA, and those agencies involved with that product, to get it to work more effectively.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Thank you so much.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Member Lee. Member Johnson, did you have any questions for this panel, including Mr. F, with the Soiltac?

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

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Okay, do round two. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. My second round of questioning is maybe to Colonel Curry or to Ms. Fitzgerald. And it's about just the...the dust, and in anticipation of the wind picking up. I understand that Ms. Uccellini-Kuby was concerned about the...the...you know, the immediate effects of dust being blown about, and particularly that we have hubs and hives still within these neighborhoods, and people are within the neighborhoods. Are...are there extra precautions for...for dust that is being whipped up by the wind?

MS. FITZGERALD: So, yes, we've also heard...EPA has heard from some residents that are still close by to the burn area that they have concerns about dust going into their homes. And it is a concern. We know that the ash that is resulting from the fire, especially the building debris ash, is...has concerns for human health. So, that would be...a good thing to do would be to prioritize stabilizing any...any way that the ash is going to be stabilized would be to prioritize areas...the closest areas where anyone is living, and also, I believe, the schools would be...would be my suggestion, to prioritize those areas.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Are...are there dust screens that are being erected right now between these areas...between the burnt area and the neighborhoods where people are still living?

MR. OLIVEIRA: Yes, sir, I...I'll just chime in on that one. So, as recent as last week we had some additional dust screens being installed off of Lāhaināluna Road. And . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I don't know all the streets yet, but it was in an area that had gaps that didn't have previously dust screens. So, there are...our County Public Works in partnership with one of the contractors has been going out and installing additional dust screens.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Oliveira. I just wanted to add, you did come highly recommended from your Hawai'i Island constituents, so mahalo. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: True story. Member U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I would kind of like to follow up what Member Kama was saying earlier when she asked you guys, who else are you guys talking to? So, I think one of the main issues we heard, especially last week when we heard like 11 hours of testimony, is we hear that this is what FEMA is saying, or Red Cross is saying, or even what MEMA is saying, but yet, that's not...not actually what is being applied in the moment for them. That they are being moved around, and shuffled, and every two days, every three days, they have to move. You know, we heard testimony from a grandmother with an infant whose...infant grandchild, I mean, has been homeless since day one, and they have had to move several times. How do you guys plan to better communicate with the public? How do you guys plan on better providing accurate information that is consistent information?

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, can you pause, Member U'u-Hodgins' timer? Also, if Red Cross wanted to answer this question --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- because I think they're a lot involved in that question. Since we have all our chairs used, you could use the podium too. And then from there, either Red Cross, or FEMA...or MEMA, or FEMA, or Red Cross, I think, would be the ones. And *(audio interference)* he's here, you can *(audio interference)* again.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I do know that it's kind of a weighted question, and I'm...I'd appreciate any answer you could provide at this time.

MR. FAULK: Happy to go first. Councilmember, thank you for the question. It...it would never be the intent of the American Red Cross to be disruptive to a family, and it certainly is not the intent to move. Of course, as...as we are consolidating hotels, occasionally that will have to happen. I...I don't know of anyone who's been moved multiple times. So, if...if there was a situation like that that you'd want us to look into

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with a particular family, happy to leave my card, and we can have that conversation, we can look into something more specifically. But, of course, the...the least amount of disruption is what we would always choose for a family, or a survivor who has encountered this type of disaster, and to ensure that their recovery is as dignified and as appropriate as possible.

MR. BROWN: Then maybe different than my answer before regarding the Joint Information Center. We have a robust External Affairs Program, and then I know every day I get a social listing report. They basically troll all the social apps that are out there, and what's trending and so, that's another way that we come up with one, cleaning up misinformation as well. And then also, we ensure that those folks are...FEMA staff and Federal agencies at the DRCs, or the Disaster Recovery Summer...Centers are also pushing messages out. And then also, helping with the American Red Cross to ensure that any changes are communicated to at least those people, as Darryl mentioned before, face-to-face.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. And again, as I said earlier too, like, people are having a difficult time absorbing all the information. Do you guys have like something in writing, or some place they can go, you know, when they can't reach you guys, where they can provide...where they can get adequate, correct information besides to just the website? Do you have a piece of paper? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. BROWN: Like a physical piece of paper, as far as the --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Like...yeah, like anything. Again, communication is kind of spotty out in Lāhainā still. So --

MR. BROWN: I mean like, you know, with the extension for the November 9th deadline. So, I guess the example of that would be maybe print that out, and have that available at the DRCs. Is that what I'm hearing?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, sure.

MR. BROWN: Okay. Okay. We could look at that.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. FAULK: And...and just really briefly, I'd add...and we...we have our shelter workers at every hotel property. We are strongly encouraging shelter residents, if they're having any challenges, just go down and talk to a Red Cross worker.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-hum.

MR. FAULK: We're also still at the Disaster Resource Center as well.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thanks.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Since we have Mr. Faulk up, you guys mind if I jump in right now? I didn't want to have him like...you know. So, I guess my question might be through FEMA, or Red Cross in relationship to what Member U'u-Hodgins was asking. Do you know all the ways that people can sign up for housing? Maybe the people that are having to move every two weeks is not through Red Cross. I've heard that Global Empowerment Mission is also offering Airbnb stays, and is that something MEMA or FEMA is aware of? And then for Red Cross, I think one of the big complaints that I'm getting is that they are a lot of times being asked to re-enter their information, sometimes they'll talk to Red Cross people, and then they'll talk to a different Red Cross person at various places, and get various answers. And that's a lot of the frustration as well, that the answer depends on the person they go to, and some people will watch everybody going to the different Red Cross people, and by the reaction of the people walking away, that's the Red Cross worker that they'll want to talk to kind of. So, I just was wondering if anyone on the panel knows all the various ways that people are obtaining housing, and the various rules with those various ways, and things like that?

MR. FAULK: So, my...my understanding, as far as the Red Cross is, we are only currently housing survivors in the hotel situations. And so, I have also heard of Airbnb and other solutions, I'm...I'm less familiar with that. Chair, to...to your question, particularly around the communication challenges. I think that with an organization like the Red Cross, I like to call the Red Cross a...a beautifully imperfect organization, but we're a learning organization. A lot of that is because 90 percent of our workforce is volunteers that are here on the ground. These are not paid employees, these are people who have volunteered, of course, to come here to Maui to support the survivors of the impacted fires. So, that, of course, does pose the challenge when you have staff...or a workforce that is here for two or three weeks, leaving, and then a new group coming in to where there's a constant re-education of just the current operation and the processes here. We have another saying at the Red Cross is, if you've seen one disaster, you've seen one disaster, right. And essentially what that means is that every disaster is so unique that it requires...even though we...we have consistent training for all of our workforce that would arrive here on the island, the...the various circumstances here is very, very different than you might encounter in a wildfire in California, or a tornado in Little Rock, Arkansas, right. And I come from Arkansas where...where we had similar noncongregate sheltering, in no scenario were they in five-star quality hotels, and so...so, it creates a different scenario. I think in this particular disaster, I can commit that we are doing our level best, and happy to continue to share feedback with our operation, that we are doing our...our absolute best to ensure consistent information. However, I will also ...*(timer sounds)*... acknowledge it's not always perfect.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Go ahead, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't have any more questions. I'll yield my time. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Member Sugimura. Or...oh, Member Kama has to leave. Do you have a burning last question?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I don't have a burning question. It'll wait. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And I don't have a burning last question, and she and I are leaving together.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, you have all these volunteers that come in from the mainland every two weeks or so, and we're talking about over 1,000 people?

MR. FAULK: So...so, there has been over 1,300 Red Cross workers that have traveled through the course of the disaster. There is currently over 300 on the ground right now.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, who pays for that? The travel --

MR. FAULK: The...the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- the housing?

MR. FAULK: Thank you, Chair Lee. The...the generosity of the American public pays for that. So...so, that includes the expenses for air travel, their lodging, their day-to-day expenses to kind of be here on the ground, to eat. So, yeah, it's the generosity of the American public who provides that...that expense.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And we do get reports from you. I...I don't know if it's through FEMA, but Jan Stout here is the one that sends it to us. The thing is, we...we get these summarized reports, and is there any way we can have...get a breakdown? Like for instance, 13 million spent on housing assistance. What...what does that mean? You know, is there any way we can get a breakdown...a further breakdown on this report?

MR. FAULK: So, I'm not quite sure what that 13 million number is. Earlier I talked about 11.2 million of individual assistance has been provided by the American Red Cross, broken down to both individual assistance given to survivors, and the 288,000 given to the families of those who have been deceased. I'm --

CHAIR PALTIN: That's a...a FEMA email.

MR. FAULK: -- I'm less knowledgeable about that number.

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CHAIR PALTIN: That...Jenna [sic] Stout is from FEMA...I believe that email.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. FAULK: Oh, that's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm sorry. But she's the one...I'm reading their report, which includes the Red Cross numbers.

MR. FAULK: Sure. I...I'd also share, Chair Lee, that...that we...we've been sending reports to...in fact, I just talked with a member of your team just the other day on the phone. We are trying to send a report out to all our elected officials from the Red Cross directly, usually every couple of days. It's been a little bit slower this week just because the information has been a little bit stale, so to speak, and we've gone through a pretty significant transition with the end of Safe Harbor. So, we are planning to move to a...a once or twice a week update to all of our elected officials as well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: One last question.

MR. FAULK: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Do you know the tax implications to the people receiving all of these assistance monies, you know, from the Red Cross, from various other Federal agencies; are those taxable?

MR. FAULK: That's a really good question, Chair Lee. I'm not sure about that. The assistance per family is...I mean we're not talking about tens of thousands of dollars from the Red Cross, but I'd have to look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: All right. Thank you. I appreciate it.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: I neglected to call on Member Rawlins-Fernandez. My apologies.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's okay, Chair. I'll forgive you if you double my time. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Since we have Red Cross up, I'll...I'll ask a couple of questions of Red Cross. So, yesterday we received testimony about extending...the extension of assistance. And I think Member Sugimura had called someone, and...and we understand that the individual assistance was extended. What about the public assistance, was that also extended?

MR. FAULK: So, I think the extension for individuals was FEMA's extension, and not ours. But I'm...I'm...I'm less...less sure about what --

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh *(audio interference)* --

MR. FAULK: -- what the public assistance would be.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For FEMA then.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, there...there wasn't an extension for public assistance, it's still October 10.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There was no extension, the...so, it'll...the deadline is...oh.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, there was no extension for public assistance, so the date stands at August 10th. For individual assistance it's November 9th now, that was approved.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Is that because the State didn't request an...an extension to the public assistance?

MR. BROWN: That's correct, they did not.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification. And then...sorry. Okay, now this is for Red Cross. I understand that those that are receiving shelter have been asked to check in with the Red Cross every 48 hours; is that correct?

MR. FAULK: Yes, that is correct. I mean and...and that is with our shelter Resident Transition Team. Purpose of that is really a couple-fold, both first to...and foremost to make sure that they have the resources that they need on the recovery. But the...the importance of the sheltering that the Red Cross is providing is really to work on a longer-term transition. And we tend to...sometimes we've had experiences where people would just hide away in a hotel for a number of days, or weeks, and we're not...we are unable to get in touch with them. So, really, the...the intent of trying to stay in...in close contact with the Red Cross is to ensure that their shelter and their transition plans are still moving forward.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. And then I saw Mr. Oliveira just leave. So, I don't know if Mr. Nishita is still on, and my question is regarding communication. We all have so many questions--us as Councilmembers, the public, the public's asking us questions, we're unable to answer. We...we need to improve our communications badly. I just went on EPA's website that we are directed to, the story map, and there's no information about Soiltac, none. And so, I...I don't know if that was intention to not include that information. But if we're trying to get information to the public, we need to do a better job. I do have a question for Mr. Falkenberg. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Mr. Falkenberg, you still there?

MR. FALKENBERG: Yes.

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CHAIR PALTIN: And since --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- most everyone didn't have any more questions, we'll just continue on this track.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair. Is it possible to have Soiltac applied prior to residents going through their properties as we...Member Sugimura had asked of Mr. Oliveira? And what are the ramifications of interacting with the ash once Soiltac has been sprayed? Does it make it more dangerous, or safer?

MR. FALKENBERG: I'm...I'm glad you brought this question up. If...if it were my recommendation, I would be applying before residents are going back to their properties. And the reason for this is that even though the...the light surface crust is going to break apart, it's breaking apart into smaller size crusts, whether it be a...the size of a pie, or whether it be the size of cornflakes. You're still binding together, and making a crust despite the fact that it's cracked open...except for the areas where someone may be digging and overturning the ground. If you just look at the percentage of area that will be disturbed by manually manipulating any of the area, it is a small fraction. So, you've still done a better job of...of keeping the air clean for the...for the people, and protecting the ground from rain events. So I would highly recommend that you look at doing it sooner than later.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that information. And then a follow up with Miss...shoot, from EPA...Ms. Fitzgerald.

CHAIR PALTIN: Fitzgerald.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is there a reason that that's not happening?

MS. FITZGERALD: The EPA has submitted its application plan to the County for application and when--if we--if we receive approval, we will begin as soon as possible. We have...just to clarify, we have completed the application of Soiltac in Kula.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification. So, MEMA Administrator Oliveira just explained that their...their reason for not applying Soiltac beforehand. So, it doesn't really sound like everyone's on the same page about why it's not being used. So, EPA submitted its request to the Administration, and the Administration hasn't approved the application yet. And they're under...and the Administration's understanding of why that's not happening doesn't sound like what we just heard from Mr. Falkenberg. So, there's an EOC. Is there a way that you all can talk so that there's a better line of communication so that everyone's on the same page about what we're doing, and...and we're ensuring the highest level of safety for our community?



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MS. FITZGERALD: Certainly, I...I flagged that for continue discussion after...after the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then Ms. Fitzgerald, are you able to speak to why Soiltac is not on your story map on EPA's website?

MS. FITZGERALD: I can. I don't think...I...I believe...just to be blunt, I believe that we are awaiting for approval to apply it, and, you know, it is our recommendation, and that's available to the Council. But we did not believe that, you know, it was something that we would go out on our own and...and put...put out.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But you said you already applied it Upcountry, right?

MS. FITZGERALD: Oh, so, why haven't we noted...noted that we've applied it in Kula? That's a good question, and we can...we can modify it to...to note that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: People are looking for information on Soiltac. And right now, there's a lot of misinformation, and disinformation that's being spread, and therefore, it's causing a delay, and it's causing irreparable harm to our environment, and I don't want it leaching into our aquifer. I don't want it coming to Moloka'i, Lāna'i, spreading all over the reef causing major damage. And so, communication needs to be conducted as...as soon as possible. Mahalo, Chair, for...for extending this time. I will yield to my colleagues, but I do have more questions. Mahalo.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And we do need to take a lunch break. Before we go to lunch--as we return, hopefully, with all of our resources, as well as the County Departments--before we go to lunch, I just was wondering if either FEMA, or Red Cross, I think, mainly, could lay out the timeline going forward of assistance, knowing that there's, you know, probably 10,000 total displaced, but only about over 7,000 in the hotels. Like can you...can you lay out for us...I heard that...before that FEMA could give like rental assistance up to 18 months. Red Cross can have shelter stays up to six months, and...and what happens after that, especially if our friends at the Army Corps of Engineers are not done with debris removal, or our friends at Public Works aren't done with damage assessment, and people can't go back to where they used to live? If you could give us just an overview for us to think about over lunch about how that all fits together into like, you know, where are people going to go? I mean it's nice to have guaranteed housing until October 31st, but we're intending for everyone to live longer than October 31st. We're not intending for Army Corps of Engineers to be done on October 31st. So, if you can just walk us through a little bit of that...how that works out.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, I'll let Jesus talk about the effort that we're putting into longer-term housing. As you know, we did make a huge effort to get folks out of the congregate

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shelters into the noncongregate shelters. And so, we're at that crossroad now to where it is a priority of FEMA's to get them into longer-term 18-month solutions.

MR. CEJA: Thank you, Chair. Pardon the...the back here, as I try to navigate the microphone. So, yes, the...the standard period of assistance for FEMA is 18 months from the date of declaration. And that's applicable to both the financial assistance that's being provided when it comes to financial recertification for rent. And then it's also applicable for the direct housing programs that we have. So, currently, there's...you know, out of the 28-plus millions that was pushed out there, approximately 10.8 of that has gone out to over 3,000 households for rental assistance. We do inquire with them...we're working with the American Red Cross, you know, for those starting NCS that have already received rental assistance in an effort to try to get them into a longer-term solutions, right? And what happens is that we know for the individuals that are in NCS, you know, what their current situation is, what kind of barriers they may be facing when it comes to rental resources. Maybe the lack of additional funds to be able to lock in, you know, first, last month's rent and security deposit. So, we're working with HCF and other organizations to attempt to get past those barriers, and into longer-term solutions. Now, at the same time, we did get an approval for what is under the Individuals and Households Program, Direct Housing. This is...this is sometimes for the same population that have already received financial rental assistance, but can't make use of that rental assistance where FEMA, through the two-form stat, were approved. One being direct housing...direct lease, this is where FEMA acquires leases directly with property managers. And then what we do is a multi-family lease and repair program where we go back and assess multi-family dwellings that were impacted that we can rehab in an effort to license in folks in there and provide temporary housing solution. Now, I keep saying temporary because that's...the statute of limitations allows us only for temporary assistance for up to 18 months. And while we're doing direct housing, through the recertification process . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . which we do every 30 days, we're working with survivors on their permanent housing plan, and work towards getting them into that permanent housing solution. So, in many instances with homeowners, they want to come back and rebuild, whereas with renters, they may want to either go back and continue renting, or possibly become new homeowners.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And so, there's no opportunity if the Governor or the County asks for extension on that 18 months, that's like the law?

MR. CEJA: Actually, there is. There is the ability...most often we do extend, or approve extensions to the direct housing program. You know, we've had instances where it just requires three additional months because maybe there's only a handful of survivors that need to get past that barrier to their permanent housing solution. But we've had instances, also, for six months or more.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then...and Red Cross, you're allowed to allow six months more in hotels?

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MR. FAULK: Yes. Yes, so, we are working individually with each survivor. I will say, you know, as of this morning we are in 34 hotels, that was 40 when I arrived just a little over a week ago, so there is some consolidation there. Each hotel contract is unique. As of right now, more than half of our hotel contracts are extended through November 30th, with a handful of them already extending through the end of January right now. So, we continue to...to work really closely with our partners, and just our lodging partners to make sure that we can just continue to provide the...the support . . .*(inaudible)*. . . for survivors in partnership with FEMA. And, of course, the intent is always long-term recovery, and to transition folks into a more longer-term solution than the hotels.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Are you guys coming back after lunch too? Okay. All right, then this is usually our...our lunch hour, and we usually return at 1:30, if that's okay with everyone? Okay. Meeting in recess until 1:30. We'll return at 1:30. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:** 12:17 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 1:37 p.m.

CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee return to order. The time is 1:37. Oh, you cannot hear? Now you can hear? Okay. DRIP Committee return to order at 1:37. We seem to not have Red Cross at this moment, but I'm sure they'll probably come back. When we left off, FEMA was saying that there could possibly be an extension up to six months at a time, and that the October 8th, October 10th-ish deadline has been combined, and moved to November 9th. We also do have Ms. Rebekah Uccellini in the audience as well, as well as, I think, our Planning Director...or Deputy Director is online, as well as CWRM...and let's see, who else? Some other folks. So, initially, Member Kama wanted to do a joint meeting because she did want to also focus on emergency housing, emergency temporary housing, locations, and things like that. And I kind of wanted to have the second half of the meeting focus a little bit on that. But feel free to also ask whatever questions that you have, but I know that's a concern on a lot of people's minds. And especially with people having to check in with the Red Cross every 48 hours, like those of us have been living here, like, 20-plus years know that the housing situation doesn't change much in 48 hours from one to the next. So, it...for...for me, I'm...I'm hearing the anxiety in people having to check in every 48 hours, that they didn't find a place to live in since the last 48 hours. And so, I was wondering...I had heard that FEMA, and the County, maybe Public Works, and kind of based on Josiah's opening comments that interim and permanent housing was being explored, and it looks like he said, by Saumalu Mataafa and Wendy Taomoto, who...I'm not sure they're on the call. But I just was wondering if, under FEMA or the Army Corps of Engineers, do you folks have any information about once the hotel stays end, or if they end, are there plans that you know of, or you've been asked to assist with, for emergency temporary shelters?

MR. CEJA: Thank you, Chair. So, we are working in the line-up effort of providing interim solutions. And the way we're seeing this is the Joint Housing Task Force, which

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includes Wendy and Saumalu. It's that we would go from the congregate sheltering situation to a permanent housing situation in four phases, right, where we will have interim temporary, or congregate sheltering to interim noncongregate sheltering setting, that's...that's what's happening with American Red Cross...and then into temporary solutions, like with what FEMA's providing for the duration of the 18-month period of assistance, into permanent housing solutions. So, the task force is focusing on both being things. We're focusing on what we currently have approved for direct lease, and make utilization of existing available rental properties to put in folks, and then seeing if there's availability for the folks that meet the eligibility criteria for direct housing. If there's a delta--there's no approval for this right now--but it could lead into use of alternative temporary transportable-type housing units, or modular units as, you know, they may be permissible here on island. So, there is the exploration of that, and exploration in terms of where there might be some land sites to be able to do that kind of a program. Now, my understanding is that the State, DHS, and through the...the...the collaboration is to find solutions for the longer term...permanent housing solutions for folks that, you know, may be...not be eligible for FEMA assistance, or even those that are eligible for FEMA assistance that would then get them into a permanent housing solution. So, as I mentioned earlier, with our Direct Housing Program, our...our case management role, along with the assessor case manager...or the assessor case managers, is to work a permanent housing solutions with folks that are under a temporary solution. You know, my understanding, again, is that the Red Cross is also doing that now with part of the wraparound services, all in an effort to get folks to that Phase 4, which is permanent solutions.

CHAIR PALTIN: And just checking if you were aware before these about 10,000 people got displaced, just to find rental for one individual household was a monumental feat. And so now, we have between 2 and 3,000 households that need it. And I guess some folks in the community are skeptical that they can find that housing outside of a hotel, or a...a transient rental place. Is there an option to like condemn a timeshare, or something like that? A temporary condemnation, or something?

MR. CEJA: Yes, Chair. Not through FEMA's authority, FEMA does not have the authority to condemn homes. We are working with the...the County and HCF in an effort to convert short-term rental properties into long-term rental properties. And, you know, that would be just to make more available rental resources, but that's all County-based efforts since there is some tax incentives, you know, or tax-based questions that may arise out of that.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I guess we can go back to the three-minute structure starting with Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And, again, mahalo for spending the day with us, and answering our questions. A lot of them might not always stem from our offices, but again, some questions from...from the...the public. I had some questions about the...the Soiltac. Mr. Falkenberg mentioned that it comes both in a liquid and a powder. So, which ones were used Upcountry, the liquid or the powder? And are they

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being shipped in liquid form, or are...is the powder being used, and then mixed with water?

MS. FITZGERALD: Thank you. So, we used the liquid form, and the...anything being shipped is in liquid, so it's...it is not the powder that we are using, or would intend to use.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then you guys are...after...is there a time after you spray it on that you remove it?

MS. FITZGERALD: The...the idea would be that it would be removed when the Army Corps conducts the Phase 2 operations. So, we would only up...well, in Kula, the application's only on the building footprint debris, it's not on the entire parcel. So, it's only put on to stabilize the ash from the building, which is the main concern for risk to residents and to the ocean. So, it would only go on that. And then when that's taken by the Army Corps, the Soiltac is taken as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Fitzgerald. And then my other line of questioning is for Mr. Faulk with the Red Cross. We're getting a lot of, I guess, calls about hotels being...you know, sending out these letters out to...to the families. And I know you mentioned 7,000 residents in hotels. Are you able to move them by the October 8 opening date to open up space at these hotels?

MR. FAULK: I...I do not believe, to my knowledge, that there is any plan, at this point, to move everybody out hotels by the October opening date. I mean I think that we have contracts currently with most of our hotels through the end of November that we're in, and some all the way through the end of January. So, I...I don't believe that there is a plan unless a hotel...and again, it's very case-by-case, Councilmember. I...I know, for instance, the Fairmont...for instance, we had to transition shelter residents just last week. But...but I think that we will very much be in hotel rooms as of the October 8th date.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, technically, we're going to have...be having both victims of the fire and, should the Governor proceed with his plans to open, we'll have both visitors and residents at these hotel sites?

MR. FAULK: I'm not an expert, certainly, in the hotel blocks, but my...my sense is that that's probably very accurate. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

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

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. My questions is for Red Cross. So, I'm...in your earlier testimony, you were talking to us about your community-led recovery, and your long-term recovery plans. And I'm wondering if, one, you could provide us more detail; and, two, you also said you guys experience new wave of volunteers every two

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to three weeks. So, how do you plan on keeping the recovery and your volunteers consistent with the change of volunteers?

MR. FAULK: Sure. No, it's a great question. Thank you, Councilmember. The...our long-term recovery...well, let me back up and say first, well, the situation we're in right now with NCS, or noncongregate sheltering, is a short-term recovery solution, right. So, at some point that program will end, and residents in those hotels, survivors, will...will transition to more longer-term housing. That is really not a function of the Red Cross, that's what we're working a number of our partners on is to identify what those resources, and what those solutions, might look like. Our long-term recovery program really is broke up into two...two primary components. We do, again...I'll mention again, we...we intend for that to be community-led, and that the Red Cross takes a facilitative role. And so...so when we start long-term recovery, there's really two functions of that. The first is what we call bridge assistance. It will be another round of financial assistance to households that were impacted particularly by the wildfires. We plan to have the announcement for that probably a little bit later this month, in October. There's no specified date on that just yet, but it will essentially be a second round of financial assistance that will serve as a bridge for survivors to...to move into that...that more permanent housing ability. Second is...is our long-term grant program. And...and again, we...we have a long-term recovery manager, who actually lives in California, that is overseeing long-term recovery operations both in California from wildfires, and...and soon to be...will be here in Hawai'i as well. We also have a...we are currently also hiring right now--and again this is less about long-term recovery and more about the...the...the...the transition of...of survivors into those long-term solutions--but we've hired...we're in the process of hiring about 150 what we call TDEs. TDE stands for temporary disaster employee. Our...our...we've made so far--in fact, I just asked this morning--there's been 106 offers that have been extended all to locals here on the island also. And essentially, that will become our workforce to support this noncongregate sheltering operation in the coming months once we have all of those temporary disaster employees. Again, putting some money into folks' pockets. These are paid positions for...for Maui natives...or Maui...Maui...excuse me, Maui residents, I should say. And the plan will be that they will essentially take over our shelter resident transition program, and will be working with our shelter residents on kind of what that longer-term recovery will look like. And then finally, the...the long-term grants. I was just having lunch with some folks and explaining this, that really, the posture of the Red Cross is to, again, serve as a convener and a facilitator, but not to lead, necessarily, in that space. And so, we would . . .(timer sounds). . . be working closely with various nonprofit organizations, and...and really soliciting, even, the input from this Council around what are some of those longer-term recovery needs, or solutions, that might be able to help the survivors, then really granting money to nonprofits that are here local to support some of that work.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Cook.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. And I apologize to everybody for being late. My question is for Army Corps of Engineers, and the magnitude of the amount of residences that we have to produce in a relatively short period of time. And this conversation is really clarifying, it's kind of like not...doesn't...really hard to connect the dots. Is there any...has FEMA and Army Corps of Engineers, in any other disasters, done sort of a military base setup for housing? And...and I...just a little off the wall, so I was just...but as a builder, we have the potential to spend like 40 or \$50 million at hotels over a reasonably short period of time. That's a lot of money that could be used within the community to satisfy infrastructure, housing, and a lot of other stuff. Might not fit within the criteria of the norm, but my...I'm just curious, have you ever...it's always amazing to see what the military is capable of doing...mobilizing, and doing. Has that ever been done, and is it feasible, or viable, in any way?

MR. CURRY: Well...yes, Councilmember, thanks for the question. I...I mean I think...I wouldn't say it's never been done. I...you know, there's certainly...similar to the comments made earlier that every...every disaster response is...is unique in many ways. You know, certainly it wasn't that long ago that the Corps, you know, did a tremendous amount with COVID response, and establishing those care centers, and a lot of other...you know, utilizing a lot of partnerships in order to...to find a way to provide those facilities. So, you know, potentially there could be...you know, could be a correlation there. I...I would say...and from what I'm aware of, there's...there are a number of legal challenges to get through, and...and particularly with...between the types of...you know DOD forces, you know, Title 10, Title 32, that also have to be contended with and determined for any of those types. I think ultimately, in this particular response...I mean I think we look for the...look to the...the guidance from FEMA on what they...what they would request. But I'm...I'm not aware of any specific one in recent history where we've actually provided that type of a base camp as you describe. And Cory, or if anyone else has any other knowledge.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir.

MR. BROWN: I...I think what you're describing is what we typically do in the mainland with RVs, and/or mobile homes, but that's not an option here on Hawai'i. So, I...I think that's what you're describing, that's not an option here. And then . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . further, I'd say that one, RVs and mobile homes aren't here, or can't be here; and then, two, what other alternative is there to bring into the military, so, what would they build would be the second part to that question. And I don't know if Colonel Curry has any ideas about that, but if that were the case, I think locally, that'd be an option for the County, or for the State to...if that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, thanks for saying that. As far as like...I mean just as a builder, we could build 5,000 'ohanas, two-bedroom units that could be picked up, and moved, and used in a bunch of different places. And the money would be transferable, and usable, and not just kind of given away. Is that...could we do our own Hawaiian style?

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CHAIR PALTIN: You might have to...I...I think the bell rang.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: Save that one for the next round.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I think Mr. Falkenberg is...so, he's not here, but I know Member Sinenci asked the question earlier, and I wanted to make sure it was abundantly clear that the powder product from Soilworks, and the liquid Soiltec...tac, are completely different products that contain different ingredients. I...I...I'm not sure that was, like, super clear for the public. And I'm...I'll invite Ms. Fitzgerald to confirm that.

MS. FITZGERALD: Yes, they are different, and they all have different patents. I'm not entirely familiar with the powdered form ingredients, but I can tell you that, yes, the...the Soiltac and the powdered form are different products. And we...we used the Soiltac, the liquid form, in Kula, and is what we would recommend for Lāhainā.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification. And then the next question is for Ms. Uccellini-Kuby. Yesterday we received testimony from her regarding the FEMA extension for the individual assistance, and the public assistance. But she also outlined some of the process involved that as someone, you know, that has never had to handle, or respond or...to a level...a disaster this level, I'm hoping that she could kind of speak to some of that she shared with us yesterday, and any additional information for our consideration. And then I would like to ask FEMA representatives if they could please speak to some of the things that she is bringing up. Mahalo, Chair.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Aloha. Mahalo. So, yes, for FEMA, are any of you guys, FEMA public assistance, are able to speak to that? Okay. Thank you. Mahalo. So, a couple of the questions I had specific for FEMA Public Assistance. So, public assistance, as we may or may not know, it's what...is for nonprofit schools, churches, historical societies, businesses, sacred sites. And public assistance is a little bit more...seem like a long-term recovery. It does not open, usually, until individual assistance has ended. Typically we won't even hear from them and start that process for about six months. There's a few things that I want to know though. So, we did get a request put in for an extension for individual assistance. It was clarified that we did not get one for public assistance because the State did not ask for that. I just want to double-check that that's correct. And I...I think that's my first question, is...and is that something that we just need to put in that request for?



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MR. BROWDER: Yes, that's correct. There hasn't been a request for . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . an extension for public assistance. But if that request is submitted to the State or HiEMA partners, they'll be able to submit that to us, and we can relay that.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Okay. Thank you. May I ask another question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I did hear the timer, but I...I leave it up to your discretion, Chair. On my next round, I would invite her back up to speak to a little bit more of the processes.

CHAIR PALTIN: James, is it possible to get Ms. Uccellini a chair to sit at the Red Cross table with those folks? Okay. Would you like to come up with the panel? And then she doesn't need to walk up and down.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Sugimura, did you have a question? You don't have any? Oh, okay. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, this is, I think, a question for...oh, I'm not sure who because I was going to ask--the CNHA made the announcement yesterday about the host families. So, I wanted to know, for the host families, yeah, that they will be the ones that will be receiving the...the grant, or whatever it is, for hosting a family, right?

CHAIR PALTIN: Can you pause her time? Let's make sure Josiah is on the call because --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- I think he would be probably the most appropriate. Josiah, are you on the call?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I thought he was going to come back later and do a presentation. Was that him, or Jordan?

MS. GRECO: Chair, we don't see him on the call, but we can give him a ring.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. We'll give Josiah a ring.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: Corporation Counsel, you wouldn't know the answer to that question about anything to do with CNHA?

MR. FAULK: Chair Paltin. I...I mean this is Barry Faulk from the Red Cross. I can confirm that the financial money that would be...as a part of that grant would be going to the

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host families to the tune of \$375 per person, per month, up to four people per household.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. You can start the clock again. Go ahead. I guess Mr. *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: He already answered, okay. So...okay. So, then my next question would be for FEMA. One of our testifiers asked the question about housing, and what...the kind of housing you could fund in terms of in...I think short term, and then long term. So, I think what he was talking about, similar to what Mr. Cook was saying about, are you able to not only fund the rent that they're paying, right...that you are actually giving families to pay rent, are you also able to...while that's being done, simultaneously, be able to provide funding for these modular homes that...that it seems that many contractors out there are looking to do because they have the wherewithal. All they need is...is land, or...or zoning change, or community plan amendment, those kinds of things. So, is FEMA able to...to provide that kind of funding?

MR. CEJA: Thank you, Councilmember, I'll take that one. So, just wanted to provide a point of clarification. The financial rental assistance that FEMA provides is directly to the survivor or the household for them to establish a formal landlord-tenant relationship through the available means, right, whether it's through property managers, you know, listings on...on websites, that they enter into a formal landlord-tenant relationship. There are going to be some individuals that may find themselves in precariously-held situations where if they meet the pre-placement interview criteria for direct housing, then they may still be considered for direct housing. So, meaning that if they are only able to stay with friends and family for a short duration, maybe even in some circumstances, you know, still living in their car, or if they're currently in noncongregate sheltering, they will remain eligible for FEMA to consider them for placement of a temporary housing solution. Now, I keep referring to FEMA's programs, right. Other things that are done through other entities will have their own criteria that they would need to stipulate what that means for them, right. So, for example, through CNHA, if they're providing the funds through philanthropic dollars or donations or however they may be doing it, it may be a subset that helps . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . with that type of assistance. FEMA does not have the ability to fund any additional monies to the host directly. What we would encourage is that survivors, if they are already receiving rental assistance, so that CNHA does not create a duplication of benefit, is to enter into that formal landlord-tenant relationship, and go for long term, and then seek additional assistance from FEMA for financial rental assistance.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. I heard the bell.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Chair Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I wanted to ask, I guess, EPA. The human ash remains, and animal ash remains, are we certain that we have removed all...all of them?

MS. FITZGERALD: I...I know that question was directed to me, but I don't think I'd be able to answer that question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Who would? You? Army Corps?

MR. KOGER: I think that would a search and rescue question, Council.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, we don't have anybody here that could answer that question? Maybe FEMA.

MR. BROWN: So, was the question if all HHR has been collected?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Well, human and animal remains.

MR. BROWN: I'll have to get back to you on that question, for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Are the individual property owners informed of the answer to that question?

MR. BROWN: For the individual property owners from where --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because as they return to their properties --

MR. BROWN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- are they informed that there are no more remains there?

MR. BROWN: I'm not sure if they're briefed on that. That'd be a question for the Emergency Manager, Darryl.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can we ask him that, Chair? And then --

CHAIR PALTIN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I wanted to ask the Red Cross man there. You're in charge of all the hotel residents, yeah, the...the people that have moved into hotels, right?

MR. FAULK: The...the Red Cross is...is providing care for those folks, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: To them. So, there's about a little over 7,000. So, who's keeping track of the other people? People in Airbnbs, or, you know, the other transient-type facilities...who's keeping track? So that...so that we know exactly how many people are out there that eventually we have to take care of.

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MR. FAULK: Yeah, Councilmember Lee, I appreciate the question. I think we...we can only take account for those who have set up a Red Cross case, and that would be that...that number that I mentioned. So, I would presume there are a number of other nonprofits who may be out there, but I wouldn't have that information.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Who do you think might?

MR. FAULK: I've heard Global Empowerment may be one. I'm not sure if that is an organization that anyone else on the panel has heard of that...that is perhaps doing some assistance, or care for those survivors as well. But I...I don't...I just don't (*audio interference*).

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You mean the County wouldn't...the Administration wouldn't have that number?

MR. FAULK: The County?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, the County. Yeah.

MR. FAULK: It's possible the County may...may...may be better --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. FAULK: -- to answer that than I would.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, you mentioned Global...what is the name of that organization?

MR. FAULK: Empowerment, I believe.

CHAIR PALTIN: Global Empowerment Mission.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: I think they go by J...GEM.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Yes, GEM...Global Empowerment Mission, they --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: -- they receive the beginning ones for Airbnb, so they're tracking that. That program did end on Friday. Right now I've been getting those who are undocumented. They've been coming thorough . . .(*timer sounds*). . . me at Kāko'o Maui.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And then, Madam Chair, I did want to ask to have one more resource person, Jan Stout from FEMA.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you for --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- come to the table.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- reminding me. Members, any objection to designating Jan Stout of FEMA, Intergovernmental Affairs...External Affairs as a resource?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I believe you're the one that sends us the emails two or three times a day.

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

MS. STOUT: Is this good? Yes.

CHAIR PALTIN: We're going to bring you a chair, and --

MS. STOUT: My role is as a liaison to you all, to eight elected officials, providing the most accurate, up-to-date messaging. Now, it doesn't have to stop with you. If you have organizations or individuals that you feel can benefit from this messaging, I will be happy to add them to my distribution. I'm also your point of contact should you need some clarification on any of the information that I'm sending you, or if you have questions about what's enclosed. So, I'm kind of your point of contact. So, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

CHAIR PALTIN: Wow, that's great. Because I've been individually forwarding your emails to my list, so I will be sure to get you those people's emails.

MS. STOUT: Okay, and I'll sit up here in case any other questions.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes. Yes. Thank you. Okay. You want to go this way now? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So --

CHAIR PALTIN: Go ahead, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- thank you, Chair. So, my questions is, what we've heard in many of our meetings, the need for transportation because we have no public transportation. So, is there a program that if not here, could certainly be born--because the CNHA program was just born a couple days ago--is there a program...or can there be a program for those who lost their vehicles in the fires to get a replacement vehicle?

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MR. CEJA: Great question, Councilmember Kama. Thank you. There is on FEMA's side. It's part of the other needs assistance component of our program. Typically the...the requirement is that there has to be verification via inspection of some sort that the vehicle was damaged or destroyed as a result of fire. In this case, when it's a total loss this way, and with what's going on with the removal of those vehicles, we expanded the list of types of documentation that can be accepted as proof of that. There are other requirements, you know, such as that they needed to have been fully drivable in the State of Hawai'i, meaning that if there's a vehicle registration, a minimum liability insurance, that they are able to provide that. Now, unless I'm mistaken, I believe the State opted to do a max award of up to \$16,000 for replacement of transportation, and it does assist with one vehicle per household unless there's extenuating circumstances for which folks needed two vehicles in the households, which we know nowadays is very common. But there is, and that's through FEMA's program, up to 16,000 for replacement.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, who knows this? Who knows about your car program?

MR. CEJA: Yeah, so, the...the survivors are aware of this through the registration process, it's part of the questions. We have folks that are calling them whenever they register for that to give them the rest of the information, and we do send out RFIs, as we call them, to submit the documentation. We do, of course, you know, communicate that through our Disaster Recovery Centers that are front-facing with survivors to share that information as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, you don't give that information until they actually register with FEMA?

MR. CEJA: No, it's all...it's all part of the communication that goes out strategically in terms of when we do approve...when we have an approval for the Individuals and Households Program stipulates these subcomponents of the Individuals and Households Program.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, if I know about this program, you're telling people about it. So I must have missed the memo.

MR. CEJA: *(Audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, all I'm saying is that people missed the memo, I think, because then they wouldn't be calling us about this, and we ...*(timer sounds)*. . . wouldn't asking. Sorry, Chair, time's up.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I...I did put it on my live, also, a couple nights ago after I met with Mr. Fenton, and he shared the info with me. But I know not everybody watches my live. Member Sugimura, did you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, I'm going to leave at 2:30. Thank you, Chair. So, I'm having a meeting...a informational meeting, which some of you may be joining

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me, with the residents Upcountry that were impacted by the fire. So, excuse me for that. But I...we've been hearing about--and excuse me if it came up already--but families that need childcare. And I wonder if any of the programs addresses that? No.

MR. CEJA: I'm back. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good.

MR. CEJA: So, yes, FEMA does have also that available under the other needs assistance component of the IHP. I don't recall the exact amount right now per...per child in the household, but yes, that's...that's something else that we can help with.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, it would be like preschool or younger...age...age-wise?

MR. CEJA: Yeah, I...I don't know if there is a limit to preschool, or if it's school aged. I would have to confirm that, but that's provided per child, per household.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That's good because we've been hearing about that, right. I mean we heard it in testimony, and we...the needs of the community. And, you know, I'm...I'm going to leave, but I wondered...all of you are providing us wonderful services in...in your capacity, so, thank you very much. What would you like to ask us to do to help you? Or what...is there something that you want to say to the community? And if you could use this platform to say it, please do.

MR. KOGER: How can we better get messages out? I think that's the biggest question that we've been getting today, and I think we're here to assist that. In the 2017 wildfires, it was very helpful to have smaller public meetings...intimate public meetings, not large auditoriums, just to have some sort of one-on-one interaction, answer questions as they come up, we could provide those resources, but we cannot schedule them. That's...that would be up to the community.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I will schedule. Oh, good. Good. In my community, I can do that. How about you, Colonel Curry?

MR. CURRY: Yeah, thank you. I...I think you know that...that's probably the best one is how can...you helping us facilitate our ability to communicate into the community because...I mean recognizing that being invited into the community is really the key to...to that good dialogue, so, helping to set up those opportunities. And through those, you know, we hope for better understanding and support for the programs that we are...we are...we are bringing to the...to this recovery effort.. You know, when it comes to what the County's working through on rights of entry and other...other steps that, you know, we want to...we want to gain the trust of the...of those that need...need the help. And so, those opportunities to do that, I think, are really important.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else?

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MR. BROWN: Yeah, then I --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. BROWN: -- I ditto that comment, and that was seen specifically by the town halls over the last ten days, the benefit of having those. But a smaller, more intimate group would be beneficial. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Too bad we don't have the use of the Civic Center to have those meetings in West Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, that's...oh, yeah, that's huge. Can I say one thing before I leave?

CHAIR PALTIN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, one of the things that I've learned about Soiltac, EPA, what needs to happen for the Soiltac to next get applied is that the Mayor needs to approve for that to be used. Because that's what we were waiting for in Upcountry as we were going through this question about, is this the right soil adhesive, and these kinds of questions were coming up. And it was approved by the Mayor, and then we had a...the demonstration...one of the...one of the neighbors were really...was really anxious about getting their property with this soil adhesive, the tackifier...because their neighbor, whose house was not burnt, was getting impacted. So, he was feeling bad for his neighbor, and his neighbor was having, you know, difficulties because of that. But I...I just want to make a statement. I think the next thing...if we can get this cleared up, it sounds like we are, about what...what the material needs to be, it doesn't have plastic, it was misinformation that is now cleared up, I think. But I think we need the Mayor to say, yes, we want to use this for West Maui, as he did for Upcountry. And then EPA went and did the...you know, they finished all the properties that, you know, wanted the Soiltac done. But there's this process that, you know, needs to go through. If you...if you talk to them, a lot of them will say, we need to be invited, or, you know, you just let us know, right. So, there's this courtesy that goes on, and so, I...I...I think that might be a next step, for EPA to hear from the Mayor that it's okay to then apply this Soiltac in West Maui. Because I'm getting emails now from people in West Maui saying, we want that, when is it going to happen, right? So, there's this anxiety, and...and because the environment, or because of, you know, concern for the neighbors. So, I think same kinds of concerns, but I...I hope that if that's the next step, EPA, please do it.

MS. FITZGERALD: Thank you. And I can confirm that we've briefed the Mayor.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.



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CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, I think...I mean because you're able to have these educational town halls in your community, and we're not really able to because we don't have a place that we're allowed to...except for the Mayor does have a place. So, if the Mayor utilizes the place that he's been utilizing himself, because he's not letting us utilize the place, and we can't keep spending \$3,800 to have meetings in West Maui, I think that's part of the problem, right. We...maybe now, if we're on the same page, we need to get the entire community...like it's difficult to share all of this information with West Maui if we have to rent the room for \$3,800 every time, you know. And a lot of the places where we used to meet don't exist anymore. So, that's a...a big hurdle to meeting with people. I mean we been meeting in the sun, in tents, and things like that, but not having a place to meet is a big hurdle to get the information out, and that's why people look to social media for their information because we can't say, go to the Civic, can't say go to Lāhainā Inter, or all the places where we used to meet.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, I guess you're saying that the Mayor's place to meet is the Lāhainā Civic Center. Is that what you're saying?

CHAIR PALTIN: That's where he had his meeting, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, there was a meeting there.

CHAIR PALTIN: And that's where the Senate had their meeting, but --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, I think if more --

CHAIR PALTIN: -- we weren't allowed.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- was made available to us, correct, Nohe? I mean I think that night it wasn't made available, but I think I heard Pat McCall saying that we can use that facility if we want.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Going forward, we can use the facility at night. Right now the Civic Center is being used by, I think, some of the people we see today, and HiEMA. It's being rented out by HiEMA.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: If we wanted to, we have use of the amphitheater in the back, but per...you know Chair's point, it is in the sun, but it is an option, the amphitheater, which...to earlier what she was saying, it wasn't an option a few weeks ago when we had our meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I wonder what HiEMA does with the whole Civic complex during the day, that's a big space.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I do not know.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I'm going to find out. I'll find out.

CHAIR PALTIN: I didn't even know that they said we could use it at night now.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That was the conversation that I had with the Mayor, and we could schedule it with him--after HiEMA is done with their daytime activities, we could ask permission to use it at night. After talking to Staff, when we were organizing our meeting, they would need time to set up the sound system, which takes a little while. And then, of course, I think HiEMA leaves at about 5:00, Staff would need about an hour, then we would kind of get up and running like 6:00, which is quite late for some. But if that...if we wanted to, that is now an option.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: But the community is really --

CHAIR PALTIN: So, maybe we have like a informational meeting about the Soiltac, and then everybody...get everybody on board on that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, I just wanted to say that, and I'm going to...I took somebody else's turn. Thanks, Alice. She doesn't have a turn now.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, she's...she's a --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, if you want her to volunteer to set up any more activities for you --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'll gladly do it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I'm volunteering her services right now.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Gladly do it. Gladly do it.

CHAIR PALTIN: Event planner. Okay, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, did you want to --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah, I'll finish my line of questioning to Ms. Uccellini-Kuby. All right. So, I think the second question that I asked was regarding the processes. So, for reimbursement, for accounting, and the things that we would want to have the community informed about and prepared for at the front end to try to make the process easier on the back end?

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Well, I'll try and be faster about this question. One would be just clarifying from FEMA, if you can give the information ahead of time. I know Auntie Tasha Kama had just asked about the vehicle process. Letting people know they'll have to apply for SBA to complete the form --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, I think you need to speak a little closer to the mic. Like...like hold it like right close to your mouth.

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MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Okay. You guys hear me now? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, because I can't...I...I couldn't hear.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Thank you. So, for FEMA, if they're able to provide clarity around how the assistance is given, that's going to be very helpful for everyone. As for public assistance, the way it typically has worked in the past is for that first 60 days, FEMA's covering 75 percent, and then--for public assistance, and then 25 percent would be responsible by a cost share. In California, that looked like 18.25 percent Cal OES covered, and 6.25 percent was then covered by the schools, the nonprofits, the historical societies. It doesn't sound like a big amount, but it can be a lot. What's important to know is that during that first 60 days, 100 percent is reimbursed. That 60-day mark should have started the last day of search and rescue. It should not have started on day 1 of the incident because nobody could access that area. The reason that this is important is 100 percent is reimbursed for everything, including tree clearing, debris removal, like cleaning up the spaces, even organizing it, those who are doing community workdays, debris cleanup. And, unfortunately, no one was even able to access it. So, the other reason this is important is because people could hire locally for those positions, and had they known that that was happening, that was going to...would be available. The other piece that is really important to know is it's not typically shared until about six months down the line for what...how to keep those records. One of the records is called a forest account, equipment summary record, it's very complex, and you're going to have to remember later how to document every single type of equipment, the size, capacity, horsepower, make, and model, and equipment code number being used, including the operator's name, and every hour. If people know ahead of time that they can be documenting that right now, then they can get reimbursement later. They're not going to remember these things in six months, nine months. As we know, that's typically when it takes before things will start to get reimbursed. It's also really important for them to know FEMA public assistance is a reimbursement process, they're not going to give you all the money upfront. So, I think if people have this information, they can move forward more effectively, and they can be gathering it as they go. If I still have some time . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I still...oh, done.

CHAIR PALTIN: Did we want to just clarify...I think that is Hawai'i's process for debris removal is not reimbursement to Hawai'i, but you want Hawai'i to reimburse FEMA because in California they fronted the money for debris removal. But my understanding is we're not fronting the money for debris removal.

MR. BROWDER: Thank you for that question. And, yes, that's correct. This is a mission assignment, so there's no fronting of the money in that aspect. There was some mention about just the cost share. There's a Federal Register notice that went out, believe about a week or so ago, that speaks specifically to the cost share, and it's basically a sliding scale that the State will get to choose when that clock starts.

CHAIR PALTIN: The six-month clock?

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MR. BROWDER: Yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. So, we haven't chosen that yet?

MR. BROWDER: Not yet.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. BROWDER: This...and the State will be choosing that.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, the State, so we're not choosing. Thank you. Let's see --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But we could probably collaborate with the State on that, right? Mahalo for...mahalo for asking those follow-up questions, Chair. Mahalo.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for FEMA. I'm curious, on the mainland, how much...like it must vary because we have a big country. But trailers that are provided, ballpark, how much do they cost, and how long are they usually used for? And I assume they're temporary, right? Like you bring them, and then you take them back. That's a big difference.

MR. CEJA: Thank you, Councilmember Cook. I don't have...it's more of a logistics question, they're the ones working with acquisitions and acquiring the units. When we do make utilization of that, we either utilize travel trailers or manufactured housing units, and they are temporary. So, part of the...you know, again, definitions, that they have to be transportable, whether they're on axles, and, you know, be able to comply with HUD standards, and then also UFAS standards for folks that have maybe some . . .*(inaudible)*. . . functional needs. So, we do go along the length for up to 18 months from date of declaration. There are folks that are able to complete the permanent housing plan sooner, and then move out of that. And if we have somebody else that's waiting, we'll put them in...you know, we'll make it ready for occupancy again, and put them into that unit.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is there like a ballpark average price of what that costs?

MR. BROWN: I took down that question to be asked...be answered, and be given back to you to be more accurate.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, that's--thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins.

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VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. These are for our FEMA friends. So, we just learned that you had the car assistance, and now childcare assistance. I was looking at your website earlier, where can we find all of the different assistance that you guys offer? So, earlier, you...you...I think the words you used, other needs assistance. I can't find that online. Can you tell me one, where to go; and then two, what other services you guys offer?

MR. CEJA: Thank you for the question. So, disasterassistance.gov is the website you're navigating. There is also --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. CEJA: -- fema.gov, where there is more information in terms of individuals...individual assistance program. Now, I usually don't like saying this, but it is public information. I don't like saying it in the...in the sense that I'm not asking you to read 325 pages. But there is a public available document that is the Individual Assistance Program and policy guidance that gives all the information about what Individual Assistance can or does do. So, just to quickly summarize, and answer your question, we do provide individuals and households under the housing assistance component, rental assistance for renters and owners, lodging expense reimbursement for renters and owners, and then for owners, repair or replacement assistance up to 41,000 for...for this particular disaster. Under other needs, we can provide medical, dental, funeral assistance, transportation, moving and storage, and personal property reimbursement. There is, of course, you know, childcare, as we mentioned. The funeral assistance piece can provide up to \$11,000 of assistance per decedent for the applicant. And...and then we have what's known as the Community Services Programs and Grants . . . *(inaudible)*. . . this is to the State like disaster unemployment assistance, disaster legal services, crisis counseling program, disaster...and disaster case management. So, currently, we do have crisis counseling in play, disaster legal services, and disaster unemployment assistance. The State recently submitted their disaster case management grant, it's in the review process, and then we'll have that implemented shortly.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. CEJA: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Member Hodgins. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Just a follow up...follow-up questions for Red Cross, Mr. Faulk. Last week when we visited the Lāhainā community, there was a lot of tearful testimony from some of the parents that either received some eviction notices, and...and some of them that had to go between the hotel and Red Cross at the Civic Center to try and figure things out. So, at that...I...I guess that added a lot of duress for some of these residents. So, moving forward, I understand that you're extending some of those hotel dates, but how do you foresee...and some of these...there's also the condo owners, and...and condo owners will have their

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community boards, or something like that. So, is the Red Cross...for our residents, they weren't sure is...we signed up with the Red Cross, but we're getting all these eviction notices from the hotels. So, what is the process, moving forward, as we anticipate the end of November, the end of December, when we're eventually moving out these...from the hotels into more permanent housing? What do you foresee that process being with, you know, less stressors on our residents?

MR. FAULK: Thank you for the question, Councilmember. To...to...to kind of start to address your question, I think I'd...I'd want to offer, for starters, that...that we wouldn't call them eviction notices. I think, you know, our...our shelter teams, and our shelter resident transition teams have been working really, really closely with both the hotels and any survivors, or residents, who have been in those hotels to make solid connection with the Red Cross. That was really what the...the point of that note was. I think I did, last week, shoot an email to this entire body that also provided exactly verbatim what those letters actually articulated. They didn't say eviction, so I just want to maybe kind of make that note because the Red Cross is not really in the business of doing that. In fact, I would offer that we are doing our level best to qualify anyone who would be eligible to remain in those particular hotels. It's our desire to have --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I think the...the question was, who should be, you know, communicating with the residents? Is it the hotels, or is it Red Cross? I think --

MR. FAULK: -- *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- that's...that's where the...the...the residents weren't sure, okay, getting mixed messages.

MR. FAULK: Thank...no, thank you for the clarification. It should be...they should communicate with the Red Cross. Each hotel property that we have right now has a team of...of shelter workers or shelter resident transition team members that are Red Cross workers. They'll be wearing vests, probably, that looks similar like this, or be wearing the Red Cross branding. They would just need to...to talk with those folks. The only time they should really have to talk with the hotel is if there's actually a specific hotel issue, maybe, or if they needed a key renewed, or something like that. But everything...all of that communication should happen with the Red Cross.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Then for those condo owners that have...had a...have a board, are they making some of these rules, or making up their own rules? Who has jurisdiction . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . over those?

MR. FAULK: So, quick...quickly, I'll say that...that I...I...I am aware of one condo association to where it seemed as though they were trying to leverage policy to move out residents. That...that should not impact those residents' ability to have safe habitable lodging through the Red Cross. And...and if...if that particular condo association chooses to make a different decision, we would identify new spots for them, if...so long as they're eligible.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Going back to FEMA again. So, there are...it seems to be...there seems to be available a number of programs, a nice variety of programs, as a matter of fact. Is there an overall cap to receiving all of these different types of assistance programs?

CHAIR PALTIN: 41,000 direct assistance.

MR. CEJA: Yeah, thanks for the follow-up question. Gives me an opportunity to further elaborate. So, we actually...you know, I mentioned individual caps, right. It's based on a on-state option. So, there is individual caps that some of these do count against. The overall cap of the 41,000 for...per household. Back in 2018 when the Disaster Recovery Reform Act passed...went into law, it separated the...each component now, housing assistance and other needs assistance, get its own max cap. So, you can get 41,000 under housing assistance, and then start counting towards the 41,000 under...under other needs assistance.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, that's terrific.

MR. CEJA: And --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Go ahead.

MR. CEJA: -- and additionally, ma'am, the rental assistance does not count against that cap. So, somebody that gets financial recertification for more rental assistance will not count against the 41,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, does it...would the resident be precluded from accepting other types of assistance, let's say from other nonprofits, or other types of programs?

MR. CEJA: So, that depends on what it is. If it's for directly the same category where there could be a prevention of duplication of benefits, it's up to the second entity providing that type of assistance to ensure they're not creating a duplication benefit. So, for example, with American Red Cross, when they did the funeral assistance piece, we did a research, and we found that the type of assistance and for the...for what it's meant to be for did not duplicate against the funeral assistance that FEMA's providing. So, there has to be some due diligence there to research to ensure it's not duplication.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know, it seems like everybody's going to need a counselor. No, really, to understand all of the different programs available, and how it may not affect you negatively in the future. Is there a way to keep track of all of these things?

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MR. CEJA: There...there is, and that...that would be through an information-sharing process directly with that entity. So, now, with privacy and our reporting and analytics division we're able to establish information-sharing access agreements. So, they have questions where they want to see if there's particular types of assistance that FEMA's provided to the household, we can share that information through that use, and then they can determine whether or not they would be creating that duplication of benefit.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CEJA: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, I just wanted to announce that Dr. Koger of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs to leave in ten minutes. So, any questions for the Army Corps of Engineers before they have to leave? Like where do they plan to store the debris that they remove, or where will they remove it to?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: He's taking it. . . .*(laughing)*. . . --

CHAIR PALTIN: That's my...my question.

MR. KOGER: So, currently, we have an agreement with Maui County to haul the waste from Upcountry directly to --

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

MR. KOGER: It's listening to me. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, we're going to go directly to Maui County Central with that material, so...because we have a place to take material, that's going to be the first community that we do debris removal in. We're still working with the County to determine where Lāhainā material is going to go. Our intent is...and...and we've been tasked with creating a temporary debris storage site. We're proposing that that's going to be called the West Maui Memorial, at this point. If that is not the case, and we don't get to use that land because it's not currently State owned, and it's a cinder quarry, if we don't get agreement to use that land, then it will probably be a temporary debris site at West Maui...or Central Maui Landfill with a final disposal site built by Maui County at Central Maui. That answer the question?

CHAIR PALTIN: It does. I...I don't know that I like the answer, but okay. Does anyone else have any burning questions for the Army Corps of Engineers before they have to leave? Seeing none. Thank you so much for coming. At this time I wanted to mention that we do have Director Tsuhako until 3:00 p.m. Just checking in if we have Josiah or Public Works on at this time. I think I see Planning on. Is Office of the Recovery or Public Works on? No. Okay. Okay seeing that Director Tsuhako is the next person that does have to leave, Director Tsuhako, can you tell us anything about locations being looked at for emergency, temporary shelter for the displaced? Director Tsuhako, are you unable to unmute? Okay. So, part of the reason Member Kama had given her slot when we were going to do joint meeting was that we wanted to learn more about the housing and the land use. Unfortunately, we never got Public Works. We have



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Director Tsuhako who's not responding, Josiah who was only able to be here for a short time. So, I apologize, Member Kama. I...I made the ask.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, and I...and I appreciate that, but I also appreciate the resources that we have today. And so, we'll just have to probably do another Housing meeting, and hopefully all the right people who will be will just show up and have the time to do that. But I'm very grateful, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I apologize. Okay. So, going back to the resources that we do have, let's see...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, Chair, I have a question.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, you know I think at our meeting...our GREAT meeting, people talked about the Lāhainā bypass, and how that would probably serve as a evacuation route potentially. So, my question is, is that something that FEMA could fund in terms of disaster preparedness and mitigation?

MR. BROWN: I'd have to get back to you on that answer. But specifically it's asking if FEMA would fund, or partially fund, work for the bypass to be an evacuation route, or...or the use of the bypass to be an evacuation route?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: To extend the bypass.

MR. BROWN: To extend the bypass, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: To be able to be used as an evacuation route.

MR. BROWN: All right. Okay. Thank you, I'll follow up.

CHAIR PALTIN: And...and just to clarify that, Member Kama, it's...Highway 30 was the primary way to get in and out of Lāhainā. But now, you cannot get in and out of Lāhainā through Highway 30 because of all the agencies, and the...I guess the debris.

MR. BROWN: Right.

CHAIR PALTIN: So, we're utilizing the bypass --

MR. BROWN: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR PALTIN: -- as the main way to get in, and out of Lāhainā. And so, the concern is if anything were to happen on the lower road, how do people --

MR. BROWN: Traverse the...the bypass, right. Okay.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Right.

MR. BROWN: I'll ask that question. Probably have to have some coordination with State Department of Transportation as well. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. My question is for EPA, Ms. Fitzgerald. Okay. For the Soiltac, like what...what is the ideal timeline for Lāhainā folks? So, I think...oh, I guess first, my question, as far as all the spaces that the EPA wanted to work with the community, and getting the Soiltac down Upcountry, was that completed? And then the second part would be for Lāhainā, what was the ideal, you know, timeline for you folks to prevent runoff into the ocean, and leaching into our aquifer?

MS. FITZGERALD: Thank you. For the Kula question, I...I believe the answer is that we have completed the operations. I...I'm not sure if I fully understood the...the question. But, yeah, so we...we've completed --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. FITZGERALD: -- those operations.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That...that was my question.

MS. FITZGERALD: Okay, thank you. So, for Lāhainā well, I'll be honest, and say that, you know, it's as soon as possible for several reasons. Number one, we've heard from other people, and I hadn't really emphasized it because it had already been said, but the ash contains possibly asbestos, we know it's going to contain heavy metals, we know that it's building materials. And one question I didn't feel I fully answered that came about, you know, we should recognize that the ash contains microplastics. It was burnt buildings, which have a ton of plastic. So, we should expect that microplastics are in that ash. So, specifically for timing, we want to get it covered as soon as possible. There's also the fact that I know, as I've been here longer, and ask more people who live here, I know it doesn't rain often in Lāhainā, but it does rain. So, we want to get that put down before the rains come. My understanding is that October's unlikely, but the chances increase as we go into the winter.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, there...there is no really...real like ideal timeline, like a...you know...I mean I...I think it's as soon as possible, I think that was your answer.

MS. FITZGERALD: I...I see. I...I...I may have misunderstood. I think that were EPA to start the work, we would anticipate it would take us about a month to complete application in Lāhainā. That's what we're currently projecting. So, if we're trying to do stabilization before the rainy season, that's one of the reasons why we've been trying

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to make ourselves more available, and to provide as much information as possible . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . because we're certainly coming up against that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your responses. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have no questions, Chair, just a lot of gratitude to everybody. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm wondering if you guys...I think you guys worked with our State to maybe--I guess for the people who can't see, when I say you guys, I'm looking at FEMA--to create like a timeline of housing, and where you guys see, you know, the recovery phase for the next three to five years? If you guys have a timeline you guys can share with us?

MR. BROWN: We're working on a timeline, and then once I have all the combined questions from today, we'll get that timeline given to you along with the other follow ups for us.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. If I can add on then to all the questions --

MR. BROWN: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- you're going to maybe come back to us with.

MR. BROWN: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I know Member Kama asked about roads. But do you guys also...like for the recovery stage, do you guys help with utilities? Do you guys help with permanent housing? What else do you guys help our government with --

MR. BROWN: So --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- related to recovery of the affected areas?

MR. BROWN: -- public assistance, or for survivors, or for --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Like us to provide.

MR. BROWDER: So...so, we'll work with your utilities, like Department of Water Supply, that's one agency...your Department that we are working with currently. *(Audio interference)* --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wait, can you put the microphone closer to you?

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MR. BROWDER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MR. BROWDER: Sorry. So, Department of Water Supply, we are working with them in terms of their sampling and analysis plan. We're also working with EPA, their involvement with that. So, there are a number of...of public utility agencies that we're working with. In terms of immediate responses, or immediate actions, if there are utilities that are not sustainable or not working right now, there is a option for temporary relocation under our emergency protective measures program --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-hum.

MR. BROWDER: -- for public assistance. At this point, I don't have any knowledge that we've been asked to provide any temporary utilities.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay, thank you. And I look forward to the timeline when you guys have it figured out. Thanks.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Chair, did you mention that Planning is on...online?

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes, I believe I seen him online.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. I just had a question for Planning. For those properties that are along the coastline, Front Street in Lāhainā, will they be able to build back considering they're in the SMA zone? Would it require having a variance, or would they need to adhere to...to the new SMA rules?

MR. SMITH: Thank you for...for that question. I...I think at this point in time, it might be premature for the County to really have a...a definitive answer. And the reason I'm bringing this up is once Army Corps and EPA have gone through and...and done their necessary cleanup, there's going to be a further assessment of the infrastructure. So...and...and not just, obviously, along the coastline, but I'm anticipating, you know, based upon what the infrastructure needs are going to be. And then also, looking at what the...what the State is considering, it may...you know, it may impact those properties along the coastline. Again, at this point in time, we don't know if the State's going to be okay with people cantilevering over the shoreline like they've done with all those prior structures with a very small footprint, actually, on the ground, itself. But, yeah, I...I think a lot of that is going to be definitely driven by the community involvement in the months ahead before any, you know, any rash decisions are made on do we go back exactly the same, or, you know, through the...sort of the re-envisioning process that some people have thrown out there, should we look at, you know . . .(inaudible). . . maybe a little bit different than what we've had building up to this point in time.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We heard input from the community that they might want to have a memorial park or a walkway along the coast. Would that...would that require like some kind of new agency to be formed, a redevelopment agency for Lāhainā?

MR. SMITH: I don't believe it...yeah, I don't believe it would require it. I have heard from a number of individuals some consideration of having some redevelopment agency developed. Again, that would...that would be something that we may want to inquire with the State, if they want to maybe provide a briefing on for the...for the Council. On O'ahu, for example, they do have a...you know, HCDA does a lot of land development processes and permitting. And I'm sure there's pros and cons on having one versus not. But there...you know, to your point about inquiring...or inquiring of, you know, some type of memorial parkway, that has been something that people have...have also raised in...in discussions with the Department of Planning and others, just seeing how that would work. Obviously, these are private properties, but in consideration of sea-level rise, you know, maybe there is an opportunity to...to either, you know, transfer development rights someplace else, or if we can secure some funding that might...might make it a little bit more encouraging for property owners to sell. . . .(timer sounds). . . Maybe we can save that for maybe more of an open space area for the general public. So, yeah, again, all...all those items are on the board to...to work through with the community.

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

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I had a question, Deputy Director. I don't know if you know the answer. During...regarding like the historical district, or nonconforming things, a lot of the roadways in the historic district are not to the standard width. And I just was wondering, has there been any talks about that? Like is that part...I mean is that part of what makes it historic district because the roads are narrow? And if we made the roads be regular size, would it affect it being the historic district? Is that...I'm not...because a lot of the --

MR. SMITH: Yeah. *(Audio interference)* --

CHAIR PALTIN: -- there was a problem with some of the roads. But I know that's Public Works, but...

MR. SMITH: Yeah, to my knowledge I...I...I don't believe the road sizes, necessarily, you know, impact the...the historic district designation. But you are correct that there have been some discussions on as we, you know, allow families to go back in, and businesses to go back in to develop, do we keep that road right-of-way width the same...you know, I think from the emergency response perspective, especially with people wanting to, you know, get out of Lāhainā, you know, in the wake of the fire to wider roads and more connectivity, you know, could have been of benefit. That being said, however, you know, I...in working with the Department of Public Works, and State DOT, and...and the Fire Department, you know, maybe a...we could either go under and request, you know, some road widening, or maybe, you know, an

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alternative would be to have some one-way roads so we could at least keep that feel of the community intact, but just remove some of that traffic conflicts that existed with two-way traffic. So, yeah, that...that is something that will need to be discussed in the community outreach portion, looking at the infrastructure needs.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Shoot. Where was I? Is it...Chair Lee, is it your turn?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Back to FEMA, are we in jeopardy of losing FEMA funds? I...I realize that we're not the only place that has a disaster...or had a disaster. I'm sure we're in competition with many other cities and counties. So, how is it determined that so much is allocated for Hawai'i, or Maui, and other places? How...how does that work?

MR. CEJA: Great question. And I note that...that...that also stem from the recent potential government shutdown.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

MR. CEJA: So, we have what's called the Disaster Recovery Fund. Through the continuing resolution, they did place...I don't have it right in front me, but they did place funds to continue providing assistance for all disasters. Everybody pulls from that same fund. And so, you know, we're funding allocations, obligations for the...the required needs. It's not like they're separated specifically for each disaster. So, there's enough in the pot to last us through the resolution and beyond.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, that's for the upfront expenditures. What about the reimbursements which come like five, six months later?

MR. CEJA: The reimbursements --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I...yeah, you're probably the upfront crew, but on the backend, my understanding that...is that people who...places that have had disasters in the past are in a queue. And the queue is like six, seven months...you know, people are in line waiting to be reimbursed over a long period of time; is that correct?

MR. CEJA: I might just be under the scope of individual assistance, and I'm not familiar that there's a queue of people needing to be reimbursed. I mean if we're talking reimbursement --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I didn't...didn't mean necessarily individuals.

MR. CEJA: *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I meant the County of Maui.

MR. CEJA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. CEJA: So, I will defer to Keaton. One sec.

MR. BROWDER: Yes, thank you for that question, and we have heard that a lot since we've been here, about there...that queue. So, we are working with our partners, HiEMA, to address that, as well as internally within FEMA. Something that we're looking at specifically to help Maui County recovery is just expedited funding, expediting projects to get you guys money quicker than we have in the past.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. You're not just saying that are you? . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. BROWDER: I'm...I'm not.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, thanks. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So...so, throughout the day I've heard about different funding mechanisms in FEMA and in Red Cross. And I've heard about a whole bunch of different programs that will fund childcare, transportation, so on and so forth. I wrote some of it down, I didn't write it all down. I'm just hoping that somebody's going to come up with a cheat sheet of all of this stuff so that we can actually put it in our social media, and tell all of our constituents this is what is available to you. So, is there someone out there that has a cheat sheet?

MR. BROWN: For FEMA, I'll be giving a...in line with the timeline that was asked earlier, I'll be giving you a seven slide PowerPoint that has all those programs available from FEMA, as well as timelines, as well as those criterias *[sic]* for...to meet the programs --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Uh-hum.

MR. BROWN: -- and to receive the funding, as well as the max amount.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Uh-hum.

MR. BROWN: So, yes, for FEMA.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, great. That's FEMA. Anybody else? Okay, Red Cross.

MR. FAULK: Yeah. No, I...I...I can ask about that as well. I think at this point certainly our...our short-term assistance is the hotel stays, which is with a contract relationship with the State of Hawai'i. Of course, we got some . . .*(inaudible)*. . . that's coming up as well --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right.

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MR. FAULK: -- Member Kama, so we'll ask about that. And Member Lee, if I could really quickly, I did get a answer on your question about whether this assistance is taxable. It is not. So, assistance from nonprofits or government agencies in the interest of disaster, my understanding is not taxable to those who receive anything of that type of funding.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: I can also just speak quickly. At Kāko'o o Maui, we go through and we create guidebooks, and we have...I can even show you a image of it. But we walk people through every single piece of what's available, then three days a week I'm over on the West Side at different hubs. And then I'm meeting and doing 'ohana trainings with families, usually six to eight at a time. So, we kind of walk through everything that's eligible at this moment in time, how to sign up for everything, and kind of walk them through the process. And for those who are hoping to collect it more easily from the VOAD calls as well, and I think that would be a good encouragement is, you know, if all of the agencies can add new updates to one place that's easier for us to be able to share it with the rest of the community easily.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Absolutely. Perfect. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I wanted to go back to EPA, Ms. Fitzgerald. So, for Upcountry, there was an opt-in/opt-out...the residents chose for Lāhainā. Will it be the same kind of process, or will that be something determined with the community, or can you speak to that...for the Soiltac, sorry.

MS. FITZGERALD: I can. So EPA has recommended that there not be an opt-out process for either community, and we would stand by that recommendation. Our recommendation is that all...all properties are...the Soiltac is applied or...to all properties. I can't speak to how it will be decided for Lāhainā, but certainly that is our general recommendation.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for speaking to that. And then, I guess, Chair Paltin, I had a question for you. I know you spoke to the possibility of having a community meeting on Soiltac, and we don't have Managing...Deputy Managing Director Nishita on or anyone from the Administration I think that could answer this question. But I think part of the reluctance is because bad information went out to the community, or information on possibly the powder product rather than a liquid product.

CHAIR PALTIN: I don't know that any information went out to the broader community, except for there's this glue, and you can spray it on your property. That's about it that I think went out to the broader community.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, and...and that's...and that's part of the problem, right. Like that's...that's all we knew was that there's this...this thing that's going to be sprayed, and...and no one knew anything more. And so, in the absence of



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clear communication, again, there's, you know, just a lot of fear. And so, there needs to be--so then, now, instead of just, you know, a little bit of good information going out that educates and informs the community so that everyone feels confident about the Government...about what the Government is doing, now we have to do a ton of coordination and information, and outreach to correct, you know, whatever, you know, happened in the absence of good communication going out. And so, I...sorry, I...I texted Deputy Managing Director to encourage him to work with you on hosting a community meeting so that we can get good information out. Because if it's going to take a month, you know, at that...that's...we...we can't go...go back and undo damage that could potentially be done if...if we continue to not heed the...the sense of urgency. So, I...mahalo, Chair Paltin . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . for your willingness to do that. And if there's anyone for the Administration who can speak to this, and is willing to, you know, move this forward as quickly as possible, I would like to invite them to respond.

CHAIR PALTIN: So...and to follow up on that, the other thing about housing, and that Member Kama was wanting to have people from Housing, is in the absence of clear communication about emergency temporary shelters, people are currently building modular homes with no guidelines about where they're going to put them, or, you know, what is needed in terms of infrastructure, and things like that. So, I mean we're trying to find out where the County wants to put this temporary emergency housing, what it's going to look like and all of that, and nobody's here, you know. And so who can fault the community--like Olowalu, they're building stuff, all kind of stuff. We don't know where we're going to put them, but nobody's going to end up like, you know, sleeping down the beach because of this. But I've asked the Administration, like are there guidelines, and they say, well, nobody's asking us for guidelines. And so, if...if that's how it is, people are just going to build whatever they need to build so that they're not...if they...if they can't go back to their property because it's contaminated and it's not cleaned up, and we're not providing this information about where housing is going to be allowed to be...honestly, when people drove by the King's Cathedral property and saw those little squares, a lot of people were freaked out that their families were going to be put there. And so, you know, people are just building their own stuff in the absence of any kind of guidelines or communication about where we're going to provide this stuff. So, I mean it's...it's a similar thing across the board. You know, people are building little trailers to pop up in their yards, people are building like all sorts of things. And then, you know, when...when we try to do it the right way, and ask the various agencies, then it's water, or fire code, or whatever it is. But the fire code didn't stop the fire in the first place. So, I don't know if Corp. Counsel can speak to that. Like, you know, we're not...if people taking it...measures into their own hands, and they build what they need to build, and they place it where they need to place it to not be displaced from their homeland, what is the County going to do? Do they know? Yes.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I had a quick...quick conversation with Corp. Counsel a few weeks ago when I was asking this question. And I'm glad you asked for Corp. Counsel, but maybe they can provide us, and I guess the public, some clarity on what the Mayoral EP looks like as it relates to the suspension of Chapter 19 and

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Chapter 16. I did see Mike Hopper come on, so maybe he can provide some clarity on that.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, that would be great. I like how you worded that.

MR. HOPPER: Thanks, Chair. Generally speaking, my understanding is the proclamation has had suspensions in place for the...to the extent necessary to...for emergency purposes. It was not considered a general suspension of those laws for any purposes. It was generally directly related to disaster recovery. And again, I haven't been as directly involved with those proclamations as others in my office. So, perhaps they can add something, if needed, at a future date. But that's my understanding of the proclamations and...and the suspensions. This is...it wasn't a blanket suspension, meaning anybody can do anything anywhere, that it was geared primarily towards a disaster recovery. Things like the...the...the debris removal, and things like that wouldn't necessarily...or...or, for example, using a area for temporary storage of hazardous materials on County property wouldn't necessarily be a zoning violation or something along those lines. But it was not intended to be a blanket...blanket sort of withdraw of those code sections throughout the entire County for any purpose. And so I think it was perhaps the...the language saying to the extent necessary to respond to...to the disaster or...or along those lines, I think, was...was in some cases sort of missed from that analysis. That's my general understanding of the proclamation, and what it suspended. And so, for...for certainly long-term housing projects, I don't think there should be an assumption that those...those laws will be suspended forever as to...to projects just because some of it may be used for disaster recovery. And again, the...the departments involved in that can also speak to that, but that's my understanding of the proclamations, and...and that the suspensions are not general to...to anybody who is going to do a housing project.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Mr. Hopper. I wonder if you could clarify. If people do erect any temporary shelters, as Member Paltin was just explaining, or use any, I guess, debris storage for emergency purposes, how long do they have to get it permitted within our County system, and what does that process look like?

MR. HOPPER: Those are two very different things. For debris storage on County-owned facilities...or...or...or County or State facilities, that's an effort involved that...that I'm familiar with being involved with the...the U.S. EPA and others. And I think the...that the intent for that is to eventually have that transferred to a place that is conforming, but as long as the...the...the...the proclamation is in place, that wouldn't apply to the...to those...those areas. As far as temporary housing, I want to consult with, you know, the...the Department on that because, again, you have to be geared towards specifically disaster recovery. And how you establish that could be important in...in each of those cases, to...if...if you're going to be relying on the emergency proclamation. Now, long term, the Council, or Administration, could have the option of passing zoning or other ordinances to deal with this issue. The debris removal ordinance is...has, you know, been expedited, but there are certainly options as far as a long-term approach to recovery, including both the area, as well as other areas, and...and fast-tracking temporary housing projects. I...I think that's been done, at

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least as I'm familiar with it, in other communities. But that...that's something that would, I think, generally be done by ordinance. And I...we have some examples from Butte County and other places. But again, that...those would be sort of more longer-term ordinances geared towards recovery, and those...there's a potential for all of those. But again, I have not been specifically involved in...in drafting those, but I know of them from other jurisdictions, and reviewing their...their codes that they put in place post...post-disaster.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. So, you haven't gotten any guidance from the Administration of, you know, like...I mean who makes the call if this is emergency related? I...I've spoken to several people that had been removed from certain hotels for violating the rules, rules such as you can't have guests in your room, or things like that. Is that an emergency if they've been removed from the hotels, that now they need housing because they can't go back to their house, so they can just erect the structure where they need to erect it to survive? It seems like a emergency situation.

MR. HOPPER: Again, I...if you're going to talk about a specific factual situation, I'd want to review it with my office and the Department in...involved in...you know, I'd want to know where they're doing it, what they're doing, and...and...and those things. And...and so, I think looking at the specific case would...would be important. And --

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay (*audio interference*).

MR. HOPPER: -- Deputy Director Smith has maybe some comments on that as well.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. Go ahead, Deputy Director.

MR. SMITH: Thank you. If I may, in our discussion with the other Corporation Counsel members in the earlier drafting of their emergency proclamation, the intent was to lift specifically Title 19, privileges of Title 16 for the emergency responders. And basically what the...the focus of getting, you know, County, State, Federal, and then other organizations into these burn areas to actually deal with the emergency. It was not intended to cover private property owners wanting to use this as a mechanism to forego those things. So, again, it was really responding to the incident itself. But, yeah, your point is well taken that on a personal level, you know, an individual is still dealing with houselessness, and what that means. But yeah, that...those emergency proclamations were not intended to drill down to every single property owner under that umbrella. To your prior question on...on housing, since we don't have every Staff individual on this call, we had been directed, if there are larger emergency and temporary housing projects, to get those through to Josiah, who again, will subsequently be working directly with...with the two leads, you know Wendy and Saumalu, on...on vetting those with the Department. So, we have seen a...a handful of different projects that are larger scale and emergency nature. But when it comes to, let's say, a Wednesday-Tuesday approach where an individual property owner is wanting to establish something to their backyard, that is something we have not addressed yet is really trying to control larger projects, making sure there's sufficient infrastructures to...to support, and the wraparound services too. So, that's sort of the

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level we're looking at right now is larger...larger projects that are emergency in nature as they transition to either...you know, out of...out of hotels, and looking something a little bit longer term.

CHAIR PALTIN: And to follow up on that, if it's a...a temporary thing like, you know, three, five, ten years, what would your suggestion be? A conditional permit, or...

MR. SMITH: Our...our discussion with FEMA has actually been really, really productive. You know, the work that they've done with other...other communities, they've attempted to...you know, let's say if they have to install infrastructure, ideally that infrastructure would be something maybe more permanent in nature. So, as we have, maybe, a small modular home, over time, ideally, if that was situated on a...a...a single lot, that modular could be replaced with a full single-family home and keep the...the pipe in the ground, as it were. These other ones that are really temporary in nature, we haven't gotten to that point yet. Realistically, a lot of those temporary structures would not meet current building code or any type of, say, setbacks, height...provisions that you might find in the Zoning Code. So, that, you know, if those were to remain longer term as...as Mr. Hopper indicated, there probably would need to be some type of ordinance passed to...to make them more permanent than initially was intended. But really, our hope right now is to get...you know, get something a little bit better as far as housing, and...and gradually transition people into, you know, permanent housing. Like if it's on the same location, I think that's obviously less disruptive to the household, but that may or may not be possible.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I did just receive word that Managing...Deputy Managing Director Nishita is on. Did you want to try and repeat the question, Member U'u-Hodgins?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure. About what?

CHAIR PALTIN: About housing.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, about the suspension of Chapter 19 and 16? Okay. I did, to clarify, have that conversation with Mimi DesJardins, and she explained that, I think, if people erect a structure for the emergency sake, that they have to come back to the County to let them know that they had done that within 90-ish days, and it has to be removable.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: But maybe that's something we can ask her too. But actually, for Josiah, can he provide us a copy with that presentation he said he was going to give us? I know he was going to give us the hard copy because we were having technical issues, but can you please do that?

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MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Aloha, Chair. Apologies, I just got back in so I haven't heard the previous discussion, but yeah, I'll...I'll get you guys hard copies of that...that presentation.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I do see Member Rawlins-Fernandez's hand up as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Since we have Deputy Managing Director Nishita, we were talking about the Soiltac earlier. And because there hasn't been a whole lot of education for our community about what it is, what its impact is on the environment, what the process will be in using it, there's been a lot of...just questions and fear. And out of that, you know, comes whatever kind of information that then spread that need to be corrected. And I thought that today's meeting was super informative. What are...what are the Administration's plans on providing the education outreach to the community about it, and if there *(audio interference)* if there are no plans, will you please work with Chair Paltin on that?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Thank you, Chair, for letting me address the question. I'll...I'll follow up with Staff, but about a couple weeks ago, I believe it was...actually, what was really informative to me is our EPA partners hosted a demo...a Soiltac demo with a lot of the experts and whatnot and, you know, the vendors that they're using, and...and whatnot to answer questions. I thought that was extremely helpful. And when talking with EPA, they...they were agreeable to host that for our, you know, elected officials and...and other individuals with significant questions related to that. I believe Staff from the Office of the Mayor had...had reached out to your guys' offices to see if there was any interest or whatnot, and I'll have to follow up on...the...the status of that. I apologize, I don't know offhand, but my recollection is they'd be agreeable to doing a demonstration project to demonstrate to people how it works, and how it will be applied, and...and be able to answer some questions. And we'd love to work with Councilmember Paltin and...and others to provide more education on that to the community.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Managing Director. And so, in testimony that we received, it sounded like there was some reluctance in using Soiltac Upcountry by some of the residents. And one of the residents, after seeing its application, and seeing how it was used, was really supportive of it. And did you folks take video of that? Because I...I don't need a demonstration, but I know the community would really appreciate more information. And so, if you folks took like some videos, and then that can, you know, get out on, you know, social media . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . on the website, you know, whatever. Like if we can, like, quickly get information out to give people confidence in using, you know, this product so that it doesn't run off into the ocean and...or leach into our aquifer?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. No, that's exactly what we did at the...the demo. We had one of our members from the JIC, the Joint Information Center, film. And we did kind of, like, little interview sessions with different individuals. I apologize...just to...for clarification, I'm kind of speaking as Deputy Managing Director right now. The...this portion of it is still under the emergency response phase. So, it's...it's not under the

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recovery phase, I just want to make that clear. But I...I can follow up with our Joint Information Center to see what the status of that video presentation was. But we were compiling that for dissemination to the public. And if it hasn't gone out yet, I'll...I'll follow up on the status of that too, and notify the Members.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I appreciate you filling in because Ms. Fitzgerald from EPA informed us that all they're waiting for is the Administration to approve them. So, if...if that's the holdup...but if the Administration is waiting to get the community on board, then if we could, you know, get on it as quickly as possible.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, understood. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. And, you know, the only information I got to the demo was Yuki Lei calling me from Kula when I was in Nāpili, telling me that they're waiting for me, and that was the first that I had heard of it. So, they weren't going to wait for me to leave Nāpili to drive to Kula.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. Yeah, I'll...like I said I'll follow up with Staff and see that status of that. But I...my understanding was that they reached out to each of your individual offices to find out if there's any interest in that. But I'll...I'll...I'll follow up on the status and get back to you folks as to what transpired with that.

CHAIR PALTIN: That was the only reach out that I received. Okay. Let's go by raised hands, because I'm not sure when people have questions. Does anyone have...oh, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair, I just have a couple more questions. Thank you for my opportunity. On Monday morning, we heard loud and clear from some of our healthcare providers, when...when dealing with some of the...the residents and the victims of the fire, part of it is to lean in with some...maybe some chocolate pancakes and ice cream. But the other thing was also having people in the agencies to speak their language. So, that was one of the questions, how are you dealing with the multi-cultural aspect, and...and the different languages? And all...the second question was, are there...because we're retraining a huge part of our population, are there job opportunities in your agencies for...for local residents? Thank you, Chair.

MR. BROWN: For FEMA, for the first part of your question, I know for a fact that we are...every fact sheet or product that we put out is translated into six different languages, all local here to Maui County. And the second part to your question is, yeah, we do have jobs...local hire jobs available, and you could go to...is it femajobs.gov. Yeah, usajobs.gov, yeah. And then, you know, and as part of that package as to follow up, I'll ensure that there's a link to the...those temporary local hire jobs, specifically, for here on Maui for you.

MR. FAULK: Councilmember, similar for the Red Cross, all of our shelter workers currently have access to what we call the language line. It's essentially translation services at

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any point if there is a survivor or a resident in our shelters who are having a language barrier, so that's available and is being used pretty widely at a number of our shelters as well. And also, we are hiring about 150 temporary disaster employees right now. These are full-time positions that...that...that again, we are prioritizing...in fact, it's only open right now to Maui residents. So...so, that is being posted. So far, my understanding is we...we made about 109 offers of those 150 positions.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. FITZGERALD: Similarly, our fact sheets are translated into multiple languages, and we do have...also have access to a translator for any needs to talk to specific community members if we don't have the right person right there. We also emphasize, you know, that we have...our community relations specialists that we have people who are able to speak multiple languages. But the pertaining to the workforce, our contractor...or our contractor has hired about...almost 50 percent of the current workforce conducting the Phase 1 work is from local residents.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Member U'u-Hodgins?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I have no further questions. Thank you all for being here with us today.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have no further questions, Chair. Thank you for today's meeting, and thank you for all of your expertise, and your patience, and your expertise. Thanks.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I also don't have any further questions, but I do have a suggestion for...for us to consider in response to...let's see, that was the Army Corps of Engineers representative saying that, you know, having smaller town hall meetings more regularly, as we heard from Sonoma County Supervisor James Gore, to, you know, have more information. And then that way we don't have like an all-day meeting where everyone has to, you know, spend the entire day. Thank you so much for spending an entire day with us so that we can get all this information out to the public, really appreciate it, and...and for our own edification as well. My suggestion is that perhaps...and we're going to talk about this more in the GREAT Committee, that, you know, instead of having the entire panel, that perhaps, you know, we...we divvy up the different agencies under our subject-matter, and then we can have, you know, like a town hall...each of us, you know, hosting a town hall meeting based on the subject-matter, or whatever topics that we'll spearhead. And then we can, you know, have, you know, more information out more regularly with the

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different representatives from the agencies. So, just an idea I'm throwing out. Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, again, to everyone for being with us.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I just had one last question. Is anyone keeping statistics on the ethnicity, and the ages, and the sex of all of the people that you are taking care of?

MR. CEJA: Yes. Thank you, Councilmember. There is limited demographic questions that we capture at the time of the registration, and it is...it is available, it's something that we can share.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Then you can send it to the Committee --

MR. CEJA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- and then our Chair will make sure that we all get that. But other than that, Chair, I have no other questions. And I just want to say thank you to the panel that's here. Thank you, Chair, for this meeting, and for consideration of all of the housing questions, and the...at least the attempt to try to get the Administration to respond. So, thank you very much, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I don't know if anyone here...I...I have been getting requests...information...or just...I mean not personal information, but just data on suicides. Does...anyone tracking that? No? Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, when...when you're done with your questions.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I did have on follow-up question for Ms. Fitzgerald on the Soiltac. I imagine that light rain would not affect it, but if it's like you put your boot through it, if it's heavy rain like deluge or lots of rain, how does that affect it...the Soiltac?

MS. FITZGERALD: Overall, we're expecting that correctly applied, it would be able to withstand rain...heavier rain.

CHAIR PALTIN: And if there's flooding?

MS. FITZGERALD: I can't speak to flooding, but I think we could expect it to stand up to water runoff from...from a heavy rain.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MS. FITZGERALD: I don't know if it sits underwater, but it...yeah, it...it depends on the crust being broken.

CHAIR PALTIN: Maybe we can email the guy that gave us the MSDS directly.



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MS. FITZGERALD: Yeah, we can...we can look back into that.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: For FEMA again, I was wondering, did I hear you say that you helped other communities with mobile homes? Did you...did you say that?

MR. CEJA: I...I did mention in...I think the questions was posed in terms of how we've done it in the mainland?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Uh-hum.

MR. CEJA: And yeah, the answer was yes, you know, we provided through travel trailers and manufactured housing units, mobile homes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How quickly were you able to erect these homes and establish communities?

MR. CEJA: So, typically what we do is look for existing commercial parks that have available pads that we can install them. And depending on how widely available they are, it can happen rather quickly. The impacts to the local area sometimes does affect the infrastructure for the existing commercial part. So, we work with the commercial owner to have those repairs, or retrofits done so it pairs up with our...our type of units. There's been disasters where we had to expand a little bit farther than what the preferable community distance is, and...and...and seek commercial parks elsewhere. The other option of that is that, depending on the type of event, the peril, if it's flooding, and we have a direct housing mission, we may explore private sites. Whereas, if it's fire, and we're dealing with the same situation with private property debris removal, it may take longer to place on the private site. So, initially, the...the commercial park option is the quickest.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Are you helping our County Administration with identifying places and types of housing?

MR. CEJA: So, that is part of what the Joint Housing Task Force is working with in terms of the County's team here locally, yeah. They're the ones that will provide us information on some potential land sites, should we have a need to do something like this.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Any timelines?

MR. CEJA: I don't have that information.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, that's a problem over here. Yeah, there's no rush, you know. And the people need housing badly, and within a few months quickly. It doesn't seem like anybody's working on it. Is somebody working on it?

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MR. CEJA: So, they are working on it, ma'am, and again, I'm just not the proper person to speak on the...on the timelines, right, I don't have that information.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, I see Mr. Nishita would...might be able to respond.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. And thank...thank you, Chair for allowing us to respond. Just real...real briefly, to highlight on Councilmember Kama's question about data, I...I...I believe we're about a month away of getting the data-sharing agreements in place where we're...be able to compile all the data from all of our different partners. And once we get those sources, we do plan on aggregating data to share regularly with the Council on the different statistics that are available. But we are in the process of trying to finalize all that, and then compile the data. So, I appreciate your guys' patience on that, but that is in the works. Specific to Council Chair Lee's question, I would hope that we would have the opportunity at some point here in the near future we can have maybe further discussion specific to housing. But there's a variety of efforts underway in regards to, you know, the near-term housing, transitional housing, so to say, after these kind of FEMA and Red Cross aid period ends...and then, of course, work on the permanent side of it. FEMA has a variety of programs, including the direct leasing program, rental assistance. We've launched a host family program, as well as there's a variety of aid to Red Cross and private philanthropic sources. We've had a variety of groups and infrastructure agencies go through a number of properties throughout the...pretty much centered around West Maui, South Maui, and Central Maui to identify entitlement issues, environmental issues, cultural issues, infrastructure needs, whether water, wastewater is available, traffic concerns...all these things. We've got...we've gotten a narrowed list in regards to the transitional housing piece. Our community has been pretty loud and clear, at least...at least to me, that I've heard, that they don't want RV parks and whatnot set up. If you guys hear something differently, please let me know. But we're...we're going under the assumption that that is not what the community desires, and they prefer a different type of alternative. And so, that's what we're pursuing. We have narrowed down...a variety of properties down to a handful to focus on for a deeper dive with our FEMA partners. And they're doing those deeper infrastructure assessments now to see what the different lands would be able to handle, as well as cost factors, and other financial considerations. We are hoping sometime maybe by the end of next week that that analysis will be done, and we'll be able to move forward from there to be able to select the properties for consideration. As--I can't remember, one of the previous speakers had indicated . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . there was an indication --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair.

MR. NISHITA: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, we ran out of time on that question. But...but I have another question, Josiah, and that is what is the goal? How many units do you plan to build? What is the goal?

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MR. NISHITA: Okay, so...and I apologize, Chair. Thank you. Thank you, Council Chair, for the question. And thank you, Chair Paltin. The...the goal ultimately is to make sure that all of our residents are housed. The specific number of that is going to be data driven, right. So we can't wait for the data to come in before making a lot of these determinations, and initial assessments, and, you know infrastructure surveys, and whatnot. So, that work has already begun. What's going to be key is understanding, from our residents out there, how many people want to continue to stay in Maui, how many people want to live in Lāhainā, how many people want to move to Central Maui, or South Maui. What is the makeup of these families, are these singles, are these couples, do they have ten people in the household, whatnot...all that is going to determine, you know, what type of units are needed. And I believe FEMA's request for proposals on the...or the request for information on the direct leasing program may be available soon. And so, we'll be able to get further indication about how many people are going to be able to be housed in rental assistance programs, as well as through the direct leasing program, and that will help shape how many individuals are still in need of housing. But we are proceeding forward without that data because it's just going to take too long, otherwise, by the time we receive it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I say 3 to 5,000. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Josiah, I just...I don't know if I could do a follow up with you and Mr. Faulk. I know that Red Cross doesn't share personal info with the Government because they also help those that don't want their personal info shared with the Government. But they're having a lot of their shelter residents check in every other day, and...and whatnot. And would it be something that they could compile, like the range of options that their shelter...noncongregate shelter residents are looking for? Like, you know, I'd be willing to...I'd love to stay in West Maui. If that's not a possibility, I'd be willing to move here, here, or here. Or I have heard from some folks that were sheltering at hotels in South Maui that...it was a surprise to me did not want to go back to West Maui. And so, is that the data that you're talking about that could take one month to aggregate, or was that a different data that you were talking about?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair Paltin, for the question. So, there's a variety of agencies out there collecting information. And so, what we're trying to get...because one thing we have heard from the community is...I...I don't want to say a retraumatizing of the situation, but they're continuously be asked the same questions, or similar questions, or whatnot, gets very tiring for folks. So, to the extent possible, we're...we're trying to aggregate all the information, and then see where the gaps are because we don't want to keep duplicating what people have already gone through. The other piece that's going to be really key to all of this is, we are working with a Department of Human Services with the State, or Disaster Case Management System. And that...that case management is really going to be the point people with all of the...our wildfire survivors to understand like what their needs are, what their desires are, that one-on-one attention that's going to be so critical. So, that...the compilation of the data, in addition to our Disaster Case Management Services, is going to really be

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bridging the gap in terms of that information...you know, flow of information between all of our different partners and the public.

MR. FAULK: Chair...Chair Paltin, I would just affirm what...what we just heard, which is our...our SRT workers, which is shelter resident transition workers, are really intended to coordinate these long-term recoveries, and they are going to be working directly with the disaster case management group as well, right...I mean assigned. That...that is really...absolutely, the intent is to share information around where people would like to be, and how we ultimately help them to move into their long-term...respective long-term recovery.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else need another opportunity for any of our resources that we have? Oh, we have a question.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: This is a question for Red Cross. I've been sitting with hundreds of people, and one of the big questions is, is there a way to keep some of the hotels just for fire survivors to not have to intermix because people don't feel quite ready for that?

CHAIR PALTIN: That's a good question.

MR. FAULK: Help...help me...can you rephrase that again? Intermix in which way?

CHAIR PALTIN: I think --

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Intermixed with tourists.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Is there a way that there could be some hotels that are just designated for fire survivors? I think a second part of that question is, can we try and design more of the process from a trauma-informed lens in terms of how Red Cross is interfacing with fire survivors?

MR. FAULK: Sure. I...I don't know the answer to the first question, to be totally candid. I can bring that back to the...the operation. My...my...we are really, in many ways, at the whim of what the hotels say is possible. We...we do not have the authority or the ability to dictate private entities to give us or not give us hotel rooms. And so, obviously, our first and most important concern is that everyone has a safe place to stay. And even now...it's really part of the reason why understanding eligibility, and making sure we had only eligible people in the rooms, is really important because we want to make sure that every person who is actually eligible has a safe place to be, but I...I can bring that back. To...to...to the point that you make around the trauma-informed lens, I mean it...it would certainly be our intent that every...every Red Crosser who is deployed here to Maui takes courses before their arrival that would...that would absolutely be able to speak to that. Psychological First Aid is one of the courses we do require everybody to take even before stepping foot on a airplane to...to come here as well, so that would certainly be the hope. But again, as I...as I did

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note earlier, I think it's probably worth mentioning one more time, when you're...you're dealing with a...with a 90 percent volunteer workforce that is coming all over CONUS, and really coming from 50 different regions of the Red Cross, it is a little bit more complex, and I'll admit, to...to be able to assure that everyone is coming in with the exact same training.

MS. UCCELLINI-KUBY: Yes. And just to clarify, I mean the programs, the design themselves...so, for example, the checking in every 48 hours, things like that, the way in which it's being done, if those programs themselves can be designed from a more trauma-informed lens.

MR. FAULK: Happy...happy to have that conversation, and see what might be possible.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Any further needs? Seeing none. Thank you so much to all of our resources, and also to the ones that have had to leave early. This was very helpful, very helpful to have our Deputy Managing Director, Josiah, pop in with all that great information. Thank you to Deputy Director Smith, lot of good information. And please don't hesitate to keep us informed, don't hesitate to keep me informed. Oh. Committee Members, if there are no objections, the Chair will defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.** (excused: YLS).

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. This concludes today's Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs, and Planning Committee meeting. Thank you very much, everyone. The time is now 3:46, and this meeting is adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

**ADJOURN:** 3:46 p.m.

APPROVED:



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TAMARA PALTIN, Chair  
Disaster, Resilience, International Affairs,  
and Planning Committee

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Transcribed by: Tricia Higa

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CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 101 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 9th day of November 2023, in Mililani, Hawai'i

  
Tricia Higa