

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 23, 2026

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:06 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Kauanoë Batangan, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
David Raatz, Director of Council Services
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

ADMIN.: Kristie Wigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor

OTHERS: Peter Cannon
Tapani Vuori
David Whitney
Jeff Ueoka
Kekai Robinson
Dean Calahan
Travis Liggett
Stevie Kathryn Chung
Peter May
David Blersch
Robin Knox
Mark Zivojnovich
Christopher Salem
Jim Langford
Kai Nishiki

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

April 23, 2026

Jasee Law
Others (21)

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

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
 OF MAUI** (BILL 55 (2026), BILL 56 (2026), BILL 57 (2026), BILL 58
(2026), BILL 59 (2026), BILL 60 (2026), BILL 61 (2026), BILL 62
(2026), BILL 63 (2026), BILL 64 (2026), BILL 66 (2026), BILL 67
(2026), BILL 76 (2026), and RESOLUTION 26-63)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 9.06 a.m., and we're on April 23rd, Thursday, getting down to the crunch and countdown for this BFED Committee. I'd like to welcome everybody. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee and when I...this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law, and if you are not in the Chambers...it looks like everybody is here. But if you do leave this and join our meeting again, please identify if there are any minors with you in your workspace or people in your workspace, but minors do not need to be identified. Good morning, Vice-Chair Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aloha, Chair and Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Member Cook, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha. Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Mr. Johnson.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Bonjour. I'm learning how to speak French. Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka and bonjour kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bonjour kākou. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Aloha Pō'ahā. Day four of decisions week. No testifiers at the Molokai District Office. Mahalo, Chair.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Bonjour, Mademoiselle, and aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Bonjour, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Assisting us with today’s meeting at the...is the BFED Committee Staff. Thank you very much. I’m not too sure what time you all slept last night, but after we ended our meeting at about nine o’clock, they continued on, working to get ready for today. We have also invited resource persons from the Administration, including Budget Director and Deputy Corp. Counsel Wigglesworth. Thank you for being with us. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today’s BFED Committee meeting, and we have one item on the agenda. It is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the County of Maui, and today we will continue our deliberations for the Fiscal Year ‘27 budget. We will start our discussion by revisiting Department of Water Supply to correct two discrepancies and continue on with the Office of the Mayor, followed by the Department of Police and Public Works. Once we finish all departments, I would like to take up revisits, followed by Countywide costs, general budget provisions...provisions, and additional legislation. I have asked Staff to distribute Exhibit 1 or provide a summary of where we are from our last few days of meetings. Would you like to give a summary, Staff?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So just briefly, as the Exhibit 1 is being passed out, you know, I guess we just wanted to talk a little bit about where the Committee is in terms of adds and cuts. So by staff’s current calculations, you know...and this is just to be transparent. It’s...these totals account for all cuts and all adds, so even those related to, like, the Water fund that the committee did yesterday and Bond Fund, things like that. So right now, the committee stands at just about \$30 million in cuts and just over \$40 million in adds, so about an \$11 million difference right there. But again, just so the Committee is aware, it’s...that accounts for all funds. So, you know, there’s still an imbalance in the General Fund that the Committee will need to address once...well, depending on what the Committee does today, the Committee may need to address that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And Members, as you know, all your adds that you recommended, it was suggested that you had offsets, right? So you had cuts to accompany it and more. So I am hopeful that we’re going to end up with a budget that’s lower than the one proposed by the Mayor as we go through all the departments. We still have not gone through all the departments. As you know, today, we’re going to do...we’re going to revisit Department of Water Supply and then continue on with Office of the Mayor, followed by Department of Police and Public Works. So I’m going to open public testimony. Yes, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can I ask James if he has a General Fund difference?

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, you can.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So admittedly...so Staff does balance every night, but just, you know, just to make sure that...we still need to do, like, a final review once everything's said and done. But right now, our calculations is the Committee is about \$17 over in the General Fund, \$17...\$17 million in the General Fund, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we have more work to do. I'm going to read the testimony instructions because I can see some of our friends in the Chamber. So I'm assuming they're going to be...have signed up for testimony. So testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up with Staff and join the online meeting with the Teams link or call in the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony is on the budget and is not limited to the departments that we have scheduled today. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the e-comment link at mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting. And for individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompt via phone, star-five to raise your hand or lower and star-six to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifiers' list and the order that testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At this time, Staff will also encourage you...enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears on Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to or as anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you're in person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. And if you are still testifying beyond the time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. You'll be given another 30 seconds. We have one item on the agenda, so you have three minutes to testify. Once you're done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can view...also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion, and we'll now call on testifiers wishing to testify. Staff, please call the first testifier.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the first testifier is Peter Cannon to be followed by Tapani Vuori.

MR. CANNON: Good morning, Council.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. CANNON: My name is Peter Cannon. I was born in Pā'ia, raised in Mā'alaea. I'm going

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

April 23, 2026

to be 80 years old this year. I'm a local haole. My mother and my father both graduated from Maui High. My grandmother, over 100 years ago, was in the first graduating class of Maui High. I'm in generation five. I know a little bit about Maui. I want to leave the wastewater testimony to my colleagues. I want to talk about the history of Mā'alaea. After World War II, Wailuku Sugar made maybe a dozen one-acre lots down a dirt road in Mā'alaea on sugar cane land that was too salty for cane. We had 10 houses there when I was a kid. My great-grandmother lived four doors down. We had a granduncle, grandaunt, and another grandaunt, three and two houses down. We had family there. We had a beautiful home. My parents put two plantation houses, surplus houses from the camps, together and made a nice three-bedroom home. Life was beautiful. We had sand on the beach. We had all the limus you can think of. We had exotic corals. We had 'ōpae right on the shoreline in the limu. We had shells, baby fish, crabs, lobsters, octopus. We had sea life everywhere. Mā'alaea was much better than 'Āhihi or Molokini because we had all the corals. We had a protected fish incubator there. What happened? Old decision-makers, bad decisions. Elmer Cravalho, in the '60s, wanted to build infrastructure for tourism. Our property was zoned apartment from being a home. So what happened? All the owners in Mā'alaea were taxed as if we had a resort on our property. Everybody in Mā'alaea had two choices, sell or build. They weren't building workforce housing. They weren't building millionaire homes. They were building infrastructure for tourism. They were building hotel rooms for the kitchen. We were taxed out of our home. The condos came. Each had its own injection well wastewater system dictated by the County and the State, an injection well wastewater system. How does the injection well work? At the time, this was high tech. This was top-of-the-line technology. In hindsight, it was a disaster. How does it work? The plant separates the solids from the liquids. The liquids get pumped out a hole. The hole is 80 feet, 60 feet from the ocean. Sewer water is going directly into Mā'alaea Bay. Why do tourists come here? This is the economic engine of Maui. Why did tourists come? What do they do when they come here? Fixing this problem should be a very high priority for this Council. And one final thought. The condominiums of Mā'alaea have all the permissions and permits that we need from the State of Hawai'i to flush our toilets, human waste, into Mā'alaea Bay for as long as we want via injection wells. . . .(timer sounds). . . Thirty seconds. We can flush all we want. We don't have to care. We prefer to do the right thing. The MVA and the Regional Wastewater System is the right thing, and we should have champions on this Council to do the right thing. This is like getting rid of 600 cesspools. And what we've learned and the technology that we've come across can help eliminate cesspools all around Maui with small, little regional systems. Work with us. We can tell you how to fix Hāli'imaile and other places where there's clusters of homes. Thank you. . . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Cannon. Member Cook has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Mr. Cannon. Ballpark, how deep are the injection wells? I'm just curious.

MR. CANNON: They're into the groundwater, some are like 50 feet, 60 feet.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. I mean, it's like...so right now, for clarification, everything is technically legal as far as the State Department of Health is going?

MR. CANNON: We have no incentive to do anything but flush our toilets the way we're flushing it. That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, I wouldn't put you in that we don't have any incentive.

MR. CANNON: We...I don't mean...I don't live there. I don't live there anymore.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We've been a champion of this for a while. What's the timeframe? Is that a clarifying question? What's the timeframe for what you think it's going to take to basically be able to shift gears and change this?

MR. CANNON: The timeframe has been laid out by the MVA and their timeline there, but we're falling behind because of certain things happening that have been roadblocks for us. But the timeline is, I think we could have...if we had all the permitting today, we could be done in two years. We had a survey done, and we learned that it was far cheaper to build a regional plant right there in Mā'alaea than it was to take the water uphill to Wailuku, whatever the Central Maui system's going to be. We have that study from 2014.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir.

MR. CANNON: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you. Nice seeing you.

MR. CANNON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Tapani Vuori, to be followed by David Whitney.

MR. VUORI: Thank you. Good morning, Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, Councilmembers. My name is Tapani Vuori. I'm the board member of Mā'alaea Village Association. Many of you may know me as the general manager of Maui Ocean Center as well. I actually have multiple roles in the community. I'm also the founder and president of MOC Marine Institute. I was very involved with the Mā'alaea Mauka, you know, trust land issue, which has been the point source for excessive sedimentation that has ended up killing the coral and the limu in the bay that Peter was referring to. I'm also part of the State of Hawai'i Cesspool Task Force. I also am part of the State of Hawai'i Coral Reef Task Force. I'm currently working with DNC, the Nature Conservancy, and the State of Hawai'i setting up parametric insurance policy for the State of Hawai'i for the protection of coral reefs for the entire state. I watched the video on the hearing on the 21st, and some of the things I wanted to clarify. Number one, this is a holistic ecosystem

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

April 23, 2026

restoration project. Instead of transactional, very myopic solution, this is actually generational, you know, solution. It will benefit future generations, and it addresses the entire ecosystem issues. Excessive sedimentation, excessive nutrients are the two main drivers for near-shore marine ecosystem degradation. We have now addressed the excessive sedimentation. I had discussions with Doug Spencer when he owned the land, and multiple conversations with Peter Martin when he owned the land, and gratefully, he decided to sell to Maui County through TPL, and now it's under DOFA. So Scott and Lance are writing a restoration plan for that. So that's step number one. Step number two is addressing the excessive nutrients. SRF funding came up. We met with Mayor Victorino. He actually specifically asked us to forfeit our number six place on the SRF funding that the State of Hawai'i and EPA provided for us for the Maui County to do the projects under SRF. That was \$9.5 million. That is the commitment that Mayor Victorino did. Mayor Bissen has committed to covering that on the budget line items. I realize it's up to the Maui County Council, of course, to approve this if they see value in it. He put, as we know, 1.25 million last year, and that along with the federal EPA grant of \$1 million with a private donation of quarter million dollars allows us to go shovel-ready. That money has been delayed. Actually, that was voted (*phonetic*) last year. A month ago, we got the first transfer of \$400,000 on that. So I will ask our wastewater engineer to talk a little bit more about that. Central Maui plant came up, and we work with Shane on issues. I read the 1,024 pages of EA . . . (*timer sounds*). . . recently, and there is no conveyance coming to Mā'alaea. There is no R-1 reuse water, which we are also providing. Plus, we have been in discussions with the Fire Department and DOFAW lands on managing the land, so we will have enough water to create fire breaks and really have that more holistic solution. There's many, many things to add to that, so I yield my time back to the Council. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Mr....seeing none.

MR. VUORI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for all the work you do in the community, as you mentioned. Thank you.

MR. VUORI: Thank you. It's a community working together. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is David Whitney, to be followed by Jeff Ueoka.

MR. WHITNEY: Good morning. Thanks for having me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. WHITNEY: I wrote my comments down because I tend to ramble. So my name is David Whitney. I'm a civil engineer, and my company, EcoSolutions [*sic*], is based here on Maui. I've been working in the Wastewater industry for over 25 years, and I also teach two Wastewater courses at UH Maui College. I've worked with the Mā'alaea Village

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

April 23, 2026

Association for approximately three years now on the Māʻalaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System, and we collectively refer to it by its acronym, MRWRS, the M-R-W-R-S. As you're aware, Māʻalaea Bay is currently on the EPA's 303D list of impaired water bodies. It currently has less than five percent living coral on its reef, and the ecosystem is severely degraded. The primary stressors impacting the water quality within the bay are sediment resulting from stormwater runoff during rain events, such as the recent Kona Lows that we experienced, and nutrients. Nutrients such as nitrogen are found in the stormwater runoff, and they flow on the ground surface. Additional sources of nutrients are wastewater...I'm sorry. Additional sources of nutrients are found in groundwater. That groundwater also flows into the ocean. The primary sources of those nutrients are wastewater from injection wells and other disposal methods, such as leach fields, cesspools, and larger-scale SAT basins, as well as fertilizers associated with agricultural activities that leach into the ground during storm events. So we have a unique situation within the Māʻalaea watershed for a comprehensive ecosystem restoration on a scale that has not been achieved here in Hawaiʻi or elsewhere in the U.S., to my knowledge. DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife is actively restoring the dryland forest on the mauka side of the highway in their Pohakea Restoration Project. This helps to address much of the sediment that flows in stormwater. Maui County is also working on the Kanaio Stream Restoration on the makai side of the highway, which would eliminate the concrete line channel that currently directly discharges stormwater into the ocean. And instead, they would restore the historic natural flow path back to its previously existing discharge toward Keālia Salt Pond. Our wastewater project will eliminate the flow of wastewater into the groundwater and repurpose it for irrigation to support a greenbelt and fire break that will be planted with native plant species and can function as a riparian buffer to protect and enhance the redirected Kanaio Stream. Māʻalaea is rated as one of the highest risk wildfire areas on the island. The greenbelt and fire break will protect the existing community. The planned irrigation storage pond has an estimated one million gallons of water that can be used for fire protection, and we've begun coordination with DOFAW so that we can optimize the orientation of that basin so that it can be accessed by helicopters fighting wildfires, and we plan to also add two dry hydrants . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . so that the tanker trucks can utilize the water within the basin to fight fires. These combined efforts will not only help to regenerate Māʻalaea Bay, they'll also minimize the potential impacts from natural disasters and emergencies from occurring within the Māʻalaea community that would be similar to what we've witnessed from recent storm damage in Kihei and the devastating loss that was observed during the wildfires in August 2023. I'm happy to answer any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, are you done?

MR. WHITNEY: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Mr. Whitney. How's DLNR? How's your relationship and their integration into this?

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

April 23, 2026

MR. WHITNEY: They're excellent, yeah. We've had great communication. Great overlap.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: They're supportive. How about Department of Health, because permits and whatnot, have they been supportive? Are there any issues?

MR. WHITNEY: Department of Health is...they're working with us, yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What's the current status of the project?

MR. WHITNEY: So as Tapani mentioned, we received our initial funding from last year's appropriation this March. We're currently working on the DOH permit plan set. We have a one-year timeline for design and permitting and then a one-year anticipated timeline for construction. That's all pending funding.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

MR. WHITNEY: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more questions? Member Paltin, followed by Member Cook...I'm sorry, Member Johnson, then Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your testimony. From Mayor Victorino and Mayor Bissen's commitment, I believe there's a gap in the funding. How do you propose to make up that gap?

MR. WHITNEY: Sure. So, you know, we actually have a frequently-asked-questions packet that's available.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you turn that in as testimony?

MR. WHITNEY: No. I don't know how to do that, but I have it, and I can turn it in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe just give it to that lady with the glasses.

MR. WHITNEY: Sure. I can leave it after I answer these. So, all right. So for just the financial status on the project, for clarity, the total project cost is estimated to be between 12.48 million and 16.14 million. So this is increased from the original SRF, which was 9.5 million. I watched yesterday's testimony, and I agree that the longer that this project gets kicked out, the higher the project costs will be, which is part of our \$2.5 million ask, which is to purchase long-lead equipment items so that we can...we have a known cost now, as opposed to waiting and purchasing that in the future. We have a breakout for those costs. It'll be in this FAQ here. So we've received the 1.25 million from the County. We have a million plus the \$250,000 match from the donor, so that's 2.5 million. We're asking for 2.5 million, which would be five million. And then we also submitted a NFWF grant with other regional partners that addresses the holistic ecosystem restoration. We have 1.5 million in there. So if I did my math right, we're at 6.5 million. So we are working with the EPA's CAWAG group, which is Closing America's

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

April 23, 2026

Wastewater Access Gap. They are working with us to do a fiscal impact study, one, so that we can come up with a financial plan so that the cost that will be paid by the Mā‘alaea community members to operate the system in perpetuity is comparable to County costs for wastewater. They are helping us to find finance funding through USDA and other federal grants. And we’re also pursuing additional private donations and other grants that come up, so if you know of anything else.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, you’re leveraging the County’s contribution with these other partners?

MR. WHITNEY: We have leveraged the initial 1.25 million for the NFWF grant. So, Amy Hodges wrote a letter in support of this this morning where she acknowledges that in that NFWF grant...the NFWF grant, our partners are DOFAW, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, Hawai‘i Wildlife Foundation, MOCMI, and then Mā‘alaea Village Association.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much for your work.

MR. WHITNEY: You’re welcome.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for your testimony. You seem very knowledgeable about the process and the different pots of money. You mentioned that term, the impaired water. It’s a federal term. Does that allow Mā‘alaea to have access to different federal funds? Because it’s a term that the feds use.

MR. WHITNEY: Not necessarily.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So the NFWF is fed money.

MR. WHITNEY: It is. So is the EPA.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. So you do have some fed monies. Does that...is there a season for that? Like, I always thought October was the time the NFWF issues monies and accepts applications. Is there a season to when you can get the money and access it?

MR. WHITNEY: I personally don’t know. I mean, I’d have to rely on our CAWAG counterparts, which they kind of direct us and give us a heads up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I wish all of our budget times aligned. It would make it a little bit easier. But, you know, it’s hard to apply for one, and you don’t know because the timing is off on everything. So, okay. So the total thing is between 12 and 16 million, and you’re going to pass out the frequently asked questions. I’ll look forward to that. Thanks for that. Thank you, Chair.

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

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Whitney. Mahalo for your testimony and for whatever written Q and A you provided to our Staff for us to review later. I was the one that made the motion to remove the funding. And I'm happy to hear you share with us exploring different funding pots. One of the things...one of the reasons that I moved to remove the funding is because of the privatizing the profits and socializing the externalized costs to taxpayers. So I guess to clarify, the 9.5 million in SRF that Mayor...former Mayor Victorino asked that you not pursue, I guess when it was alluded to that the full picture of it, it would need to be owned by the County, and then the County would pay the debt service on that. So it's not like it would have been costs that Mā'alaea Village Association and the residents there or the property owners there would have paid themselves, correct?

MR. WHITNEY: My understanding, and once again, I didn't...I wasn't a part of the SRF funding award, but I came in at the tail end of it. My understanding was that Mayor Victorino was going to offer a grant in the amount...in the equivalent amount to the SRF funding, which was \$9.5 million to Mā'alaea so that they could privately do the wastewater treatment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So that would have still been taxpayer dollars, not the owners of the units paying for the cost of the conversion from injection wells, right?

MR. WHITNEY: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So you're supportive of increasing property tax rates to generate the revenue necessary to cover some of that cost?

MR. WHITNEY: I'm a civil engineer testifying on how to address wastewater treatment.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much for the education. So we look forward to your...pass it on. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Jeff Ueoka, to be followed by Kekai Robinson.

MR. UEOKA: Good morning, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. UEOKA: Keep it quick, I know you guys have a couple things to do today. Jeff Ueoka, I was kind of monitoring yesterday about Ho'onani Village, just wanted to clarify the Ho'onani Village perspective and the timing of everything. So we're really hoping to get that water system developed and brought off parts (*phonetic*) an existing well that we're hoping to convert. There's going to be a lot of work and testing just to get the, you know, everything going. Then you got to go to CWRM. There's a whole bunch of steps. We're

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

April 23, 2026

just hoping to start that process. As those guys mentioned, you know, any time you need governmental approvals, you know, it takes time. The quicker, the sooner you start, in theory, the sooner you're done. So we're hoping to have the first homes online for Ho'onani Village in mid-2029. So if we were to wait until we finish all of our entitlements and then go start looking for water, we'll probably push that back a little bit. The other interesting thing about this system is the goal is to develop it with the County. So we're going to hopefully get this grant, do a lot of the legwork, and then work with the Department of Water Supply to put it onto the County system. So even if, for some horrible reason, Ho'onani Village does not proceed, the County's 23 acres is right there, and this water system, or this water source and storage and all that stuff, and transmission lines eventually...but this isn't for transmission lines. This is just for the source and the storage and the pumps and the brains that run the pumps. That would all be County assets. It would connect to the central system, and, you know, the Department of Water Supply could utilize the source and transmission. So I wanted to clarify that for everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Have you begun...like, just clarifying, you said you hope to develop this project with the County as partners.

MR. UEOKA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Have you begun speaking with the Department of Housing as a partner?

MR. UEOKA: Not the Department of Housing for this water system. We talked to the Department of Water Supply, and, very high level, they said, sure, of course we'd be interested, but we want to see the numbers first, of course. And that's what we're hoping that this will help us get those numbers, design the whole system.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Very high level, I thought you spoke with DEM, and they had capacity, and then they told us the day before yesterday there wasn't. So just maybe talk holistically with everybody. But that's my thoughts on high-level conversations.

MR. UEOKA: I guess, if I may respond.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Respond, sure.

MR. UEOKA: So I would say DEM and DWS are a little different. I'm fairly confident Housing is always going to tell me they would like workforce housing on the market. So I think we can work with them. I'm not really worried about the Department of Housing coming and telling me, nah, we don't need any more --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think you should --

MR. UEOKA: -- workforce housing.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- not assume.

MR. UEOKA: Oh, okay. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, --

MR. UEOKA: DEM...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- devil's in the details.

MR. UEOKA: Yeah, I was listening yesterday, and just there was comment and a letter submitted when we were in your Committee from DEM, and I think consistent with the message, I think Director said, in testimony and in the letter to your Committee in response to the question was, in 2029 and 2030, they are anticipating Central to be online. Once that happens, there's going to be a lot of capacity. And then, therefore, we're supposed to be online in around late 2029...mid-2029, for Ho'onani Village, for the first phase only, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How often do we read...do we hit our timelines, target timelines in your experience?

MR. UEOKA: I have no comment on that, no thank you. But I will say, he also did comment in the letter that...and I have had discussions with people in DEM that currently they're looking at other efficiencies at the Kahului treatment plant. So there is the potential for an increase in capacity in the next few months. But no one will give me a rock-solid answer on that until they have good data, and they're in the process of it right now. I think they're trying their best to make things happen. I truly believe that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, yeah, I agree. Thank you.

MR. UEOKA: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan then Lee.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Mr. Ueoka, can I ask whether or not this water project is necessary for the subdivision of the TMK that Ho'onani has proposed to be built on...from the MEO Transportation base yard?

MR. UEOKA: Okay. Thank you. So if you don't mind, if I rephrase everything, give you some background. Currently, it's this, I don't know, couple-hundred-acre parcel. It's a big, one single lot. And when A&B sold it off, instead of doing a subdivision, they did a...it's called a Maui Economic Opportunity Condominium just because MEO was the first one to get the lot where their transportation base yard is. So currently, the Ho'onani Village team is pursuing a large-lot subdivision for those five lots, I believe. One belongs to A&B, which is, like, a basin (*phonetic*). The County's 23 acres is in there. Ho'onani Village is 165 acres and MEO. And then there's that...you know where the Sugar

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

April 23, 2026

Museum is? That's another condo unit. So it's all going to be subdivided. This project, no, it has nothing to do with that large-lot subdivision. If we were to try and get that large...or we are trying to get that large-lot subdivision, we're trying to work to defer the improvements because for the large-lot subdivision, you just need to run utilities for one dwelling. And even though we could do that, it makes no sense because we're not going to build one dwelling on the 165 acres, and MEO already has their meter. So, nothing to do with it, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Members. I don't think I made the connection between the projects and potential conflicts when we were discussing this yesterday. But based on the conversation we're just having now, I still don't think I have a conflict. I will ask my Staff to reach out to Board of Ethics just to confirm that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello, Mr. Ueoka. I'm wondering if you have time. I'm not sure when this is going to come up, but it would be helpful to have you in case we have any additional questions.

MR. UEOKA: I can be available. I can't stay here all day, though.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, you had your chance.

MR. UEOKA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, if you can...I mean, you just monitor, I mean.

MR. UEOKA: Absolutely, I'll be available, but I got to go do some things today.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else has questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, just a question for you. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Ueoka. But we haven't had resource folks, just Budget Director. So if you're going to open that door.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's true. That's true.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You can just text, Chair Lee. Like, the rest of our resources do text us, and then we convey the information ourselves.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we can text you.

MR. UEOKA: That sounds perfect. Thank you, all. Best of luck.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go back to work. Next, any more questions? Seeing none. Next testifier.

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

April 23, 2026

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Kekai Robinson, to be followed by Dean Calahan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Kekai.

MS. ROBINSON: Aloha, aloha e nā ‘elele o ke Kalana o Maui. Aloha kakahiaka kākou e Maui nui a Kama a hiki ke ‘ike ka ua noe o Hāna, Liliko‘i a‘o Ha‘ikū. Kihei, aloha mai. Nā hono a‘o Kahului, ‘ae. Ua Pa‘ūpili, aloha mai. Lāna‘ikā‘ula, aloha Moloka‘i nui a Hina. Aloha kakahiaka. Kekai Robinson, Deputy, ‘Ōiwi Resources, here to testify in strong support of Makahiki and the funding request for Makahiki. Makahiki marks the time of year aligned with the rising of the Makali‘i. It is traditionally a season dedicated to community recognition of peace and abundance. It also functions as something practical. It organizes people, it activates space, and with County support, can also be a driver for economic activity. Makahiki is a comprehensive cultural system encompassing spirituality, governance, environmental stewardship, and community cohesion. Makahiki is not a single event asking for funding. It is an existing countywide seasonal opportunity that we can choose to support. The request is an opportunity for the County of Maui to support a cohesive Makahiki driven by community grants that celebrate and elevate Makahiki on all four of Maui Nui’s islands. It is a direct investment into the community leaders who already conduct ceremony, education, and seasonal programs. The question, is it just games, highlights a gap in understanding and exposes a common misconception that reduces Makahiki to its most visible components. While the athletic competitions are often what people see today and enjoy and have fun with, they are only one part of a much larger, highly structured cultural, spiritual, and governance system. Makahiki historically governed cycles of resource management, tribute collection, and accountability between leaders and community while reinforcing a reciprocal relationship with ‘āina. The celebrations are expression of discipline, preparedness, ancestral and environmental connection, and communal identity. And I mahalo you folks for considering that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you here. Thank you for your testimony.

MS. ROBINSON: It’s very lovely to see you all. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Questions? Member Paltin then Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Deputy Robinson. I just wanted to clarify because I think Makahiki season funding is under both the Mayor’s, as well as your department budget, and I think we left the department, but we want to go back for corrections tomorrow. So the Makahiki season funding that you’re specifically testifying about today is the one under the Mayor’s, and not the one under yours?

MS. ROBINSON: That’s correct. The Makahiki appropriation under Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources is, I believe, \$20,000, and that is a County employee celebration that we have on the lawn, where the public is also invited if they so happen to be in the area. But it’s mostly to create cohesion amongst our colleagues here at the County, inviting everyone

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

April 23, 2026

out of their offices and into the sunlight. The funding that I am referencing is for the Office of the Mayor. It is a larger approach to Makahiki that we are working in collaboration with.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The one on the lawn in your department is only for the Wailuku employees?

MS. ROBINSON: Kind of, sort of. But we had a winner from Moloka'i of the ku'i contest.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I saw that, I saw that.

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, yeah. Moloka'i has been training for Makahiki for generations.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did see the Water Department giving hard rubs.

MS. ROBINSON: Oh yeah, Water Department, 'Ōiwi had a rep. We'd like to see more of our Councilmembers out there, but we appreciate you folks' time, and everybody came out to celebrate, it was really nice. So yes, it is in Wailuku. We hope that this larger approach to Makahiki will allow us to give community grants to folks that are celebrating Makahiki on all the islands, and, if they're not, to help organize that on all of the islands and in a lot of our districts. It's not just games, it will be ceremony as well, front end and back end.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And it's completely separate from anything the emerging schools do because we cannot mix random adults with other people's children, right?

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah. Separate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Deputy Director, for your testimony this morning. So it sounds like what you explained to us in your testimony, the lack of understanding of Makahiki is...kind of underscores the necessity of the funding itself.

MS. ROBINSON: Correct. Yes. We very much believe that and look at this as an opportunity to educate our community on the movement of the seasons, our traditional people here, our indigenous people. We move by those seasons. We live by those seasons. We are directly connected to those. Being good observers of the environment can allow us to be a better community altogether. You know, the accountability portion of leadership for Makahiki has been so important in the past as well, and the ceremonial recognition of that. The, you know, creating a specialness, a respect, and a sacredness of the season, of the acknowledgements, I think it will encourage that direction in our people.

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

April 23, 2026

And so, the county has this opportunity to provide for that cohesively and guide that, or we can continue to just leave it under resourced and everybody's kind of doing their separate things. So Kaho'olawe has been celebrating Makahiki for years since the return of Kaho'olawe and from before that. Celebrations have been taking place on Moloka'i. Here in Wailuku, in the valley, Makahiki season is opened and closed, and I'd be happy to share some amazing stories about ways that people have moved, guidance they have received during the season.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that mana'o. And so important, as we watch America bomb the Middle East and fund the bombing throughout that region, that what I understand you saying is that Hawaiian culture, 'Ōiwi culture is not just ornamental in the games that people see, that there is a deeper importance to it.

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Director. Mahalo, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aloha. Thank you for being with us. I'm looking at the answer that was requested, and I know it's not your guys' Office that we asked this to because you guys had the smaller budget. This is a million dollar budget. One fifty for marketing, and then 850 for, I'm assuming, the events or whatever may come. If you can answer, I would appreciate it. If you cannot, that's okay. I didn't see where somebody was assuming it was just games. I think I was trying to figure out how this money was going to be spent down. So, do you know, like, what the 150, and if you don't, that's okay, will cover, and then what the 850 will cover?

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo for that question. Yes. I think that the Office can probably answer better than I can. My understanding, in our coordination work with the Office of the Mayor, is that the 150 is for marketing, and that the 850 would be distributed in the form of grant funding to community organizations that are conducting Makahiki and to grow that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Do you know...and I can ask, but do you know how many grants they're planning on doing with the 850?

MS. ROBINSON: Oh, I don't know. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. That's okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much for being here.

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Appreciate it. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Dean Calahan, to be followed by Travis Liggett.

MR. CALAHAN: Hello, thank you. My name is Dean Calahan, and I'm coming to you from Baltimore, Maryland, of all places, and the reason for that is because of Travis Liggett, who, as it turns out, is coming on after me because I guess I was a little bit too eager to talk, which my friends will tell you is always the case. But what I want to talk about is algae, or, as I've heard from Travis, a lot of people call algae, limu, a native term. The kind I'm talking about is freshwater limu, or algae. And what I really wanted to leave you with is sort of a feeling for what algae can do. I guess the main background for this is there's an industrial process that I call, and many people call algal turf scrubbing, which works great with nutrient-rich water, like R-1 water. But algae is a highly biodiverse classification of organisms. The ones I'm talking about are ubiquitous. If you ever work outside in the sun, with nutrient-rich water, you'll know that algae are practically impossible to get rid of, if that's what you want. Which, if you turn that around, algal turf scrubbing, which is my professional interest, is a way of capturing algae, or freshwater limu, in this case, the photosynthetic kind, keeping it trapped in place, while it rapidly grows in the nutrient-rich water. You can think of it as a solar-powered biofilter, if you like. And I know many of you must know this. Travis has been working on this project for many years and has been trying to encourage people to adopt this technology. It's not radical, it's not new. It's actually...it's very low-tech, very reliable. There are a few people queued up in the testifier's log who are my colleagues and have done, actually, much more than I have in this area. Essentially, algae, their professional interest, if you want to put it that way, is they eat nutrients from water as fast as they can, until there's essentially almost nothing left for them to eat. And so, they can take your R-1 water down to extremely low concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus. In fact, my last project, I built a test system at a campus in Germany, where we had, essentially, what you might call German R-1 water. It's a, you know, secondary-treated sewage, and, you know, the algae just . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . grow like mad on this stuff and produce potentially useful but not required to be used, it could be just disposed of, but non-toxic, solid waste biomass. And so, I'll...also are going to talk about this. This is all...Travis will probably explain this all as the next speaker.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MR. CALAHAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Travis Liggett, to be followed by Stevie Kathryn Chung.

MR. LIGGETT: Hello, good morning, Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you for hearing me yet again. I've brought some friends this time. And yeah, we're here representing the

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

April 23, 2026

limu. And yeah, I think it's really exciting because I just want you to know that these researchers in this field, it's not a high-paying field. It's not the oil industry. It's limu. Patents have been just surrendered. It's closer to a social group, and like, people who are really into a certain organism, and there's just a real counterpart to that in Hawaiian culture. And yeah, I frame it like, well, it's either Algae-geddon or Limu-topia. You either get this process in the ocean, or you do it in a controlled burn. That's the basic idea, and in nature, we have the freshwater limu on shore, and yeah, it's just a really elegant solution to the nitrogen TN daily limit and the MPDES permit. And just so people understand, what does that Supreme Court ruling say? It says if it goes in the ocean, it has to match the water quality standard of the ocean. That's it. And the ocean has very low nutrient standards. And I remember when I talked to Dr. Kealoha, she gave me that MPDES permit, and we were like, where does this insanely low limit come from? We didn't understand it. Had to back out the math, and we were like, wow, the activists did it. Design flow, times 8.34 times the ocean water quality standard. It's beautiful. It's just like you would model an organism when you're connecting two organs. If it's going into the liver, it has to match the liver. That's how an organism works. And so, yeah, a personal story. When I lost my best friend, 2015, there was really only one way to go up. I called an old NASA colleague. I said, there's got to be a solution to this nutrient problem. Turned beyond the turf scrubbers. I just called Dean, who you just heard from. Didn't really tell him what was going on with me personally. It was just so emotionally weighty, and he was just the kindest person to me ever. He gave me all the time in the world, had no idea what I was going through because it was a professional setting. He kind of saved my life. I haven't given up. That was 2015, and it was seven years ago today I marched up in here with that bottle of limu, which has now gone to Sandia, and you're going to hear from, I believe, a Sandia researcher in the room. And yeah, this project was grown under a Sandia contract in Mā'alaea. We're now scaling it up to municipal scale. The work is already in play. So the seven-year plan proposed in the PRCAF, P-R-C-A-F, in the motion that I have given in previous written testimony, it's just a seven-year plan. It's very normal for municipalities . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . to take that much time to implement a solution to a very stringent new limit, and it just meets the moment. All those activists, they wanted to see innovation. Here's the innovation served up on a platter. I just have to select to pursue it and take a little risk, even though it may, on paper, in a spreadsheet, increase theoretical exposure in other areas. It's just a way forward, which is to solve it. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Liggett. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I got one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Cook has a question for you. Mr. Liggett, are you still there?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Hi, Mr. Liggett.

MR. LIGGETT: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So the limu eats and digests nitrogen. What do you do with the

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

April 23, 2026

limu? I'm just curious what that cycle is.

MR. LIGGETT: It's a great question. So...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Briefly.

MR. LIGGETT: Yeah. Very briefly, you can do almost anything with that biomass, including if you calculate how much wastewater is produced in the world, and you calculate how much nutrient pollution is ruining the environment, and you calculate how much biomass can be produced by that, it actually is a very significant source. Globally, that could significantly take a bite out of the requirement or even interest in taking it out of the ground because fossil fuels is not dinosaurs. It's plant biomass and a specific type because of how it forms and deposits. By definition, I believe it settles to the bottom of a water body.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So I hate to interrupt you, but I don't have time for a chemistry class.

MR. LIGGETT: You can replace the oil industry.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I know. I said briefly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Liggett, I think you answered his question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't mean to be rude. I just...a brief question. So does it go in the soil, and the soil digests it, or, I mean?

MR. LIGGETT: That is one of the things that we can do. In fact, when I first started thinking about the greenbelt in Mā'alaea.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Mr. Liggett, let's talk to you.

MR. LIGGETT: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We'll have a future conversation. I can't...this is just a clarifying question. So all my colleagues are encouraging me to take it up with you on the side. I'll talk to you later. Thank you. Bye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. LIGGETT: Great. Thank you, sir.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Stevie Kathryn Chung to be followed by Peter May.

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

April 23, 2026

MS. CHUNG: Aloha, County Council. My name is Stevie Kathryn Chung, and I am running for District 13's County Council Chair in this 2026 election. There have been a good number of people in our community who have reached out to me to express encouragement for the County to increase funding...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait just a second. One moment, one moment. We're County of Maui, we're talking about our budget.

MS. CHUNG: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're not talking about running for office, I'm not sure.

MS. CHUNG: Of course, I'm following up with the ...(indiscernible)... else, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is your...

MS. CHUNG: So I will be speaking on two things. One is wastewater management, and the other is the water length in Ha'ikū.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. CHUNG: May I continue?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, you may continue.

MS. CHUNG: Thank you. Yes, mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can start the clock.

MS. CHUNG: The first thing is our wastewater management system here on Maui, and how they are not disinfecting the effluent going into the ocean properly at any of our facilities. It has been mentioned time and time again, quite simply, that the lower the level of pathogen and nutrients in wastewater, the lower health risks there are for swimmers and the marine ecosystem. When pathogens in these wastewater systems are released into the ocean without the crucial step of UV disinfection, the water remains risky as the spread of bacteria and various diseases runs rampant in our shores, putting both the people and marine life at risk. The health of the people and the marine ecosystem should be our number one priority, and one cannot say that they care about making positively impactful changes until safety oversights like this are resolved, especially since I can't think of a more common pastime in Maui than swimming in the ocean, as a hobby of all ages from keiki to kūpuna. The second thing that I want to talk about is the Ha'ikū water lens. We don't know enough about the quality of the water you're trying to transport out of Haikū for the benefit of resorts and luxury estates south of the island. And in order to reinforce care about public health and safety, it only makes sense to allocate more resources to get the water research teams the deep-water-monitoring well that they asked for. Not the next best thing, because the next best thing is a well that doesn't test the water at the same depth that you plan on drilling the

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

April 23, 2026

pipeline against the wishes of many of the people in the very community of Ha'ikū who we aim to advocate for as valuable members of our community. Of the different ways public safety can be elevated in priority, these two areas would be very ideal paths to take to enhance our unwavering care and concern for the wellbeing of the people and the environment. You have NASA scientists and research specialists sounding the alarms on issues that are not just about upgrades that would be nice to have. No, no, on the contrary, these upgrades are necessary for protecting the health of the people and making sure that new projects and previous-flawed infrastructure plans can be corrected and optimized in the ways that make the biggest impact moving into the future. Mahalo, I yield my time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for testifying. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Peter May, to be followed by David Blersch. Peter, you have been promoted. You may need to unmute your camera and mic. If you see two icons in the top right-hand corner, if they have a line through them, you'll have to click on it to unmute yourself.

MR. MAY: Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Peter May, head of the Algal Ecotechnology Center at the University of Maryland, the flagship university of the state of Maryland. I've had the pleasure of visiting your islands and your state. It's a really wonderful place. I lead the Algal Ecotechnology Center, which is an academic unit that supports research and supports the use of algae in treating water, and wastewater is one of them. I ran a project for about five years for the city of New York's DEP on their Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Plant using algal turf scrubbers to do some tertiary treatment. They're very effective. There's a long list of dozens of peer-reviewed research papers supporting it as an ecotechnology that works. It's low-power. It primarily uses the sun and algal photosynthesis to do the work, and it's effective and very effective at shaving off very minute quantities of water, of wastewater nutrients, especially in wastewater. So I'm just here to advocate for this ecotechnology that's being proposed as one of the solutions to this problem. I'm currently working on a one-acre algal turf scrubber system outside of Washington D.C. with the regional park system to help clean local waterways. I've done this many times in Baltimore City for the Port of Baltimore as a method for them to improve their nutrient-load reduction. Spent three years with the U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program on an expert panel for this ecotechnology, and we had it approved by the EPA as a best management practice for use in the Chesapeake Bay, and the State of Maryland has permitted it. So it's a well used and well accepted in this coast, on this side of the world here, and I believe it could most definitely apply, especially with all the sunshine and warmth that you have out in your state. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for the testifier? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Dr. May, for your testimony. Because of your expertise, I have a quick question for you. Do you have a particular algae that does this job well? Because we have, in our budget, a lot of money for invasive

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

April 23, 2026

species control. We don't want to import any kind of bad algae that's going to make the problem even worse.

MR. MAY: Yeah. That's a great question. No. We let nature choose the algae. So we let the...whatever the algae that's inherent in the wastewater itself and the surrounding. You know, algae can be deposited by air spores, believe it or not. So it's algae that is...we do not introduce any new algae. It's whatever happens to emerge from the system itself.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

MR. MAY: Sure.

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

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is David Blersch to be followed by Robin Knox.

MR. BLERSCH: Hello, can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BLERSCH: Hello. Yeah, hello. It's a pleasure to talk to you. My name is Dr. David Blersch, and I'm an Associate Professor of Ecological Engineering in the Biosystems Engineering Department at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, where I also serve as the Director of the Algae Systems and Ecological Engineering Laboratory. And I'm here to also testify in scientific support of the proposed algal cultivation technologies. The limu, I think I've heard it termed, for the wastewater issue mentioned by the prior testifiers. Just so you know, I have over a decade of experience in conducting research in biologically-based wastewater treatment and nutrient-recovery systems, with specific emphasis on engineered algal and algal microbial technologies. And my work spans fundamental process understanding, pilot-scale demonstrations, and integration of these algal technologies into real-world water and wastewater treatment applications. And a significant portion of my research is focused on these attached algae systems like the algal turf scrubber and other flow way systems as platforms for nitrogen and phosphorus removal and recovery from multiple waters and wastewaters. In both past and ongoing projects, my group has examined ATF performance across a range of nutrient loadings and hydraulic conditions in many different conditions and environments, including wastewater-derived streams, agricultural effluents, and blended nutrient sources. And this work has addressed nutrient uptake rates, biomass productivity, system stability, and linkages between the algae cultivation, the flow rates, and how to best optimize the process for a particular condition. So based on the body of my research and the research of some of the other colleagues across the field and the peer-reviewed literature, I believe that algal turf scrubbers have a strong potential as a complementary technology in municipal wastewater treatment, particularly for pollutant nutrient recovery from waste streams. ATF systems offer these advantages, including robust nutrient assimilation, resilience to variable loading, low chemical input requirements, low power requirements, and the ability to convert dissolved nutrient

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

April 23, 2026

pollution into a harvestable biomass that can support downstream valorization pathways. And so, I will note that while site-specific design and integration are essential at this point, it's my professional assessment that a well-designed algal turf scrubber system can perform reliably in many municipal contexts, especially where the facilities are interested in sustainable technologies and biological technologies for nutrient management. And so, the process would be . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . continued deployment of a pilot --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MR. BLERSCH: -- and moving to a full scale. And then, but the underlying science supports algal turf scrubbers for nutrient recovery. The science is pretty sound, and it's continuing to advance on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MR. BLERSCH: Thanks.

MS. MACDONALD: Thank you. Chair, the next testifier is Robin Knox, to be followed by Mark Zivojnovich. Apologies if I mispronounced your name.

MS. KNOX: Aloha. Good morning, Committee Chair. Good morning, Committee Members. I am testifying in support of funding for the Mā'alaea Regional Wastewater Treatment System. This system is extremely important to improving the water quality in Mā'alaea Bay, which is an area that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, has identified as the poster child for coral reef decline because so much rare and precious and abundant coral has been lost there. One of the contributing factors is wastewater, which comes from more than a dozen small wastewater treatment units and shallow injection wells at condominiums located at Mā'alaea. These are systems that are operated by the condo associations. They are not state of the art. Many of them are aging, and they don't achieve, even on their best day, even when they're brand new, the level of treatment and nutrient removal that's really needed to protect water quality and support the health of coral reefs in the bay. The... MRWARS, the Mā'alaea Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant *[sic]*, will provide an advanced level of treatment with polishing to remove nutrients and will therefore provide the highest possible level of nutrient removal and support of attaining State water quality standards and supporting the health of coral reefs. So it is in the interest of the entire community, not only the folks that live in Mā'alaea or who own properties there, but of the entire Maui County community and all of our visitors that water quality be improved there. It also is a chance to demonstrate technologies. The County of Maui, at its own wastewater treatment plants, is now expected to meet these stringent water quality standards. And the MRWRS plant would be a demonstration of technologies that are available to do that and meet those levels. I think that's all I wanted to say, but I'll just add that this comes from my experience of 40 years as a water quality specialist who is trained at the graduate level in wastewater treatment system design and who is a former regulator who wrote NPDES permits that control the discharge of pollutants,

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

April 23, 2026

including nutrients. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much, Mrs. Knox. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier, and currently the last person signed up, is Mark Zivojnovich. Mark, you have been promoted. You may need to unmute your camera and mic on your end. They are located in the top right-hand corner.

MR. ZIVOJNOVICH: Sorry about that. My name is Mark Zivojnovich. Our company has spent the last 30 years designing and operating attached algae treatment systems for nutrient removal. These systems are not theoretical. You can see behind me a 10 million gallon per day system that's operating in South Florida, and it's been operating for 15 years. There's a sister (*phonetic*) plant that's very similar to it located about 10 miles away. As others have described, these systems basically are attached to algae native to the local area and that algae is going to remove nitrogen and phosphorus. As Travis had mentioned, the difference is between whether or not that algae is going to grow in a controlled environment where you can produce products such as container media as a substitute. I know the question was, what could you do with the product? And it's an outstanding...USDA has shown that it actually exceeds peat moss as a container media. And then there's all sorts of other opportunities for it. But in the simplest level, that's where you would probably go at a facility like this. The difference is very few technologies can treat down to these incredibly low levels that you're trying to achieve, down to nitrogen below one milligram per liter. Other than reverse osmosis, there's no technology currently doing it. The facility that's behind me, the starting concentration of nitrogen is often below one milligram per liter. So this is a really unique application and a really unique opportunity for you to meet a goal that very few technologies can do. And so, from an engineering standpoint, the key point is that this is a phase and testable pathway using pilot systems initially and then demonstrating performance before you move on to compliance. It's technically a possible approach that can be evaluated without changing your underlying permits. And if anyone has any questions, I look forward to answering them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much for testifying. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Christopher Salem, to be followed by Jim Langford.

MR. SALEM: Morning, Chair, just verifying the microphone is on?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, it is.

MR. SALEM: Morning, Chair and Members of the Maui County Council. I want to start by thanking the Councilmember for addressing the quote, "high-level conversations," referenced by the former Corp. Counsel attorney who now represents Greg Brown. Maybe those high-level conversations should be conducted on the 45-foot-tall hotel

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

April 23, 2026

structure in Nāpili. Sorry for the visual. That said, my testimony this morning relates to the County budget, specifically capital improvement projects and the continued awarding of contracts to unscrupulous private civil engineering firms. It's inspiring and intimidating to hear some of the amazing experts who've just spoken on previously during this testimony. But in response to the Spire Hawaii Broad Risk Assessment, Managing Director Josiah Nishita stated, "We take this matter very seriously to ensure we maintain trust and integrity in government and properly protect the public's resources." He can't be serious. I ask you to measure that statement against what is actually happening. The County continues to award millions of dollars in contracts to engineering firms that have previously and purposely submitted civil engineering plans in violation of Maui County Ordinances. Then the director approves them, and off we go down the street to citizens' complaints and the litigation trail. The engineer that caused the \$20 million debacle at Palama Drive is the same engineering firm that was involved in Pu'ukana (*phonetic*) Subdivision, involving Kent Smith, David Goode, and Michelle McLean. The project was ultimately denied by the Planning Commission, but only after I spent \$50,000 in legal fees to help stop it. That is your system of preventing fraud. The project moved...had it moved forward, given the recent torrential rain events, the consequences could have been catastrophic. And by the way, after the denial, I was sent an implied death threat that cost me another \$1,000 in legal fees. The police record reflects the history. It gets worse. The same firm you're awarding contracts to authored falsified order of magnitude valuations for SMA permits that is currently in litigation. How many other times have these engineers facilitated this fraud in the County? That's three strikes on the record. How about an investigation before we grant them more government contracts? But the issue is really actually facilitated by Public Works. Public Works has acknowledged that these engineer-submitted valuations have not once been independently verified over 20 years. How many SMA permits and exemptions have been issued through fraud? What are the cumulative impacts on the coastal resources that we're speaking about today? It's massive. But there are solutions. A simple mandatory review of developers' SMA permit valuations would slam the door on the fraud. But no one wants to hear the solutions because they expose the problems. . . . (*timer sounds*). . . That is the philosophy. I'll wrap it up. So I state for the record, Chair, if you desire to climb the stairs of the County building to the ninth floor, maybe you should consider shifting your tone towards appreciation for the dedication of citizens who address fraud within the County. We're not your enemies. We're the ultimate public service who are doing your job at an immense public...personal, and public expense.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. SALEM: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Jim Langford, to be followed by Kai Nishiki.

MR. LANGFORD: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Council. Oh, sorry. You guys are busy. I also have a

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

April 23, 2026

bunch of PhDs in computer software and Ivy League level, super fancy. I don't want to sound like a bum, like the last guy, because I was fascinated with all the testimony this morning, and I just have to get on the record in order to protect the community. You know, I've been auditing the software and how money has been spent and for the past, you know, so we'll just say since the wildfire, but much longer than that. Like I said, my software, since '98, has provided about \$20 million on average to you folks a year. So I'm calling it from a guy that makes you money, and I just want to say my experience, you know, not quite as...I'm not as targeted as the last testifier. I don't know the guy. I don't want to make it personal like that and put you folks on your heels with defense because that's not how we do things with aloha. But I noticed that a lot of my work that I publish publicly does show up as solutions with other organizations except when my audit showed why people weren't getting hired, for example, and slowdowns in certain departments. So I don't want to take offense. You know, I'm aware of how the world works, the whole world. The Japanese syndicate, real estate syndicate, the largest one in the world makes billions and billions of dollars with me, with their software, and they're wondering why I get treated differently. And I make you folks money. So I've sent a lot of proposals in, haven't heard back. So, I just want to inform you that those Japanese syndicate folks and some folks in Las Vegas are suggesting that maybe going through the courts is a...you know, and to define who's talking to whom about me and what they're saying. So the police station, they've been filing and working with people and bad actors in the community pushing narratives that turn out not to be true at all, which is going to...I ideally would hope that it doesn't get litigated . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . and that I can take all my energy --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MR. LANGFORD: -- and put it into protecting our community with the things I've experienced instead of calling out individuals for who they do business with and who their phones have talked to because I have access to all that with my awesome security software levels of being. So I would love to hear back from one of my emails or any of you folks that would like to work with me as on the solution side for our community . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . to continue bringing in --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. LANGFORD: -- millions and billions of dollars.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier and currently last individual signed up is Kai Nishiki.

MS. NISHIKI: Aloha Chair, Committee Members. I am testifying today about wastewater and recycled water opportunities. And a few months back, I was at Planning Commission, and there was a SMA approval from the County of Maui being considered for a sewer line upgrade between Spreckelsville and the Kahului Wastewater Treatment Facility.

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

April 23, 2026

And at that time, I suggested that since a new sewer line was being put in...and this is for folks who are...just to orient you, this would be running from Spreckelsville to the Kahului Wastewater Treatment Facility, which is...which runs on that back Stable Road area. And that why not take this opportunity to drop a R-1 distribution line in that same area and do R-1 distribution. And I understand there needs to be an upgrade at the Kahului Treatment Facility and run it back along Stable Road so that end users on that side could utilize that. And it's five million gallons a day are being injected at the Kahului Treatment Facility at this time. And for years, obviously we want that wastewater treatment. Well, I want the wastewater treatment facility not to be on the shoreline where it is. However, the County has other plans. And if they are going to continue to use that wastewater treatment facility, do the upgrade, put in the transmission line. And the reason why I bring this up is because the end user said that they would happily do a public-private partnership to pay for, you know, a sizable amount of that line being run. And the County really needs to take advantage of these sorts of offers of partnering on, one, getting million gallons a day of water that is much needed for agriculture on the end user at Stable Road. And then that can also, you know, possibly help out other folks with potable water because R-1 usually displaces potable use. So, you know, there are creative solutions happening or possible. And with the wastewater treatment facility, I mean, come on, we know it's not going to happen by 2030, you know, in Kahului. Sorry for my dog. So this is something that could be implemented much sooner and have a number of benefits. . . .(timer sounds). . . So I just urge the Councilmembers to urge the Administration to look at creative public-private partnerships. And I have spoken to some Councilmembers about this and some within the Administration and obviously the end user as well. And so, there's great opportunities. And I think that we need to stop just thinking about, like, hey, no, we already have plans for the, you know, Kahului treatment facility, and we don't want to deviate from that and all fine and dandy . . .(timer sounds). . . and still do the Kahului treatment facility. There will never be a lack of desire and need to use R-1 and probably never be a point where we're not creating more and more and more R-1 water. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you. I just wanted to clarify. You're saying Stable Road is going to get redone for water transmission and just to drop a R-1 line in there, but the Kahului Wastewater Treatment Plant needs to be upgraded to produce R-1 and then transport the R-1.

MS. NISHIKI: Everything that you stated is correct except for that it's a new sewer line that's being, yeah, dropped in. So from Sprecks to the wastewater treatment facility in Kahului. So just drop the, hey, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's a County project.

MS. NISHIKI: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know what page it's on?

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

April 23, 2026

MS. NISHIKI: I am so sorry. I haven't been following along with all of my budget papers. I'm so sorry. I don't have that with me right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, no. No. I mean, do you know what the project is called or the title of the project?

MS. NISHIKI: Oh, let me just go in my email. I have...or if you want, I can email to the Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, that works. Or text me. Either one. Thank you.

MS. NISHIKI: Okay. Will do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more questions for Ms. Nishiki? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. NISHIKI: Have a great day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Same to you.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Oh, I do see somebody approaching the podium.

MR. LAW: Thank you, Clarissa. Jasee Law from Kula Uka. Ohayou, Luna Ho'omalua Kashiwa Sugimura, and ke 'aha o ke Kalana, and all the maka'āinana out there in TV land. So I'm going to say, all the minutes I saved for the Hawaiians, I'm going to use a couple of them now. This is from the internet, Ka'ano'i Walk, W-A-L-K. And I'm speaking about the budget of the...I heard the Mayor's Office budget wants to cut that Makahiki stuff, the money for that. I'm opposed to that cut. The rising of Makali'i, the constellation Pleiades at sunset, marks the beginning of the Hawaiian New Year, known as Makahiki. Makahiki usually begins mid-November and ends in late January or February, aligning with the rainy season. It is a time set aside for tribute, harvest, sport, and play. The word Makahiki can refer to a time of celebration, the ceremonies and activities observed during this particular time of year, or a complete calendar year. Traditionally for Hawaiians, our calendar year is divided into two seasons, Kau, the dry season, and Ho'oilō, the wet season. The month of 'Ikuā, which means noisy, usually begins in September or October. This month is characterized by roaring surf, thunderstorms, and rain. This boisterous personality of 'Ikuā signaled the approach of Makahiki. The roughly four-month period of Makahiki was a time of peace and plenty, relaxation, and games, and for harvest. It was also a time to honor the deity Lono, one of the four major deities recognized not only here in Hawai'i but throughout the Pacific. His domain includes fertility, agriculture, and peace. During Makahiki, the qualities of Lono were

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

April 23, 2026

celebrated by feasting, competing in sport and games, hula, and storytelling. War between the ali'i was forbidden. Some of the games that were enjoyed are heihei kūkini, racing; mokomoko, boxing; hākōkō, a wrestling style similar to sumo; pūhenehene, a skilled game of deception, a lot of people in the County are good at that; and a kōnane, a board game most resembling chess. Makahiki also signifies a time of rest and rejuvenation for both the land and the people. This period served as an opportunity to both fortify existing bonds and forge new relationships. 'Auhau, taxes, and ho'okupu offering, were collected during Makahiki. Each ahupua'a gathered its 'auhau to be given to the ali'i nui, the high chiefs of the island. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . The ali'i nui...yes, I got it. The ali'i nui acted as the deputy to Lono, that might be you guys, the ali'i nui, who was represented by the akua loa. The akua loa is a long staff with lono carving at the peak and a cross-piece with pieces of pala fern, feather lei, and skins of the ka'upu bird passing near the top, from which also hung a square of white kapa. And yeah, that's about it. I'll get the rest later on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier?

MR. LAW: Tune in next time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seeing none.

MR. LAW: Same time, same channel.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please.

MS. MACDONALD: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know, or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call. Three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. With your permission, I'm going to close public testimony and receive written testimony, Members.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. So I'm going to start off with revisits for Department of Water Supply, which you know we took up last night. And then we'll take a break. It's now 10:37, so I'm going to do this. So under the CIP Budget Bill, page 27, Members, there are two discrepancies flagged by Staff and the Budget Director for two CIPs under the Department. Please refer to Granicus 177, the Department's amendment request correspondence. And I move...so therefore, I move to amend section 4(J)(1)(a)(2) [sic], to

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

April 23, 2026

change the project name from Countywide Upgrades and Replacements to Countywide Facility Improvements.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you mind repeating the motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you mind repeating the motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I move to amend Section 4(J)(1)(a)(2), to change the project name from Countywide Upgrades and Replacements to Countywide Facility Improvements.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So motion made by me, second by Member U'u-Hodgins. Any more discussion? So what this does, it corrects the project under Bill 55 to be consistent with Bill 60, the State Revolving Loan Fund for Water Supply projects. Okay. All in favor, raise your hands.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not ready to vote, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What page on the departmental request?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have that? On Granicus 155.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 155.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no, Granicus 16...177.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 177 is the departmental request. What page, please?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, it's on page three of the department request. It's the second entry from the bottom.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 4.J.2.a.1.(i). [sic]

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1.a.(2).

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, that's the fourth item. Replacement to Countywide Facilities. Oh, I see it says second from the top. Second from the bottom.

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

April 23, 2026

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, second from the bottom. Apologies.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Krueger. So just this item?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I have another one.

MR. KRUEGER: That's the only item being affected right now by the motion, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion? All in favor, raise your hands, say "aye." Thank you. So this is Member Cook. This is nine "ayes," yeah. Thank you. Member Paltin? We're voting. Chair Lee? Everybody? Oh, you did. Okay. I didn't see. Nine "ayes." Thank you.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
 Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I have one more. So I move to amend Section 4.J.3.a.1 to change the funding type for Molokai Reliable Capacity from Water Fund Unrestricted to Water Fund Restricted. So, Unrestricted to Restricted.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, before you read the motion, can you tell us what document you're referring, so we can get on the same page with you?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think it's the same, Granicus 177.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Isn't it the item right under the one we just acted on?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I think it was read before.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 4.J.3.a.(1)?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Section 4. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: This one was on the email that we received last night. The 900,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think it was listed on the paper from last night, but it wasn't listed as a motion, and I didn't...so I didn't make a motion because it was just referenced.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Here's Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers. Yes. It was listed on the sheet last night to indicate that it is a project that is still being funded by restricted Water funds, but there was a typo in the bill, and it says "unrestricted," so the request is to update that to the correct funding source. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair. Budget Director, all three of the items that are...were in the chart from the attachment last night?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. No. The only one that needs corrected is Molokai Reliable Capacity.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more questions? Seeing none.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, apologies. Can we confirm the second for the motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Thank you. So I made the motion, and Member Cook is a second. Thank you. Ready to vote? Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No. I'm voting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Okay, very good. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we’re going to stop, then. I’m going to take a ten-minute break. Is that all right? Yeah? So we’ll come back at...well, let’s come back at 10.55. Thank you. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: **10:43 a.m.**

RECONVENE: **11:05 a.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay, welcome back to the Budget Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now...it is now...what time is it? 11:05, and I have one more correction for Department of Water Supply. If you look at Ramseyered Rates and Fees on page 54, towards the top, I move to amend Appendix B, Rates and Fees, Account 3475, Water Service Rates, General Water Consumers, by replacing the fourth fee range from greater than or equal to 35,000 gallons to read as 35,001 to 50,000 gallons and to replace the fifth fee range from greater than or equal to 50,000 gallons to greater than 50,000 gallons.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Motion made by me, seconded by Member Paltin.

MR. HANANO: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

MR. HANANO: Sorry. So it should be on the last tier, it should be 50,001.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. We forgot one...we forgot one. Okay, thanks for finding that correction.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No. Shouldn’t that be still 50,000? Because if the greater than sign is there, wouldn’t that mean 50,000...like .1 and more?

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because it goes to 30...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Right? Because if it's 35,001 to 50,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if you look at the previous tiers, they do have that one in there, so I think for consistency's sake, we should have that little one gallon.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. But the previous tiers don't have the greater than signs in them.

MR. HANANO: I'm sorry, Chair, I think after Member Batangan, what he just said, I think I agree with him.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So no "1."

MR. HANANO: Yeah. No "1." Yeah. My apologies, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So that third one, two, three, that fifth tier. That fifth tier is correct, then. Yeah?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, the way you said it was correct. We do need to update it because it's currently greater than or equal to, so now we just want it to be greater than.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, the way that you made your motion should be correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So greater than 50,000. Okay. Any discussion? Thank you, Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So the rates stay the same, it's simply the description, the way that we re-arranged it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. So for discussion, Member Cook, the fourth line is currently just a single number, and it needs to be a range that can't overlap with the fifth line. So what we're doing is creating a range from 3501 [sic] to 50,000, and then anything over 50,000 will be the next category.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, Corp. Counsel.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you, Chair, just from the Department, they usually do include the "1" just to make it a little bit more clear, consistent, but it's fine.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So then we just get rid of the greater than sign. Either way, it works. If the Department prefers to get rid of the greater than sign, I am happy to accept the "1." But either way, we cannot have a gap.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Corp. Counsel, I guess if you look at the example that we got, it has...for the last tier, it's greater than 50,000 gallons on the top two. So that's correct. Okay. So we're fine, greater than 50,000. Okay. All in favor, raise your hands, say "aye." So I have eight "ayes," one excused. Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Thank you. Then we can move on.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more? You have one more?

MR. HANANO: Yeah. And then, Chair, for the water shortage rate category, I think the same thing has to be applied to that one as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So the water shortage rate, the one, two, three, for the fifth tier, is to leave it greater than, or is it going to be consistent then? Yeah. Okay. But that's what it says, greater than 50,000, on the sheet. Oh, the fourth tier too. Okay. So for the fourth tier would be 35,000 gallons to read 35,001 to 50,000 gallons, as well as the last tier, which says greater than 50,000. That is correct. So just a correction of one, correct? Corp. Counsel, okay? And with adding the range. Got it?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I think so. So essentially, we're doing the same thing under the next line for account 3475, is that correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, any other questions? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye". Oh, second by Member U'u-Hodgins, thank you. Any questions? All in favor, raise your hand, and say "aye." Okay. Motion carries. Eight "ayes," one excused, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more corrections? Corp. Counsel...Member, are you clear?

MR. HANANO: No, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So now we're going to go to the Office of the Mayor. Just everybody, after this, we're going to do Police, Public works, and then revisits, ending with Countywide. So the Office of the Mayor, Members' priorities, we have 12. Three involve the Department's Revolving Fund. There are 12 total, and...okay. So first, we'll go down in the order that's in the matrix, and we'll follow this order as it is with the budget bill. So starting with the first person is Member Sinenci, Countywide 3 to add 250,000 to the Administration Program Category B, Operations and Equipment and Condition, those funds for an RFP to assist the Conservation Plan with greenprints.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So moved, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member made the motion, and would you like to...discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. This was through the Conservation Committee. It seems like I keep putting it in every year. And it's always carried over, so this was a request of some of the --

MS. MILNER: Chair, I'm sorry. We've been ordered to evacuate the ninth floor. I have to go, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes, please go. Bye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have to evacuate the ninth floor? What about us?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Don't let her answer that question. She needs to leave. Do we need to leave?

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have not been asked to...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Who's our...

MS. MILNER: I'll text it as soon as I have more information. Our lights are going off. Sorry, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: David?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Ryan, what's going on?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, can you call for a recess, please?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 11:12 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:15 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. We are back to starting the priority with Member Sinenci for his...to add \$250,000 to Administration Program Category B.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, okay. So Member Sinenci made the motion, and Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: As you know, I'm the Council Representative on the Conservation Planning Committee. And so, it seems like we've tried to put in the money before, but we're doing it again. Of course, we are experiencing some quorum issues and haven't met in a while, but the board has requested that we put it in the budget so that we have the funds at our next meeting so we can vote for the greenprint. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other discussion? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do we know what the reason is that the...this wasn't put in in the Mayor's proposal? Like, are they going to do it, or they're not going to do it? Like, I mean, I don't mind putting the money in if it's going to get done, but what has changed since last year when we put the money in that it's going to get done, or is it going to get done with the remainder of this fiscal year kind of thing? That's my question, if you

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

April 23, 2026

know the answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Maybe Budget Director because I know the request was to wait and then maybe possibly come back with a budget amendment but I'll refer to Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director, you're fine?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes. I spoke to our Boards and Commissions Coordinator here in the Mayor's Office about this, actually starting in last August when the Commission was beginning to discuss going out to bid for the greenprint. And I told her at the time, you know, we're happy to support it, and if we need to, we'll come in for a budget amendment, and I haven't heard any updates or progress since last August. So, nothing was included because my understanding is no progress has been made toward it by the Commission. If the Commission does vote to move forward, we are in support and would utilize these funds for that RFP process. We're really just following the lead of the Commission. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you repeat that last part? If it moves forward, you would utilize Member Sinenci's funds or you have other fund source?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. We would utilize the 250,000 specifically earmarked for that purpose.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: By Member Sinenci?

MS. MILNER: By Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. All right. Got it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins, Countywide number 1 to increase three Stewardship and Maintenance of County-owned lands by 400,000 and condition up to 50,000 for Nā Maka O Māliko. Member U‘u...okay. Is there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. So on page 14...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there a second? Is this your motion?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. This is my motion. Do you want me to just second it? Did you make the motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no. You can make the motion.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then Member Sinenci seconding.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. On page 14, number 12, small a, number 3, Stewardship and Maintenance of County-owned land, increase by \$400,000 for a total of \$700,000 and add a new condition to read as follows, up to \$50,000 must be for Nā Maka O Māliko for disposal, recycling, testing, and remediation of environmental contamination. If I have a second, I can expand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci. Proceed with discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Please note that I’m increasing it by 400. But I’m only requesting 50 because there are so many County-owned parcels that constantly have to come to us and ask for funding when we do some sort of agreement with them, like Ka‘ehu Bay, the next project I’m going to discuss after, and

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

April 23, 2026

this as well. So hopefully, this is a fund that more people can take advantage of. And so, they don't have to constantly ask us for the money we're requesting them to do the work that we want them to do. That's the first thing. The second thing is Nā Maka O Māliko is made up of a bunch of Pā'ia and Kū'au and Ha'ikū residents and Māliko residents to clean up the bay and hopefully restore it to what it used to be used for. There's a bunch of issues down there that I'm excited to see them clean up. And I ask for the Members' support of my motion. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez after. Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. I'd actually like to ask Corporation Counsel if they could weigh in on this because this is for Stewardship and Maintenance of County-owned land. So I don't know that we can name an entity to do it. I think it might need to be a contract that goes out for RFP. So it may be more appropriate to name a parcel, and then we can issue the RFP. But I'll defer to Corporation Counsel because there may be some nuance I'm missing here. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I'm happy to name the parcel. If you give me a minute, I can find that information if that's required, for sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Corp. Counsel.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: If it's County, yes. Thank you, Chair. If it's County-owned land that normally the County would take care of, it would need to be contracted out...that service.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And if they have a lease with us, how does that work? Like, they have a lease with us, Ka'ehu has a lease with us, or right of entry, how does that work?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: For the same parcel of land?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: For different parcels. This happens all the time.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: You'd have to look at the specific document that you're talking about, the lease, and who is responsible for what because each lease is different.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. If we do an RFP...let me think about if I want to do an RFP with a contract because then I can't guarantee that these are the people who is going to get the monies, and that the vision is going to be carried out in the way that I expressed.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to pause?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'm okay to put a pin in it right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And that's going to be the same thing for my next one as well. So we'll put a pin in this so I can figure out how this is going to work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So with the next two...I mean, also the next one, you're going to pause, okay. I'll go to...you are the next one with Countywide 3 for the line item for Adaptation Dance Theater for 90,000.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, point of order.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do we have a motion on the floor?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: We did, but I don't know if I got a second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, you got a second.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So you want to withdraw that?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'll withdraw my motion. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. So right now, then, we're on my third one because I have four in a row. On page 12...no, I'm sorry, page 14, number 12, Office of the Mayor, small c, Grants Division Program. I move to insert a new line entitled Adaptations Dance Theater for \$90,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member U'u-Hodgins and seconded by Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. This has been one of my priorities for a couple of years. This helps support the Bring It Home program, where we have

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

April 23, 2026

Maui-trained dancers that live throughout the world, come home, and help the new and up-and-coming dancers and train them and put on performances.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? Seeing none, all in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.” Okay. Nine “ayes.” Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U’u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER U’U-HODGINS: Do you want me to do my offset by reducing the small grants right now, or we’ll come back to that later?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you don’t need to do that now.

COUNCILMEMBER U’U-HODGINS: Okay. Sounds good. Then I’m up again. Next page, 15, number 12, again, Office of the Mayor, small c again, Grants Division Program, number 22 in small grants. I move to add a condition to small grants to read as follows, up to \$25,000 must be a grant for the Pā‘ia Hawaiian Protestant Church for repair and maintenance to the steeple and the church.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. Is there a second? Member Cook, second. Member U’u-Hodgins and second by Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER U’U-HODGINS: Thank you, Members. So this is a...well, they celebrated 145 years last year, so now it’s a 146-year-old Church. It’s one of the mainstays of Pā‘ia Town. And the steeple is not structurally sound, and parts of the church are, obviously, as I just described, quite old and need support, and they need maintenance. Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. I have a discussion. Okay. I support the motion, and I think a lot of our older Hawaiian churches need help because they’re really old. So I’m very supportive of this. And then, was this the church that had the 100-year time capsule?

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: It’s not, but that one was the Holy Rosary Church that’s across of Pā‘ia School. And...but what I will say is there’s so many churches in Pā‘ia, and they have such a cute relationship. They’re all very supportive of each other, like the church I was talking about yesterday, this church, the Holy Rosary Church. There’s so many, and it’s so cute. Thank you for asking.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Molokai has a church row in Kalama‘ula, too.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, yeah? That’s beautiful. I’d love to see it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All denominations in one row, playing well, playing nice together. I support the motion. Mahalo, Member U‘u-Hodgins. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more discussion? Seeing none, all in favor, say “aye.” Nine “ayes.” Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Next is Chair Lee, Grant 2, to add a new condition under 3, Grant...Festivals of Aloha, Inc. for Maui County Fair of up to 54,000 to be used for the creation of Maui County Fair book. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by Member U‘u-Hodgins. Chair Lee, discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I think everybody’s aware of how popular the Maui County Fair is and how it’s really part of our community and culture, and by having a book, it’ll memorialize a lot of the history.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I agree. Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Question for Chair Lee. How did you come up with the 54,000?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't know, actually. That was part of the request to me. So I don't know how that person came up with 54,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Someone who's going to do the book gave you that quote.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. The Festivals of Aloha, Inc.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Daryl Fujiwara.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Was it Mr. Fujiwara? Do you know how many books will be produced?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I don't. We can find out.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you? White paper.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, white paper. Coming up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. All right. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hands and say "aye." This is nine "ayes." Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good, great idea. Next one is Councilmember Cook, Countywide 2 to insert a new line item in the amount of 1.5 million and condition it for the Ka'ahumanu Church for its restoration project. That's your motion.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. Can I get a second?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by Member U‘u-Hodgins. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Members. So this is 12, Office of the Mayor, item D, Economic Development Program. Insert a new line item in the amount of \$1,500 and add a condition to read as follows, up to \$1,500 [sic] must be a grant to Ka‘ahumanu Church for its restoration project. Testimony was provided at the BFED South Maui Residency Area hearing on April 14th, 2026, with the request, funding for the Church restorations. The church was built in 1876 and is on the National Historic Register and part of the Royal Compound of Ke Kahekili II. Okay. Kahekili, thank you. And anyway, it’s an ongoing project. It’s across the street. We all love it, and I hope to ask the Members for your support.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I move to amend his thing, his motion, to say \$1.5 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, \$1.5 million.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What did I say?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: You said \$1,500.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, I welcome and appreciate that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. Go ahead. Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. Just a request that this go under the Grants Division instead of under the Office of Economic Development. We think it more correctly fits there. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You’re fine. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, fine. So, Staff can keep track of that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: He accepts Ms. Milner’s suggestion as a friendly amendment, as do I, to my amendment.

MR. KRUEGER: Okay. So, Chair, apologies to interject. So, Staff’s going to interpret this as a new line item under the Grants Division. Under the Grants Division program, it’s going to be a grant to Ka‘ahumanu Church, and underneath, we’ll put a condition up to \$1.5 million, must be for its restoration project.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.” Member Sinenci, yes. Nine “ayes.” Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One more. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, Countywide number 3, to add a line item for \$250,000 for film production and promotion in Maui County, expanding the Molokai pilot project program to Maui. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I move to amend the Economic Development Program for five up to \$250,000 for film production and promotion in Maui County. I...up to \$50,000 must be for film production and promotion on Molokai.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. motion made by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, second by Chair Lee. Thank you. Any more discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. At the Molokai hearing, you heard from Mr. Matt Yamashita on the progress of the pilot program that we started on Molokai. With the new film commissioner, Brian Kohne...well, I guess...I mean, I guess he’s still new, but one of the visions that he shared with me was investing in our...in the smaller projects because that’s more of the bread and butter, more of what is sustainable, rather than huge productions that we don’t have enough staff and equipment for. And for the \$50,000 film project that we piloted on Molokai, it was to help community organizations, like, tell the story of the work that’s being done, of...you know, just whether it’s the legacy of the place or, you know, the progress they’re making toward improving something, that it would be a grant to our film producers that would help to support nonprofits. So it’s simultaneously building capacity for our up-and-coming film producers, while also helping to support our nonprofits.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I rise in full support of this motion. I often

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

April 23, 2026

say that...I quote a stat that every dollar spent from federal funds into the arts is \$9.00 in economic activity given back to the community. I don't know any studies that do it for a local level, but definitely the money you put in for arts and film creates a clean industry, you know, and that's really important to diversify our economy with clean options, and film being one of those. So, thank you for that, and I rise in full support. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I just needed to clarify that the pilot was for Molokai. And so, as you heard when I asked Mr. Yamashita about whether it's ready to expand to all of Maui County, and he said yes. And so, that's the intention. And then, like, we heard from Member Paltin about Lahaina, right? Oh, okay. Sorry, no, no, no, go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I speak in full support, strong support of this motion. One of the films that we funded last fiscal year on just the finishing up of their work that they had fronted the money themselves, went out, begged, borrowed, stole [sic] from others themselves is now being shown at the United Nations, and this is right in alignment with our current NACO President J.D. Clark's theme for his year of presidency, which is County storytelling. And so, you know, the *Rising from the Ashes* film that we funded last year, we will be showing it at the WIR because even though they have limited audiences, because they're in line for film festival awards. They are partnered with a project, *Impact*, where they want to show that film specifically to decision makers. So as the recipient of them being able to show that film to WIR, it just shows like what a little bit of kickstart or finish funding can do for our local storytellers. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I heard it on the radio this morning, too. Good job. All right. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hands, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if I could see if I can do...add a condition to this, add 30,000 to it and have that 30,000 go to Lānaʻi in addition...for the film...filmmaking.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, the total would be 280,000. There are...there are...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are we allowed to do that?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're adding to a condition. I think that happened yesterday, and I got a

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

April 23, 2026

complaint from somebody.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, point of order. We're the body that makes the decisions on our rules, so it's up to us how we want to proceed, not our Staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we had said that we would have a certain amount of conditions and priorities...I mean, priorities and adds. And so, this was being perceived as being another one. And so, yesterday, I got a concern. I just want to be, you know, consistent with the other Members.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Chair, I flagged that concern when we added a third grant item from Member Batangan, and I said I supported that as long as like, we're going to be equitable about being flexible on the rules.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And Chair, I did not submit two conditions, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you all fine? You're all fine, okay. Go ahead. So we're adding 30,000 for Lānaʻi. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I second that motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor say "aye."

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, apologies. Could Staff just clarify? So the line item would be up to 30,000 must be for film production and promotion on Lānaʻi?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And changes the total amount to 280,000.

MR. KRUEGER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And the purpose, Members, is because, as we know, it's hard for the smaller community to compete. I want Maui to have a good amount because I know there's more filmmakers on Maui Island than Lānaʻi and Molokai. And so, by having pots of money for them to be able to have a chance at some of the funding to tell the stories of our places, just giving our rural communities more of a chance. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, can I just clarify, since --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- it was taken up as a motion and then a second? We are only voting on the amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 30,000, yeah.

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

April 23, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: To add Lānaʻi, correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then we'll go on the motion as amended. All right. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Then we vote main motion as amended. And it will now be 280,000. That's nine "ayes."

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks. Good idea. Okay. Now we're going to take up the OED conditions. If you look at the spreadsheet that was given to you, look on page 24, residency area conditions, and it has all of your residency area conditions that you put in and submitted. So I think...does it all look agreeable to you? These are your

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

April 23, 2026

residency area conditions, is that? Yours is agreeable? Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I have a question, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So for Member Lee's A condition, residency area Councilmember must be consulted. Is that language we need to add to every residency area?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess that's my first question. And then two, is it...are we able to change it from consultation to review and approval?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think it was whatever you put in as your...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, no, no. I mean, does the budget ordinance allow for the type of language where instead of them just telling us they're going to do something, that we have to be agreeable to the proposed change?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. You can get...Mr. Peter Hanano, you want to make a comment about that? So, you know, the reason we started putting that in is because OED would take whatever was in the buckets, and if it was not allocated, it would start granting it out. So we put that in so that the Member would be consulted to be sure that it's used appropriately. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The Director is on the call. I think she wants to say something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. Yes. I will defer to Corporation Counsel or Mr. Hanano. The language included here, the residency area Councilmember must be consulted before any changes or requests for use of the funds is what was agreed upon with the attorneys over the last few years. Review and approval, I don't believe, is allowable language due to the Charter restrictions on Councilmembers making requirements of the Administration. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. So has the consultation been interpreted to mean that the Administration just needs to tell us what's going to be done with any unconditioned money within that pot?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I answer? From my experience and probably the experience of most of the Members, if not all, it has been a mutual agreement, and it's worked. They let us know, and if we don't like it, they generally, you know, abide by our wishes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I guess I'm asking because I did not condition very much of my pot. And so, I would like that language added to mine. I think it would

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

April 23, 2026

probably be prudent to add it to every single one of the residency areas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But I'll defer to the body.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Cook, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The reason that I did that was because I didn't allocate major percentage of my allocations, and it was basically for the balance. I didn't want them to, like, oh, he doesn't want it, they're not going to use it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I don't support putting that language. I'm not going to put it on mine, and the discussion that we had previously was that if it's not on all, then it's kind of hard for the Administration to track which one had the requirement. In my experience, as Chair Lee explained, it's been a good working relationship with the Administration in using the funds in the way that we have heard from the communities. I don't know if that was Member Cook's experience, but for me, and sometimes...so my office, we track these funds very, very carefully because in the past, some of the organizations didn't apply for it, or then they changed their name, and then we have to do a budget amendment to change, you know, the fiscal sponsor. So there's just a lot that goes on because these are community, you know, nonprofits and community organizations. And so, it would behoove all Councilmembers to track it very carefully as well to ensure that it's used, that it's applied for, and then it's...the grant contract is executed, and then the reporting and reimbursements are done. It really is a lot of handholding if you want it to be used in the way that you intend it to and not just because of the Administration. It's because community groups may be small and may not have the experience to apply for the funding. And starting July 1st, I understand that the Administration, for \$20,000 and less grants, has a more streamlined approach and process for this, which I'm really looking forward to so that maybe there will be less handholding with our organizations to ensure that all the funding is expended in the way that we intend when we pass the budget. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I experienced similar. That's why I'm only doing this one on my residency area. And, I mean, I would want to know who they give the money out, and I would like them to kind of spread it around in the community, not keep giving it to the same people. But, you know, if they don't, I'll live. The question I had was, I think the total amount is for \$140,000, and so, if the amount is over \$140,000, how do they interpret that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What are you saying? In other words, the Member allocated more than

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

April 23, 2026

the \$140,000? Is that what you're saying? Who interprets?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that a Corp. Counsel?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I see one for \$100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Point of information.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: \$200,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So last Friday, Member Batangan chaired the meeting, and I asked for us to have the discussion, but that would have been controversial, so we did not have the discussion. And I would like to have that discussion because I would like for all of our Council residency areas to have the \$200,000. So if that requires a motion, I move that \$200,000 be allocated for each residency area for this pot of funding, thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Then we need a corresponding cut, right? It's not only add, it's cut.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. It's not just cut. Some of the offsets do say raise property taxes in specific areas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's up to the Members. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It sure is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, you heard the motion. You want to increase the pot to \$200,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: As it was last year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that was the first time. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. I had additional requests, even though mine has a lot of smaller grants, not the larger grants, but I did have additional requests. I think these are the...for my community anyway, these are the small...the community people that are in our community doing all of this work. So in anticipation of a lot of the federal cuts that we've been seeing, they're feeling it too. And part of the reason why I asked the Administration for a budget amendment with some of the funds last year that wasn't being used or couldn't be used to go back into the East Maui community. So I would be supportive of the additional funds, Chair. Just having it, even a little extra so that if people did come and needed some emergency funds, whether it be for travel, with anticipating gas prices, travel prices, we have that for our community.

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

April 23, 2026

Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other discussion on the motion? Okay. So Member Sinenci made the second. So Member Rawlins-Fernandez made the motion, second by Member Sinenci. So the motion is to increase the Residency Area Funds from 140, which is what's in the budget, and increase it to 200,000. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I understand how Member Rawlins-Fernandez feels and Member Sinenci feels. I'm okay with that being at 140, although probably I could find ways to spend money. I'm really good at that. With the new...as you said, with the new section of the small grants, I'm hoping that's kind of where some other people may pull out some monies that they may need. I'm okay with, like, increasing it to maybe 150, but probably that's all I'm okay with. This morning we heard...we added already \$11 million to the budget, so I'd be okay with 150, not 200. But I'm also okay with leaving it at 140. But also, can I have a request? Even though I know we're in the middle of a motion, I have to leave at lunch, and I would like to quickly talk to Corp. Counsel about my last two things that I couldn't do. If we could maybe take this up, and then I could have a two-minute recess before I have to leave and pick up my kids so I can kind of confer, I would appreciate it, if that's okay with the Members, after this, obviously.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, sounds good. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, I would be okay with withdrawing the motion, and we can have the discussion after lunch. Maybe I'll be less hangry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So you're withdrawing your motion. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah. We'll just clear, yeah. Yeah, and then we can take it up after lunch.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Member U'u-Hodgins, you're going to go talk to Corp. Counsel?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: If I may.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So it's 11:48, you guys want to just take lunch, then you can talk to...is that what you...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: . . . *(Inaudible)* . . . So can I work on this for about five minutes but then . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Sorry. I will put the mic on for everybody else, even though we're all in the room. I have to leave at lunch because I have to pick up my kids. My husband's working today, and when we get back in, when this body gets back in, typically about 1:30, Pā'ia School doesn't have great service, Baldwin Avenue doesn't have great service. And so, by the time I log on, it's about an hour...I mean, I'm sorry, half an hour-ish, 45 minutes-ish, after you guys have already been in session, as we experienced on Thursday. So I don't want to have to come back to all of this, just because I didn't have time. So can I please have just a couple minutes? And we can

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

April 23, 2026

come in, and we can do this, and then maybe you folks can go to lunch.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So what she's saying is five minutes and be in your seats.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this...okay. So it's going to be 11:55.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure. Yeah. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you, Members, I appreciate you're...giving me some time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 11:49 a.m.
RECONVENE: 12:08 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Okay. Welcome back to Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Time is now 12:08. Thanks for the brief recess. So Member U'u-Hodgins, you've got to leave at 1:00.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so, therefore, Members, is it okay if we revisit what we passed over earlier, which was her amendments that she wanted to make? Yeah. Now she's ready, and then we can go back to the residency area pots. Thanks. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair, and then considering the discussion we had before recess, I might have other changes for my residency area, but I'll save that one on this side. But before I begin, thank you so much, Members, for allowing me the time to figure this out before I need to pick up my children. So I'll collapse the two conditions into one to make it a little bit easier, if that's okay with all you folks. But if you want me to separate it out, I'm happy to do so. So on page 14, number 12, small a, (3), Stewardship and Maintenance of County-owned land, I would like to insert two conditions. One, for TMK 2-7004-0274, disposal, recycling, testing, and remediation of environmental contamination through the practice of Aloha 'Āina. That's the first one. The second one is to...oh, and that one is for \$50,000. The second one is for...to restore native species to Hāmākualoa Open Space Preserve by reducing invasive plants guided by lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and dedicated volunteers. And the TMKs, there are five of them, read as follows., 2-7007-005, and 2-7007-079, and 2-7007-081, and 2-7007-082, and lastly, 2-7007-083. And this condition is for \$80,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right, Member U'u-Hodgins, seconded by Chair Lee. Discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. For my discussion, this is

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

April 23, 2026

County-owned properties that have either...or both have right of entries that need work done. And I can provide the TMKs for at least the second one to OCS so that they didn't have to write as fast as I was talking. I described it earlier, though, before we...before I was told I couldn't do the way I was doing it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, any more discussion? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Is there a way we can get that in writing? Like, is it still under the Stewardship and Maintenance of County-owned land? And it's going to be a contract?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes, yes. Do you want me to write it out?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What's the difference from what we received? Like, is it...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That's in the...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In the matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: The difference is, is one, I couldn't do it as a grant, so I did try to rewrite what the intention of the project.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or just the language? Like, so it's still going to say A, and it's going to say a contract?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Can you read that again?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It has to be a contract, not a grant?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not just the beginning part.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Up to \$500,000 must be for disposal, recycling, testing, and remediation of environmental contamination to the practice of Aloha 'Āina. That's the first condition. And then the second condition is up to \$80,000 must be for the restoration of native species to Hāmākualoa Open Space Preserve by reducing invasive plants, guided by lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and dedicated volunteers.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For the 50,000, how do you ensure that it gets to Māliko area?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, because I added the TMK.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: The TMK for the Māliko area is 2-7004-027. It’s 1.4 acres owned by the County of Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And then the other one for Hāmākualoa is those five parcels. The first parcel is 48 acres. The second...and some change, it’s more like 48.7. The second parcel is 182.4. The third parcel is 33.8 acres. The fourth parcel is 37.9 acres. And the fifth parcel is 13.5. And this is all previously East Ha‘ikū or Ha‘ikū Sugar East Subdivision, Lots 3, 6, 1, 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah. Mahalo, Member U‘u-Hodgins. So, as Members will recall, the stewardship and maintenance of County-owned land was my priority from last year. I had initially proposed this new pot of funding for a million dollars, which got whittled down to, I think, 300,000 by the time we passed the budget. And the intention of my proposal last year was to do exactly what Member U‘u-Hodgins stated, which is...which was to create a streamlined process for the organizations that we regularly put funding into the budget for, so that they don’t have to come to the Council every year to advocate for funding for the program that, you know, they’re doing on County-owned land. And I would be supportive of this, like not in my priority proposal from last year.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I get that the we... the process that we create for ourselves as a Council is restrictive, so that we end up looking for pots of money that aren’t already line item to a specific organization, and then we condition our priorities under it. And so, my priority from last year is now being used in a way that wasn’t my intention last year. And...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Can I add that? Can I add something?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. And it’s just because of this process to try to avoid increasing the budget --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- which gets under.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I did say in the beginning that I realized, after you said that, that I didn’t say when we came back into recess that I was going to add \$130,000 to your...this pot of money so that I wasn’t really touching the \$300,000. It is now going to be at 430. And you’re right, I didn’t make that clear. I made it clear in the first one, and then I had just assumed everybody could read my mind on the second one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So that’s part of the motion?

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. Can we make that part of the motion? It was part of my first motion. Initially, I had moved to add \$400,000 so that more people could benefit from this pot. And then, because we couldn't do grants and we needed to do RFPs, I just wanted to recognize the two contracts that I was trying to work with. And so, you're right, I didn't say on the second time that I would like to add. I move to add \$130,000, with the first one being up to 50 and the second being up to 80, to make the new amount of that pot at 430.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What if we make them separate lines instead of adding to the pot and conditioning it? I'm okay with that if everyone else is okay with it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I mean, I'd assumed it would go like (i), (i)...well, (i), and (ii) and because it's part of that, but it was just adding more money and then putting it in there, but we can do whatever.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And if you take it out of there, then you could put the organization name. I would support that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And we couldn't because it's...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. No, contract.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you take it out of that pot. What I understood was you make it its own line item. And if you did that, then you can put the organization name. I support that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can we do that?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I don't know if that's what I was told because if it's on County land, then we can't do grants.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So just because of the pot that you are conditioning these two items under is...why the restriction? Because we have given grants to Mālama Hāmākualoa.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, I know. I asked that exact question. Oh, I know. I asked that exact question over recess. I asked that exact question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh. No, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, we're not doing that anymore?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No. That's why I'm doing this. That's why I needed a

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

April 23, 2026

recess.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can we have Corp. Counsel educate us?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. This is why... real quick, this is exactly why we took a recess.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: I know it’s a little confusing because we’re trying to implement a new strategy that the whole County can use to decipher what should be a grant and what should be a contract and then their procurement code. And it’s based on several factors, but there is a grant readiness checklist that we provided this year to try to help everyone understand and go through there. And if any of those questions are answered yes, then it goes to Corp. Counsel to really look at the situation because it does depend on the situation. So I guess that’s what I’m going to say. It doesn’t matter what pot. Pots have restrictions, but it does matter...there’s those factors that are listed in that checklist that are really what to focus on. And in this case, it’s County-owned land being maintained, and it falls under the procurement code.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So you’re saying it doesn’t matter if it doesn’t say County-owned land in the pot itself, that if...what section of the Code are you...or is it just the procurement that you’re saying?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: The procurement code.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And this is a new opinion?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: In 103D.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But this is a new opinion.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: With the increase in grant funding for the County, this is something that we felt was necessary to standardize and make sure we comply with the law.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So going back to Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: So, like, what you were saying, Ka‘ehu will probably be a contract as well. And then this is why we had to take the recess. So Member Rawlins-Fernandez, I tried to do something similar before you added this condition and add a requirement in our Open Space funds, right, for maintenance. Couldn’t do that. And then you did this, super great. And we still have people trying to advocate for themselves, as we see. And as I was telling our lovely Corp. Counsel during break, they still have a very difficult time trying to even get their grants. So I was trying to figure out the easiest way possible for all of us. And that’s why we’re here where we are today.

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

April 23, 2026

Do you want a minute with that? Or if not, I can...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. This doesn't answer my question.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. We did have this conversation over recess.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Can you get your stuff? Are you doing it?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. We're doing it now. I think I made my motion, and to be fair, it was a lot of words, and I can always restate it so I can make it very clear. But I think Member Rawlins-Fernandez is trying to help, but it's...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So it's not your motion, and I support both. It's the new opinion that we're getting from Corp. Counsel. So is that in writing somewhere? Like, can we have that in writing? I don't want the guidelines. I want the analysis on why we're doing this new process.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: There is a response from the Corporation Counsel on Granicus. I'm sorry, I don't know the number at the moment, but I can find it, that was asked regarding how we are analyzing what should be a grant, what should be a contract, and why.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, because before we put a pin in it, I tried to make it a condition, and originally a grant, and then about face (*phonetic*), and now we're back in this conversation.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right, because my understanding of procurement, or how it was explained, is, like, procurement is supposed to make sure that it's not being, like, political favors, it's not like a totally politicized, like, type of funding being directed at your friends, family. That by going through our process, which is open to the public, and anyone can provide us feedback when we're directing funds, that that satisfied the procurement law. And that's a summary. I'm not, like, citing anything specifically. That was my understanding of why it worked, and why it didn't violate procurement laws in the past, and why we were doing it all the way up until this year. So that's what I'm asking for. So in Corp. Counsel's response to us, that I'm looking for right now in Granicus, it has that analysis, then that is what I'm looking for.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And so, earlier, when we were looking through DEM, and they had a grant to Mālama Hāmākualoa, but before, 10 minutes ago, I didn't realize I couldn't do this. I removed it so I could put it in here so that their funds could just be in one area because they had some difficulties trying to figure it out with EP&S. But if I didn't remove their grant from EP&S, would they still need a contract? Because it was originally in the budget as a grant. Can I just go and up their grant and revisit what I did?

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

April 23, 2026

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: So with this new process, if...there's the checklist, if any of those questions are answered yes, then you should seek consultation from Corporation Counsel because it does depend on a lot of different factors.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: And so, obviously, Corp. Counsel always wants to work with everyone to make sure that we get...you know, we stay...we reduce our risk for audits and things like that. But we also, you know, try to help the community as much as possible because it's needed.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Yeah. I think it's just confusing because it's a new process, so I'm...I know she has her own concerns, but I'm just trying to figure out how I can best serve the people who, as you know, do such good work. And I know you're trying to figure it out too. So I'm okay to do whatever I need to do to ensure that my community is served in the way that I'm requesting it to be served. However it needs to be done is fine with me. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I have a question for...thank you, Chair. So was the Mayor's proposed budget scrutinized to ensure that all of the grants and contracts presented to us met the standards? So if Member U'u-Hodgins, like to her previous question about a grant previously being awarded to this organization, in EP&S, met the muster of this new standard, she could conceivably add funding to that pot of money as a grant, correct?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Yes. That's possible if it was analyzed and determined that it did meet the requirements of the grant.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess...oh, sorry, part of my question was, was the budget scrutinized to ensure that all of the grants and contracts met this new standard before it was presented to us? Because I don't want to go down that road if we still need to make that determination.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: So a lot of the grants that are in the Mayor's budget have not provided grant applications yet, so some of that information has not been scrutinized.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I see.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: But that's why we have a process in place.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So we can't just assume that everything in the proposed ordinance bill does meet that scrutiny?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. I mean, we're on page 14, and as we're having this discussion, I see a grant to...is it Aegaeon LLC for the different Clean & Safe programs?

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

April 23, 2026

You know, those are County programs, and if you're cleaning, like, sidewalks and roads and whatnot, I'm assuming that these are also, probably should be contracts, anyway. But I guess I started down this rabbit hole thinking if it was presented to us, you know, by people who understood this process, this distinction that we should just add money to the pot in the way that it was originally presented, but I actually don't know that answer anymore.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I can answer the Aegaeon question because we went down this one before when we were...when this was first kind of brought up a while ago, and then I wasn't sure where it was going to go after this. For that one in particular, because it's a little bit of both, both County and both private land is being serviced by that one grant, it could remain a grant.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess we have it on the County website as a County program, like Maui County Clean & Safe is a County program, so anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. But that was just a determination a while ago. But I don't know if Member Rawlins-Fernandez wants some time or what, but we do have a motion on the floor, and then if we need to, I do have to leave in, like, 20 minutes so I can pick up Ehukai and the rest of everybody that I got to pick up, but then I'll be back in front of this...my computer, this computer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you'll be at home?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, with the kids.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Member U'u-Hodgins, I support it either way.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure. But I know clarity is important.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And process. So I prefer to take our lunch now and not vote on it. I will vote on whichever the language ends up being, but I would like a little time to understand this new process that we are being asked to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That's totally fine with me because this is going to impact so many things. Not a problem, and I do appreciate your support and the Members' future support, I really do. But I'm happy to let this be the catalyst for all the discussion we need to have to figure out how we're going to make this all make sense with all the new changes. That's totally cool with me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She's going to withdraw her motion?

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then withdraw the second? Okay. I got a proposal for our Residency Area Funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So shift gears. We’ll revisit yours, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, well, before Member U‘u-Hodgins leave, right? So it has been proposed informally to increase each pot by 60,000. Not everybody has an additional 60,000 of need, but I would love to accommodate the Members that have additional need. And at one time, if you have a named group that you want, to let them condition it out of the Mayor’s small grants pot, and leave the district funds at 140, so we’re not adding 500 whatever to the budget. So if Members that have over \$140,000 in residency area allocations, we just approve all of that, and whatever their named today additional is, I have no problem with them naming it and conditioning it out of the Mayor’s small grants pot if it’s \$25,000 or less.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is that a second?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. That’s my motion.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I’ll second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I don’t think that’s an actual motion. That sounds like a process, and I don’t think that they know what names that they want to do right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They’ve got to know what names they have in mind right now. And the amount.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin and second by Member Johnson. Discussion.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, Chair, when we get to it, in the small grants, I have language to increase that \$25,000 to \$40,000 for the small grants. So that might...I just want to let you guys know. I’m not on that discussion yet, but that would be my language when we get to it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Interesting. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. My motion, before we took a recess, was to increase all residency areas to \$200,000.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's my counterproposal because I don't...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right, right. So I'm okay with the proposal. I support the proposal. I'm not prepared to do that right now. I don't have a \$60,000 grant, or I don't know, it's going to be messy. My counterproposal, because I have a \$50,000 one. I don't know what Member Sinenci has, but that would be an easier move. So if we could make it \$150,000, that would be better, and then we can make the...if we agree on doing that, then we can make the motions when we get to small grants after.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Member Paltin. Yeah. So, yeah. So basically, the motion on the floor is to increase this up to 200, or is it 140?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 150.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 150.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But also, to Member Paltin's, if you went over 150, like both Member Rawlins-Fernandez and I did, then we can do a condition of the small grants in the Mayor's.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. That would be my motion. And so, that we can release Member U'u-Hodgins to go pick up her son. Oh, okay. Like, I see that you have multiple small grants, so I don't know if Member Sinenci, you're ready to make the full motion of which grants would go under small grants at this moment, but I'd prefer to make that motion when we get back from lunch.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I can be ready.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So motion on the floor is to increase the 140 residency area to...140 to 150.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And the remaining 50,000 for the Hāna residency area and the Molokai residency area to small grants.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: . . . *(Inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Apparently.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Whoever has named ones.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For whichever residency area will be moved to small grants.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So it's 150. All in favor, say "aye." Okay. Motion carries.

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's take lunch, right? You guys need to do the assessment of whatever. So if you want to come back in one hour, 1:30, 1:45? It's 12:34.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair. I'd like to ask 1:45.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: If it's okay, though, because I think we left on...unless you guys want to do more things, but we left on my motion, but I won't be back, ready to participate, until about 2:15.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we didn't finish your motion.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We didn't finish yours.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, because the new version of what we got to do at County lands, but I won't be at home until about 2:15. But I don't have to leave for another 20 minutes, but I know we're all getting fussy, so I can do whatever.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So there's the two proposals for the County-owned land grants. And then the residency area grants, Member U'u-Hodgins also has that. So I would be open to tabling that discussion or revisiting that. Maybe we'll just say either at the end of this Department after we finish or at 2:15 or 2:30 when Member U'u-Hodgins is settled at her next destination.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Sounds good. So, 1:45, back for lunch. Look at the time. You

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

April 23, 2026

guys are fine? . . . *(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 12:35 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:52 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:52, and I'm going to continue where we left off. We were talking about the residency area conditions, which is on...from page 24 of your...of the handout that was given to everybody on priorities.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, maybe we could move on from that because Member U'u-Hodgins did have things to do, and she's not back yet, so maybe we can go on to the next thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is that what you all want to do? We'll come back to this?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, because she's not here, and she's indicated that she had things to do.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, that was my request before we recessed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So where we are going to pick up. So let's talk...let's continue on with Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund, page 56 on the Budget Bill, and these are the continuation of your conditions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, before we move on --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- there...on page 15, I did have to change the name of one of the grant recipients. Under (2), grants and disbursements for business development and technology, item (ii), Council for Native Hawaiian Advancements should be Hawaiian Council, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We all know they changed their name, right? So are you all fine? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye." One, two, three, four, five, six. Member Cook and seven. Okay, seven, and excused is Member U'u-Hodgins and Sinenci. Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, and Rawlins-Fernandez.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmembers Sinenci and U'u-Hodgins.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anything else? Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I fulfilled my kuleana. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So on this condition, which is Councilmember Cook, Revolving Fund one to add a new condition for up to 3.4 million for the acquisition of 14-acre parcel on Alahele Place. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Yes, Members, this is my proposal for South Maui from Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Scenic Views Preservation Fund, Section 9-19, Revised Charter, County of Maui, 1983, as amended, Chapter 3.88, Maui County Code.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page 35 on the priority matrix, for those of you that aren't there yet.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I made a motion, does somebody have a second?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I said second.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. This is a 14-acre parcel.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved by Member Cook, seconded by Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: This request is for a 14-acre parcel on Alahele Place in Kihei, Tax Map Key, (2) 3-9-017:034, to be used for the southern terminus of the North-South Collector Road and flood control. This property is on the makai side of the Pi'ilani Highway, right before the Maui Police...South Maui Police Department's traffic light. It is...it's an interesting piece of property. It's extremely inexpensive for the cost. The owner is 85 years old, bought it several years ago. It was...thought about developing it. He's not interested in that at all. All the properties in the area that have looked at.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'm supportive of the effort. I know we've been working on this for a long time. My question is regarding the funding source. Is this going to be part of the North-South Collector Road?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Like, you're going to pave over it and make it a road?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, no. Well, okay, the North-South Collector Road goes on the western edge of it. And it is the...so from mauka to makai, it's on the makai edge of the property, and it will go along.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll look it up on the map. I see Budget Director.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. Principally, it's going to be for flood mitigation and Open Space.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director. Comments?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members. Yeah. I wanted to raise a similar concern as Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. If we know at this time that a portion of the property will not be used as Open Space in line with the Code requirement, I would request that we at least carve out that portion and purchase it with a different source of funding. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Does Budget Director have a recommendation on which funding? And then that way, we don't have to guess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. If it will be used for the North-South Collector Road, it may be possible to bond fund it under a CIP under the Department of Public Works.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Works for me, a friendly amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Works for me as the seconder.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, any more discussion? Member Sinenci, welcome. Member Batangan knows MPO, so yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a question. If part of it is going to be used to support the drainage, there's five million from prior year appropriations. So any part of it that's being used for the North-South Collector Road, I think the bond funding thing is appropriate. But maybe if part of it is going to be used to support drainage, that can come out of the five million prior year's appropriation because that's what that was for, right?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for the proposal. The reason that I didn't opt for that is because there's several properties that are actually in the drainage basins, the more active...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, you have other plans for that money?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I think that other...not within this budget right now, but I think that that money needs to be...stay there and add to it slightly for some of the other negotiated parcels.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And if I may, also the fact that this is going to be kind of a dual use, it's the drainage and the future road easement. The problem that we're having in South Maui with the North-South Collector Road is they're having to go through eminent domain at the very last minute, and I just vehemently, adamantly, don't want to do that. So this is going to be the last section.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You already have a willing seller.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The County will own it, and we won't have any problems.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Batangan. Oh, sorry, Member Batangan, and then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. I had a similar concern with the use of the Open Space Fund for this purpose. I guess my recommendation would have been something similar to what Budget Director said. Bond fund the purchase of the entire parcel since we can't attribute that to the CIP project itself, and then if there's a portion that doesn't need to go towards the road...and this is a part where I have a question for the Budget Director. Would we be able to have Public Works then pay back...or have the Open Space Fund pay back Public Works for that portion that's not needed for the roadway project?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We've done that before. Member...I mean, Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. Yes. I think there's an opportunity. You can see in the Open Space Fund, there are already some conditions where we're paying debt service. So if we did buy this property with Bond Funds, and we were able to allocate which portion of the debt service was going to become Open Space, and which portion is actually going to be used for the CIP, I think in a future year, if a future council approved it, we could put a condition under the Open Space Fund to pay down that portion of the debt service there. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Budget Director. That would have been...that would be my recommendation, Member Cook. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So we would still be doing it now, but we would address that...you'll address it internally.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Member Cook, do we have an appraisal for this? Appraisal?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I believe the appraisal was 3.6.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, and the Administration has it?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, any more discussion?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies to interject. Staff just needs clarification on where this is going. So we have noted Councilmember Cook made the motion to put a condition under the Open

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

April 23, 2026

Space Fund, 3.4 mil for the acquisition, and then a friendly amendment was accepted to put it under Public Works for Bond Fund. Is that the entire thing would be a Bond Fund under a Public Works now?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. And after they internally figure out which portion would be eligible for Open Space, Open Space would pay the debt service off that bond.

MR. KRUEGER: And then, Chair, there is an existing CIP called North-South Collector Road, Waipuilani Street to Kaonoulu Street under the Department of Public Works. Is that the CIP the 3.4 million would go under?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

MR. KRUEGER: It would be a separate one?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's separate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's brand new.

MR. KRUEGER: Okay. Thank you. So then Staff will put in a new line item for a new CIP, perhaps acquisition of tax map key, and the tax map key, and then with an Appendix C, with the description that was put in the Open...that was suggested for the Open Space Fund condition as that Appendix C description. I guess, if it's okay, Staff does have a question as to what kind of project we would consider that, would that...since its acquisition, would it just be other projects?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's going to be Open Space for...I mean, not Open Space. It would be acquisition for...maybe the Budget Director can help but principally for flood mitigation, Open Space, future road, what would you call that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Was this going to be used for North-South Collector Road, the portion of it, right? And then that Director Molina was supportive. Public Works.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Also, as far as this price, the Department will negotiate with the owner and do that. This is an up-to amount. It isn't like, it's basically that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The amount. Okay. Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. We do have categories for both drainage and for road improvements. I won't read the whole paragraph that goes along with that. So I think it could go into road improvements, or, if we want, we can put it under other projects to sort of cast that broad umbrella to catch all of the possible uses of the property. So maybe other projects would be the wisest at this point. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Batangan.

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

April 23, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Member Cook, have you discussed this with the Department? I just want to make sure that, because the project is eligible for federal funding, we don't...and I just want to make sure that your plans for acquisition are built into their overall plans for the project because this is on the tip and the stip, and I just want to make sure that it's already been...it hasn't already been accounted for.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My understanding, talking with Director Molina, this is something that they wanted and needed, and they haven't secured it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: That's helpful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So no more discussion. Call for the motion. Okay, great. Eight "ayes." One excused, which is Member U'u-Hodgins. Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have Member Sinenci, Revolving Fund number one to add a new condition for up to \$3 million for Ke Ao Hali'i.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Ke Ao Hali'i, yep.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ke Ao Hali'i. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci, seconded by Member Paltin. Discussion, Member Sinenci.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Members. This is my Revolving Fund condition, and we heard from the members of Ke Ao Hali'i at the Hāna budget meeting, and they currently have a willing seller in the 115.56 acres and a willing holder in Hawai'i Islands Land Trust for this conservation easement. Members, in the past, these properties were marketed for luxury home developments, and Ke Ao Hali'i has worked to protect these important cultural lands, which includes burials and heiau, to put into conservation. And there are funding available in the Open Space Fund, and Ke Ao Hali'i has been good managers of these land management open spaces, and I ask for your support. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to amend the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To include the deletion on page 57 of number six, up to 600,000 must be for a grant to Ke Ao Hali'i for the purchase of 9.78 acres located at Nānualele, Kawaipapa, Hāna, per their testimony also. And I also move to delete number five, up to 1.3 for the acquisition of property located at 131 Shaw Street in Lahaina, Maui. The reasoning for the first one, Mr. Crawford mentioned in testimony that they won't be going forward with that one. And number five, I believe we had heard from the managing director sometime over the past year that the Salvation Army doesn't want money, they want land to relocate. So we can free up another 1.9 mil in that way with this one motion.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Paltin, can you review...sorry, what page?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page 57 of Special Purpose Revenues.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And then it's numbers?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Five and six.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Five and six.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To remove those.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Understood. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I think Member Sinenci said he accepted it as a friendly motion, so one vote.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're fine? Okay. All right. Any more discussion? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All in favor?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, he was not going to talk? Oh you were voting. All in favor? So eight "ayes." One excused, Member U'u-Hodgins.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Next one is Member Sinenci, again, for Kīpahulu Community Association, \$59,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. I move to add a new condition under the Open Space Preservation Fund. Up to 59,000 must be a grant to the Kīpahulu Community Association for the purchase of approximately 2.640 acres in Kīpahulu, TMK (2) 1-6-007:008 for conservation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Excuse me, motion made by Member Sinenci, second by...was it Member Paltin? Okay. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. We also heard from several testifiers at the Hāna Community Budget Meeting. And so, this was, it seemed, like an easy consideration for the price that they're getting. Two acres in Kīpahulu, Maui for 55,000 and an additional 4,000 towards their closing costs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? Seeing none. All in favor say "aye." Eight

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

April 23, 2026

“ayes.” One excused, Member U‘u-Hodgins.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay, very good.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I have one more. Can I ask Budget Director to come back online? On page 57, the second condition under prior year’s appropriations, you had...did I understand you correctly that you were going to transmit a budget amendment to this body to delete number two, the grants that had previously been appropriated for Mālama Kakanilua?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. Yes. I need to confirm because I think there were a couple from Mālama Kakanilua, and we were talking about one that was under the Economic Development and Cultural Programs Revolving Fund, so I will confirm that we’ve drafted an amendment for this one as well.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay, because...yeah, let us know because if we can just take it up as a part of this, then you don’t have to go and transmit a separate item, given that the Open Space Fund appropriations don’t lapse. We can clean it up while we’re on the matter. Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. Yes. If we could just go ahead and do it for FY ‘27, that would probably be the cleanest. Thank you.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. I guess, then, Members, I would move to strike item two under prior year appropriations that would read, up to \$500,000 must be from Mālama Kakanilua for safety and security for the burial and cultural preserve, the County-owned lands at Wai'ale.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Moved by Member Batangan, second by Chair Lee. Discussion.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Members, this is one that Member Sinenci and I have been reaching out to the Administration for trying to help the applicants be able to move forward with their application, but given the new guidance on what can be a grant and what can be a contract, we were advised that they cannot issue a grant for this as directed under the Open Space Fund and that a budget amendment would be prepared and transmitted to us. So this strike would just save us that effort in the future.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci, you're fine? Sounds like both of you. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Roll call.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Director's coming back on. I would prefer to leave it, but if they're going to transmit a budget amendment anyway, I figure it's easier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. I guess I'm just trying to clarify, are we deleting the condition in its entirety, or are we just deleting Mālama Kakanilua?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I mean...

MS. MILNER: So that the funds would still be appropriated for safety and security for burial and cultural preserve. It just wouldn't specifically name Mālama Kakanilua.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Director. I would prefer to do what she just said so that the money can still be used for that purpose. So I guess if the Chair is willing to allow for that amendment, I would amend the motion to just strike the grant recipient named in the ordinance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Agreed. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair, just for clarification. So...oh, if the Budget Director is still there. So for the funding, it would go out to bid? People wanted to

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

April 23, 2026

access the funding?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. Yes. It would go out to bid with an RFP that clearly delineates the acceptable use of the funds under the Open Space Fund. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I think...oh, thank you, Budget Director. I'm not...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And if you want time to think about this, I can withdraw the motion, and then they can transmit the budget amendment so that we can take it up at a later date. And then you can have time to think about it with your Staff and then to discuss it with the organization as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Only because, for me, Mālama Kakanilua has expertise in protections of iwi kūpuna. And so, I would want to put more protections as who...if should it go out, who should be able to.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I understand. Okay. So that being the case, I'll withdraw the motion, and then when the Administration transmits the budget amendment, we can have that conversation. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So you're withdrawing this. Any others? None. Okay. So what I do have here is Department cuts on fiscal neutral requests under Granicus. Oh, that's the department request. Reduce Economic Development Program, Category B, Operations and Equipment by 50,000. Justification, department's request for the public information and communication specialist and website design team for Maui Nui Strong.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That was good.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Department request. All in favor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, going to move forward. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eight "ayes." One excused, Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The next one is a department request again. Reduce the Economic Development Program under Grant and Disbursements for business development and technology by 150,000 in Category B, Operations and Equipment, for the Professional Golfers’ Association for the Sentry Tournament.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by Chair Lee, and justification is PGA for Sentry Tournament, based on recent discussions with the organization.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They pulled out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so sad. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You did a full 150?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Decrease, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Decrease, right. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.” Great. So this is eight “ayes.” One excused. Motion carried.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now we’re going to go into the Operating Budget Administration Program.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, did we take up all of the department requests?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. We didn’t do the middle one, which was an increase.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don’t know if somebody wants to do it on their behalf, but --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- we’re in cut mode.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We’re in cut mode.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, that’s why we skipped over it. Is because we’re cutting first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. I guess she didn’t have the appetite for it, maybe. I don’t know. Or did you intentionally miss it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I’m in the cut mode.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you intentionally miss it or inadvertently miss it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I have intentionally missed it, so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, she intentionally missed it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, are we not doing the process where we do priorities, and then we do cuts, and then we take up departmental requests because

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

April 23, 2026

going all over the place is like...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We did priorities, right? We did that this morning, before lunch, and then we just went into the discussion about the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes...yesterday's process was our cuts, and then departmental requests, but I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: This was my cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is your cut?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: On the department's requests.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see. All right. Okay. Justification. Okay. So Members' priorities, there were 12. We went through that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, Chair, I'm sorry, I still have cuts for OED. I have the ability to do that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I don't...oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perhaps we can start at the top again and then go salary A...Account A, Account B, and the Mayor's Office, and then go down the budget bill.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's what I'm trying to do, okay? So let me just proceed, then. Administration program budget Bill 55, page 14, are there any cuts or amendments to A or B? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: B.12.a.(1), Category A, I move to decrease the appropriation by \$120,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Sinenci. Any discussion. Category A.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This decrease is based on historical carryover. And historically, regardless of who is in the Mayor, during an election year, they have a hard time to fill political appointee vacancies because of the uncertainty, so that's why I'm proposing a

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

April 23, 2026

\$120,000 cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? Seeing none, all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Oh, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Actually, yeah, I do have a discussion. I guess I'm supportive. Is there any...so when I did my review of the Mayor's budget, I didn't go by funds, I just looked at the department as a whole. Can I ask Member Paltin if she's proposing cuts to other one?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. My Category C and D, or small c, small d, cuts are going to be a little bit less because I've been informed that they have or are hiring grants people, and, you know, with all the grants we just added, I don't want to slow down the disbursement of the money that we put in to be disbursed.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So I'm decreasing those as indicated in my original, but those are my next motions because we're going by...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: By category, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: By category.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So you're proposing to decrease...sorry, can you repeat the motion again?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For this category, small a, I'm proposing \$120,000 decrease.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So from the admin program. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: From the admin program. And then I'll lessen my grants and economic development decrease.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But the totals that you had previously indicated, like, the totality of it all, is going to remain the same?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think I'm going to do the grants, \$20,000 decrease in economic development, and a \$20,000 decrease in light of that they're interviewing. And all the money that we put in for them to disburse, we need to make sure that they have the staff to disburse them.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But for this motion is \$120,000.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. I guess I just hadn't broken down my evaluation of the

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

April 23, 2026

Mayor's office into specific funds. I guess I'll speak now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Discussion.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. So when I saw the proposed increases for salary and wages for the Office and the Mayor as a whole, I think I was a little surprised. They're asking for a roughly 12 percent increase in salaries and wages but not asking for a single additional employee. And I thought that was a little excessive, especially when they're proposing to give four of those employees director-level salaries. And I think it still feels disingenuous to me that the explanation for those largest increases was pay parity between the civil servants and political appointees. I do want to say that I think that there are legitimate reasons for paying our appointees more than those who have civil service protection. And I do think that the Office is doing good work, but roughly 12 percent increase is a little steep. And that's roughly four times what, you know, some of our first responders just got. So if my back-of-the-napkin math is correct, from what Member Paltin just said, you know, that would still give the Office of the Mayor roughly double what some of our first responders got. I feel like that's fairer. And so, I will be supportive of this motion and the next few that she indicated are coming. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess for my second and final, if you average it out, because I think SHOPO got, like, a five percent or something more, which I don't know why.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Different.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They're treating our...I think that all of our first responders, even Emergency Service Dispatch and Ocean Safety, who I consider all first responders, should be treated all similarly. But just pointing that out, not all the first responders got junk deals.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Any more discussion? Seeing none, all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." This is eight "ayes." One excused. Member Johnson? Yeah. Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. My next one will be in small c paragraph...or sorry, parentheses one, Category A, to decrease that appropriation by \$20,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second is Member Sinenci. Okay. So C category...what did you say, C category?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: A. And I will note that my initial one was 50,000, but I was told that they're interviewing or are in the process of hiring several grants managers. And given all the money we just put in, I would like to get that money out the door. And so, I would like them to hire those folks so that the money can get out the door more expeditiously than they did this year, than it did this year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All in favor?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, did I get a second? Sorry, I missed it. Oh, Member Sinenci. Okay. Any more discussion? Seeing none, all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Eight "ayes." Okay, Member U‘u-Hodgins. One excused.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. In Category A of small d, same section, I move to reduce the appropriation by \$20,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Moved by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. Same discussion as previous motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.” Okay, eight “ayes.” One excused. Motion carries.

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I will yield the floor to my colleagues.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anymore? Okay. Thank you. So any...Member Johnson, are you coming down with?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I have cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: My turn?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, your turn.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you, Chair. So this is in page 15 in the budget bill. Kemper Sports Marketing, LLC for the Maui Invitational. I move to reduce line item by 100,000, for an appropriation of 300,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there a second? Kemper, bottom of page 15 on the budget bill.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, second by Member Paltin. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. \$150,000 is allocated for the women's tournament, and that's an OM-2. Reduction allows for a same amount to be used for the Maui Invitational. Administration may come for a budget amendment if funds are needed. That's my discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I see Director Milner on. You have something to add?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. So \$250,000 of this is for the Men's Maui Invitational, and \$250,000 will continue to be used for the Maui Invitational. So this would reduce the amount available for the Women's Invitational, to \$50,000, which means most likely that event will not occur this year. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right, I'm going to remove that, then.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You withdrawing?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I'll withdraw it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Both withdraw.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I have a second one.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: This is Economic Development, page 15 in the budget. I move to reduce Category B by \$50,000, leaving a total appropriation of \$680,221. If I can get a second, I can explain.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seconded by Member Paltin. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So reduction in 903039B, as in Bravo, dash 6317 County Grant Subsidy Funding for Marketing and Guidelines related to the Makahiki season line item. This is for Marketing Guidelines, \$50,000. Page 15, it's in the...right. There's still 100 grand for Marketing. If Director Milner has anything to add for that, I'd like to hear.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She didn't pop up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. She didn't pop up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes, page 16, number eight. Makahiki has \$850,000. I think 'Ōiwi has another one. That's why, is that why?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. So that's...maybe Director can explain. There's two pots?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I can explain. 'Ōiwi has \$20,000 for employee Makahiki games. Administration has \$850,000 for Makahiki season, that the understanding is will be distributed through grant process. And \$150,000 additional is going to be used for Marketing and Advertisement. So he's proposing to reduce Marketing and Advertisement by \$50,000 so that there's still \$100,000 for Marketing and Advertisement.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great discussion. Member Johnson, are you fine?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. One hundred percent, I'm ready for the question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. We heard from Deputy Director Robinson this morning explaining...and I know it's really hard to put things into words, and I assume that they have kind of a plan, which is why they proposed the budget they did. So I will be voting against this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, roll call. Oh, anybody else have discussion? Seeing none, roll call, please.

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

April 23, 2026

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins, excused. Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoe Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's six "ayes." Two "noes." One excused. Motion passes.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, and Paltin.

NOES: Councilmembers Rawlins-Fernandez and Sinenci.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. For my next trick, I will move to...this is, again, page 16 in the budget bill, parentheses eight, the Makahiki season, and I move to reduce the appropriation by \$250,000 for a remaining total of approximately \$600,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that from Makahiki again?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. And if I can get a second, I can explain.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, seconded by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So Members, I'm going to call a spade a spade. I sometimes feel that this Administration doesn't...is not getting its grant process correct, and there's been a lot of money left on the table, and I feel like this is really...they haven't administered these grants very well, and I think it's biting off more than they can chew. So that is my...I wanted to speak about...the process doesn't seem to be going very well. But I do support...I do support Makahiki as just a matter of can they do it, is my question. And that's my explanation, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is this...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're muted.

MS. MILNER: I didn't realize I hit my mute button, I apologize. Thank you, Chair. Thank you. Yeah. I think Deputy Director Robinson spoke to this pretty well this morning. I think

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

April 23, 2026

we feel this funding is important and important at the level that it's at to really try and launch this with a really strong first year. I think we've had a lot of conversations around our grants and our grant processes, so I don't feel the need to really delve into that right now. We're making a strong effort to standardize and really make it smoother for our grantees. And it's possible some of the applicants for this Makahiki funding will fall into that \$25,000 bucket, but we can have that conversation at another date. I know we don't need to get into the weeds today. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other discussion? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I speak in strong opposition to this motion. This is the first time that they've done this. And anything to uplift some of the culture that's been erased through colonization, I'm going to support. And I'm going to help them to make it successful and not just cut them off at the knees. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other discussion? Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Had Deputy Director not come to testify before us on this line item specifically, I probably would have been open, but it sounds like this is a priority for the Administration, and that they have a plan in place, and I'm comfortable cutting the advertising budget. But I think I would like to leave the programmatic budget in place. You know, we'll see how it goes this year, whether or not they're able to utilize all \$850,000, and then I might be open in the future to adjustments. But I do want Deputy Director to know that I did hear her, and it made a difference. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee...oh, sorry, then Member Cook after.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'll be voting for the motion. I think all of us support the Makahiki program. The thing is...the thing is we know throughout the year, we have an inordinate amount of amendments, and they seem to always have additional funding, extra funding, Carryover/Savings from where, we don't know. And so, there's an abundance of money within the totality of the budget that they can draw up on for this program if needed. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I want to jump in here real quick. I think this budget has been going pretty well in a give-and-take relationship. I don't want to pour salt on anyone. I'm going to withdraw my motion. I don't want the wad (*phonetic*) that we have been having, the harmony that we've been having, so I'm going to withdraw my motion. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And as I mentioned, my reduction moved to reduce Office of the Mayor, Economic Development Program General B account by

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

April 23, 2026

\$50,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And that was the same as the request from the Mayor, it looks like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I think we did it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: They have another one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That was a departmental request, but I thought Member Johnson was going after the Makahiki.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No, the \$50,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, I did.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Was that his? Yeah. That was different, right, from this one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just that...for this \$50,000 is...the motion carried. So the rest is there.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So this is the same?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No. I just withdrew that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He withdrew that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: This is Category B.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The first cut we made when we came back from lunch was the \$50,000 in Economic Development Program. That was...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The Mayor's one?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So we did that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We can't cut it twice because it's already cut.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I do have another cut, though. Well, unless you want to.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wait, let's see. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Well, I did have two conditions from our priorities.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We were waiting for Member U'u-Hodgins to come back. We're going to do it, but --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, I'll wait.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- we want to wait for her to come.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, you have one.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. So this is page 16. Three, Grants and Disbursements for the Visitor Industry, (i), Tourism Management Grant Fund, and I move to reduce appropriation by \$300,000 for a remaining total appropriation of \$150,000, but I'm open to a different number if someone wants to talk.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to up that to \$450,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So leaving \$50,000 in there?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Leaving nothing in there.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Delete it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Well, let's have that talk.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have a second?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: My motion is for \$300,000, but I'd like to hear what the

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

April 23, 2026

members are going to speak on this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. Their management always turns into advertisement, and there's no management. Like, Member Cook and myself live, and probably Member Sinenci live in areas that endure the impacts of the revenue that we enjoy, and there's no managing it. Like, you can give people money, and they can see they're managing it, or they're doing this, and it's going to manage it...it doesn't manage it to the worst of the aggressions that residents encounter with tourism, tourists acting badly. In my opinion, there's no amount of money that you can throw at anything that will mitigate tourists acting badly, and that's not to say that all tourists act badly, but the Tourism Management Fund, I think, is not just to whatever. The problem is the worst of the worst, the tourists that act badly, that don't have respect, that go walk into people's burnt-down lives and do whatever they want, and there's no amount of money that you can throw at that problem that's going to fix it. Either they're going to do the right thing, or they're not going to do the right thing. And so, that's my discussion, is there's a lot of great tourists. There's tourists that are good people. There's tourists that are helpful. There's tourists that volunteer, donate, whatever, and this is not about them. It's about the tourists, mitigating the harmful actions of tourists that Member Sinenci's district, Member Cook's district, and my district see the most, and there's no amount of money that you can throw at that problem that's going to mitigate the worst of the worst, or even the bad because they come here with the entitled attitude of this is America, I can do whatever I want, it's land of the free, and that's me, and I'm going to do what I want. So we're looking for cuts, \$450,000, a lot of money. I'm not impressed with who the money has been given out before and the results. I mean, with the exception of the Engage Summit because that was a specific thing, but as they're disbursed as grants, I'm not impressed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee, and then Member Sinenci. Sorry, I was looking this way.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So we need to be clear on what the motion is.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The motion is, I move to cut \$300,000 of the \$450,000 pot, so we're leaving \$150,000 in there.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So you didn't say that you're open to an amendment from Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I am, but I also want to hear what other Members are saying because as soon as she said cut it, I saw Council Member Cook shake his head no. So again, in the spirit of harmony, come on.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. This is not a harmonious subject, so let's expect, you know, reality here. And my reality is we should leave money in the budget for tourism, education, and information, and promotion, the way it should be promoted. And in

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

April 23, 2026

order to do a good job, a decent...a decent amount of money needs to be left there for that purpose, so that's why I would be voting against your motion and a motion to delete all of it. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I do agree with Chair Lee. But, I mean, I wish some of the money would go to, you know, when you come down the stairs at the Kahului Airport, you know, maybe talk about invasive species, or put some k  n  wai on some how to act when you're as a visitor. You know, but I don't see any. You know, instead I see these huge signs, three stories tall, about the helicopter or something commercial. So I wish the funding would go to more education about our, you know, pristine waters, beaches, freshwater streams, all of these things to be respectful on our island as a visitor, and I know that two of our Councilmembers will be kind of paneling a discussion on this topic. And so, I don't know if zeroing out the entire thing might...or, you know, I don't know how that discussion may go, but I'll leave it up if...thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So I looked up the correspondence from Mayor, and for 2026, it says the funding were awarded to Maui County Visitor Association for Hele Mai Maui, I don't know what that is, and Kolealea Retreat Center of Maui, LLC for resilient community demonstrations and eco tours. So I would be supportive of Member Paltin's proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I think on the floor...I mean, I think it's Member Johnson, right? You have...your motion is for 350?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. \$300,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: \$300,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But, you know, this is a debate. I'd like to hear from some other members as well because I'm willing to move on that number.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan, then Chair Lee. Chair Lee spoke. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I guess this is one where I could use some context. Who does this money normally go to, and what is it normally used for? Yeah. So I guess...but that doesn't have to be the case, right, because a recipient isn't named. So, I mean, I support the idea of tourism management. Each island has a destination management plan, and that doesn't sound like it's being funded through this. You know, I somewhat agree with Member Paltin that the worst of the worst, you know, you're probably not going change their minds. But I do also think that there are people

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

April 23, 2026

who would like to do well here and would just need some guidance. And if the money can be used to help change the minds of those who are a minimal, you know, I think it'd be a worthwhile investment. I just don't have a whole lot of context. I see the Budget Director popping on, and maybe she can speak to some of the questions that I just brought up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. Yes. As you all know, tourism is one of our economic drivers, which is why funding was left in the budget for this, in order for the County to continue to participate in the process. We are completely open to the Councilmembers adding conditional language here to add some legislative intent for the use of the fund, if there are specific directions they would like to see it go. So I just wanted to add that to that conversation. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Who else? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'm okay with cutting \$150,000. I hear from my colleagues, the issue. I think I look in this in more of a positive light, as an opportunity to basically have a voice, the County to have a voice to mitigate some of the problems that my colleague has described. I don't think not funding it at all is going to have any hope of improving our communication and like that. There's always going to be pilau people anywhere and everywhere, rich, poor, here, there, everywhere. It's been really rough the last few years with COVID, the fire, and a variety of things. In my district, that does rely a lot on tourism, and I'm not really engaged with the hotels at all, but restaurants and stores...the messaging can be positive and useful, and I'd like to keep the funding. I agree that this is an area that can be cut. So if you have a \$150,000 cut, I'd be very, very supportive and willing to support it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, if I can respond, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm trying to find that balance that we as a body have, okay, because some of you folks don't want to raise property taxes, and I don't really like cutting programs, but if that's what...you know, I'm not afraid to raise property taxes on the wealthy, on non-owner occupied, on the wealthy, on the folks who don't live here, on the folks with \$3 million homes and higher. I'm there for that, but some folks aren't. But this is where you...I'm trying to meet you where you're at, and if you folks don't want to cut the things that I'm proposing, then I'll see you in property tax time, and that's when we're going to...it ends up...again, I'm trying to have a little harmony. We've been really good.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: You're getting my attention.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, all right. You hear where I'm coming from.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Those are my saying. Chair, you raise your hand, I call on you. Go ahead, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good job, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can be amenable to \$300,000 in the spirit of harmony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I wanted a little bit of history, right? So Visitor Industry, we used to give them millions of dollars at one point and went to the Maui Visitors Bureau [sic], or...not Maui Hotel and Lodging Association, they're an advocacy group. But last year, I think it was 350 or whatever, it went to a wedding organization.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 300 to the . . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that's who got the money, and it's part of their industry. I support the visitor industry because they're our economic driver. As much as people I read about hate it, whatever it is, they are the ones that are bringing in new money and helping our economy. And it's important, right? And I believe that by us giving some money, that we'll have some voice in this to be able to say this is what we want. This is not like what HTA does, or what the State does because they give way more. I know that, and I believe that they have their destination management groups that have gone to, you know, different communities. I've participated in that with MEDB. And it's not perfect, nothing is ever perfect. So I actually don't want to cut anything and leave it as is, but I'll go...you know, we'll vote, and there'll be a roll call vote. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin had her hand up, but I wanted to also flag that Member U'u-Hodgins is online now, if you want to get her disclaimer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. Welcome. Member?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. I'm at my private residence right now, and I have two minors and a cat. Sorry it was a little bit long. I was following a bus home, so my drive took a little bit longer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Welcome. Very good. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. For context of last year, there was \$450,000, and we conditioned \$300,000 of that \$450,000 for the Engage Summit. And to Member Sugimura's context, I think in the past, we've given them, like, \$3 million, \$4 million, \$5 million to the Maui Visitors, and no other County gave that kind of money. I don't know if it's because Mike White was on the Council, he's a general manager of a hotel or what, but no other County gave that kind of money to their Visitors Association. They relied on the overall, overarching one, Hawaii Tourism Authority. When we came on, that was, like, one of the first cuts when I came on, was the \$3 million or however much

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

April 23, 2026

to the Visitors Association. And then COVID hit, and then, like, you know, the State shut down regardless of if you wanted tourists or not because of the COVID situation. And then when the restrictions were lifted because of COVID, or when the COVID restrictions were lifted, we couldn't keep up with the tourists that came in because the rental car industry had shipped off all their cars, workers weren't back at work, and this is all without any promotion money. And when we initially cut the \$3 million amount, we said we'd like to transition from telling...promotion, telling people to come, to educating them and telling them how to be good visitors. And what we were told by the Visitors Association at that time is, no, we don't do that. We only promote, and we tell people to come. And so, I'm going off of what they told me. I don't...I'm not supportive of the way that the money has been spent. I think if we are going to leave \$150,000 in there, I would put it in educational...educational about specifically about what to do during disasters because of all the short-term rental entities that still exist today. And when there is a disaster, they don't have the kind of guidance that a major resort or hotel has, that they end up at our hubs. They end up, like, you know, doing all kinds of wrong things. So if we're leaving any kind of money in there, I think the language should be, like, informational, educational, not just, like, management, but informational and educational. My preference is disaster, but it could be any range of informational and educational. Like, you know, the Hawai'i Pledge, I think is one. We put a lot of that information into the WIR documents, the booklet, the Maui County Pledge and things like that. So that would be my preference. And I can live with a \$300,000 cut, but that's just the background for Member Batangan because he said he didn't know the full history. But they're going to come, they're going to come whether you're ready or not, they're going to come whether whatever, and there's no stopping them.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm going to amend my number, and if folks want to add conditional language on the remaining pot, feel free, in a different motion, I'll be open ears. But I'm going to move to amend my proposal to reduce of \$150,000, leaving \$300,000 in the pot. Can I get a second?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: A second and a friendly amendment, if we can. Conditional language is for education and not enlightenment, but.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Information and education.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Information and education. And it isn't so much for...I just share, it isn't so much for promotion because they're going to be here, it's for the people who come, that there's an opportunity for our voice, our community's voice, to connect with them. And I don't know who or what that is, but that's sort of where I'm coming from...the intent is so that they...somebody with a voice can kind of tune them up to

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

April 23, 2026

behave.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And staff, did you see the friendly language?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's motion made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Cook. And it is...now, you're reducing it, it's \$300,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: \$300,000 remaining in pot with additional conditional language that I hope the staff got. I think the discussion's been long enough on this fund, so I'm here and ready to vote.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair. Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: If Member Cook would be amenable, just as friendly amendments, to also include disaster information, invasive species when traveling, and what else we said, just basic etiquette when visiting our parks and public spaces, something like that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Would the body consider cultural orientation as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: As the maker of the motion, I consider that a friendly amendment, and as long as staff is getting these conditions, I'm here and ready to vote. Let's go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm...oh, go ahead, Member Cook. Okay. So I just want you to know, roll call, I want to keep the 450 intact because I think that it should be way more, but I like all the conditional language. I can tell I'm going to lose, but it is probably going to be what Member Johnson is recommending and all the amendments in terms of the educational and everything, so that's all good, too. Go ahead.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, apologies, just for staff to clarify. So there was originally a motion by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Member Paltin, to reduce the fund by \$300,000, and then there was a motion to amend, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Cook second, to change the amount to reduce to \$150,000, and with friendly amendments to include a condition for funds to be used for information and education, including disaster preparedness, invasive species, etiquette in public spaces and parks, and cultural information or cultural practices.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Excellent.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mr. Krueger, on the disaster preparedness, can you note

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

April 23, 2026

specifically while visiting because, you know, we have a lot of disaster preparedness for residents but kind of targeting it towards, I'd say, more so the short-term rental visitors because the resorts do take care of their visitors during a disaster. They even take care of some of our residents. So if the disaster preparedness portion of the sentence can say targeted towards short-term rental visitors.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got that?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. All right. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote, Councilmember Tom Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Council Member Gabe Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Council...Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoe Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, members.

MS. MONIZ: Okay. Chair, that's eight "ayes." One "no." Motion passes.

VOTE: AYES: Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: Chair Sugimura.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You guys are a tough crowd, man, tough crowd.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, anymore? Yes, Member...

MR. KRUEGER: So Staff interpreted that as a motion to amend a main motion on the floor.
So I think the Committee just needs to vote one more time, apologies.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion, the main motion as amended. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry, what was that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Main motion as amended.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, main motion as amended. So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Any more discussion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we discussed it already.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(Inaudible)* . . . before we make the motion?
Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. She wants to vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Roll call. Yeah. Same, same.

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

April 23, 2026

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote, Councilmember Tom Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U‘u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that’s eight “ayes.” One “no.” Motion passes.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **Chair Sugimura.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, now that Member U‘u-Hodgins is here, at any time we can go into those items that we put off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. I think Member Cook has something.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. I have one more cut in the same one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And is Member Johnson done?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Those are my cuts for Mayor’s Office and OED. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, may I?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have a cut for the Mayor’s Office, If it hasn’t happened already. I might have missed it. Delete \$150,000 County grant subsidy to the PGA for the Sentry Tournament. You already did that? Yeah, because it was canceled, blah, blah, blah. Okay. That’s already deleted.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did it under a departmental request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else, Members? Chair Lee, you have your hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: When we take up Member U‘u-Hodgins’ item, could we take up mine that we tabled yesterday?

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because hers and mine go together.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I think we did yours. Did we do yours before the break, and we're getting the tax map key numbers, or did we not finish it? Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Chair, during our lunch recess, my pro bono Councilmember/attorney helped figure out what we can do for this information. So we actually didn't take a vote. And I know Chair Lee has a priority that we didn't do yet, which I'm happy to take up as well. It's in the revolving funds. But the other stuff, we didn't do either. And I think the residency conditions we didn't do either.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We were waiting for you to come back on that, the residency.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you so much for everybody's patience.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you want to take up yours?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: If possible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Office of the Mayor and you have two. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But I think it begins, unless I missed it when I was driving, with Corp, Counsel --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Contractors.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- giving us some direction. Giving me, rather, some direction. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Corp. Counsel, this is about contracts or grants, right? Is that the discussion?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Yes. I think about...thank you, Chair. I think...specifically about these two conditions, I think the advice is to move the... if the body would like to move forward with this vote, and then I'll do...with additional information, we can provide more advice by first reading.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Member U'u-Hodgins, you're fine with the discussion you had with Corp. Counsel?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes. Again, majority of the conversation was handled through my pro bono attorney. But the information that I was provided is that I can continue as I originally intended, was to give Nā Maka O Māliko and Mālama Hāmākua Maui grants. So if I may, right now, I will make my motion.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: So on page 14, number 12, Office of the Mayor, small a, paragraph three, in Stewardship and Maintenance of County-owned lands, I move to add \$130,000 for two conditions. The first condition reads--no mind the chicken he’s voting in support--up to \$50,000 must be for Nā Maka O Māliko for disposal, recycling, testing, and remediation of environmental contamination, and two, up to \$80,000 must be for Mālama Hāmākua Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member U‘u-Hodgins, second by...was that Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Yeah? Okay. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Both of these community groups, the first, Nā Maka O Māliko, as I described before we went into my first recess before lunch, plan to help bring back Māliko Bay and do a bunch of, as I described earlier, disposal, recycling, and testing, remediation of that area. And Mālama Hāmākua Maui has been doing terrific work, tremendous work, and I hope to continue to support them. And we are going to be doubling what the Mayor had put in there, per their request. They suffered a lot of trespassers, I guess we’re going to call it, during the floods that kind of ruined all the good work they had been doing. So they...I feel so terrible for them, but they got to kind of redo what they’ve been doing, and I would just love to support them as they continue to do all the things they have been doing. Thank you so much, Chair and Members, and thank you for your patience and support.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Wanted to clarify about the motion. Does it include the increase of \$130,000?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes. This time I did remember to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I figured I missed it.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Fully support the good work, all the ‘āina work that our community members, community organizations do, and mahalo to Deputy Corp. Counsel Wrigglesworth for spending her lunch, as well as Mr. Hanano, looking through State statutes and trying to figure out the best way to move forward today. And we decided that having a little more time to make sure everything is good and not just in the hot spot would be best for everybody, and then we’ll have a decision by first reading. So, mahalo, Ms. Wrigglesworth, and mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Anybody else have discussion? Did you get this, James and Kirsten? Okay. So when you first talked about this, Member U‘u-Hodgins,

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

April 23, 2026

you had the whole tax map key, and you were taking it in another category, but now you're very similar to what you had proposed initially, in terms of naming the organizations.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes. So initially, as it reads on our priorities, we put it as a grant, as we had been doing for a very long time. While Nā Maka O Māliko is a new entity and a new grantee, Mālama Hāmākua Maui is not, and they are both on County-owned lands. However, with some changes that we've been doing with our grants, they had opined differently than what we have been doing, in that perhaps County-owned properties may need a RFP and a contract and not necessarily a grant. Over lunch, Member Rawlins-Fernandez and Corporation Counsel kind of, while I sat there and listened, kind of worked out how maybe we can do this better, especially to support the continued work of the people who've already been stewarding the lands. We see this in many places, like Teens on Call, Mālama Hāmākua Maui, like a bunch of places, and it would kind of mess up the flow of things, so we figured out how to make it work. I think that's why we're going to get an opinion from them. When I was making my motion the second time is when I was trying to figure out how we can do the RFP with the contract, but it was a little messy. And so, now we're back to original plan as proposed and doing the grant. I know it's been, like, a big mess, but thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Important discussion. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, and Member U'u-Hodgins won't have to worry about this next budget session because the lease to Mālama Hāmākualoa a should be executed before then. I'm going to manifest that. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ready for vote? Oh, Member Cook. Oh, you're voting. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." So we have nine "ayes." Motion carries. Very good.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay, figured that out. All right. So...oh, Chair Lee, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm going to need the assistance of Member U'u-Hodgins as the Chair of the HLU Committee. She's way more familiar with the project than I am, but although we all took it up together. So the item is up to \$3 million for the Ho'onani Village Mixed-Use Development project for well and water system improvements, infrastructure, and connections. Member U'u-Hodgins?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair, if you don't mind me taking it away now. It's actually \$13 million, but there was a three in there for sure. So I move to, and I'll explain in a bit, on page 52 of the GET tax Fund, GET tax Fund, reduce—don't panic, Lesley—number one, the \$75 million for Central Maui Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility, reduce it by \$9.5 million. And on the page before that, on page 51, in letter F, insert a condition under the Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reserve Fund, which is what we created this fund for, make a condition, up to \$9.5 million must be used for Central Maui Regional Reclamation Facility, RRWWRF Waikapū under the Department of Environmental Management. So copying that first language in one, pasting it in language in F, which leaves, now, \$18,951,919 surplus GET unused tax funds. And I would like to add a number five condition to \$13 million for the Ho'onani Village Mixed-Use Water Development Project for well and water systems improvements, infrastructure, and connections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You said the page, but what document was it again?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, 55.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, Bill 55.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But I see Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's a motion. Is that a motion? If it is, I second it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes. I said I moved to. Thank you, that was a lot of words.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, Director.

MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. So the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund was really created to be an

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

April 23, 2026

emergency fund specifically for sewer. So I just wanted to mention that by using that fund, we're not leaving any funds if an emergency happens down the road. I also do have concerns about using GET. I understand that the intent is to ultimately deed whatever is built over to the County, but when it's initially built, it won't be County. And my understanding, from talking to Deputy Director Landgraf this morning, is that the deeding is, like, three to five years in the future, so I just am not sure this is the right use of the funding. I do know that there are some conversations happening literally right now about Ho'onani Villages, so if I could ask the body's consideration to maybe table this for the moment until I have some more information from the Water Department and can come back to you, I would really appreciate it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. That's okay with me. This will be the second time, and we have a couple days. So no rush but hurry up. But I can wait. That's fine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: If that's okay with the body, of course. And Chair, sorry if I spoke out of turn.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Do you want us to withdraw the motion or table the motion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Withdraw because then it might be a different motion.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I can withdraw.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Then we can continue to move on with other things.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I withdraw the second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then Director will find out more information.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's do the residency area ones now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So is that...oops. The residency area one, I think it's on page...is it 27? Oh, 24.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I believe it's on page 24.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Page 24. Okay. So page 24. Chair Lee is first.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapū.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So are you fine with this?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Mm-hmm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I mean, these are proposals that I have done before. Last year, both to Waikapū Community Association, Ke Kula 'O Pi'ilani, and 'Īao Community Cemetery. So I would have, let's see, about 15,000 not earmarked. I'm leaving that open, and that's why I'm asking for the condition, the residency area, Councilmember must be consulted before any changes or requests for use of the funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Fine.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So that's my proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member, Chair Lee, and seconded by Member Paltin. Any more discussion? I think you said it already.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All in favor?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor, raise your hands and say "aye." Motion carries. That's nine "ayes."

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
 Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next is Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I would also like to add, I move to add the residency area Councilmember must be consulted before any changes or requests for use of funds, and I put \$40,000 for Aloha Amplified for Lights for Lahaina event. I know we talked about an additional \$10,000. I do not need it, and I'm okay with it not being all equal for the Members that need an additional \$10,000. I'm okay with that and that's my motion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second by Chair Lee. Member Paltin, Chair Lee, all in favor, raise your hand. Aye. Member Cook? Yeah. So nine "ayes." Motion carries.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
 Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, Lānaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, since everybody seems to be doing the residency area, Councilmember must be consulted before any changes or requests for these funds. I don't mind putting that in mine as well. Okay. And then everything else is just...I can read it in the record if you like. Up to \$20,000 for Hawaii Bicycle League for Maui Bicycling League. Up to \$30,000 for the Lānaʻi Cat Sanctuary for veterinary service. We still don't have a permanent veterinarian on the island. Up to \$25,000 for Hawaiʻi Farmers Union United for the Lānaʻi chapter. Up to \$40,000 for the Lānaʻi Community Association for Pineapples Festival.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Motion made by Member Johnson, second by Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Any discussion? None. All in favor, please raise your hand and say "aye." All right. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Next, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. If the Budget Director needs consistency of the language so that no one has to guess which residency area requested that verbiage or not, I am fine with that, but I don't wait for them to consult me. I bother them constantly about it, so I'm not worried at all. And there won't be any extra funds because I have it all appropriated. \$20,000 for Molokai Arts Center, Inc., 'Ōiwi Arts, \$30,000—or up to for all of them—Ka Molokai Makahiki, Inc. \$20,000 for Waipilihoa, Inc., dba Ka'āhele Molokai. \$30,000 for Hui Wa'a o Molokai. \$50,000 for Molokai Canoe Club. And that's the 150. And up to \$50,000 for 'Āina Momona under small grants. That's my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second, okay. Member Johnson. So Member Rawlins-Fernandez and Member Johnson made a second. Discussion.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Chair, I have a question. Just because of the way we took this up, do we need to move to increase the funding for the residency area and then change the language for the small grants at the same time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think Member Paltin had a thought.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: We did that already?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We didn't.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I don't think we did.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, we already increased...we already voted on the motion to increase all residency areas to \$150,000 before we took the lunch recess.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin included in her motion to not include the additional \$10,000 for West Maui. So by default, area...all the residency areas have \$150,000 for this fund. And for the small grants, it would be an increase of \$50,000 with a condition of...to 'Āina momona.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Batangan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, South Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members. My Residency Area Funds, A, as we stated, the resident area Councilmember must be consulted before any changes or requests for use of the funds. I have two, up to \$40,000 for Kihei Fourth Friday, up to \$20,000 for Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Wilbert Wah Hutom Post 3850.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook, seconded by Member Paltin. Discussion? All...okay. All in favor? All right. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. For my Residency Area Funds, I would like to condition up to \$65,000 for the Maui Economic Development Board Incorporated, Inc., for the Makawao Rodeo Parade, Makawao Town Celebration, 2026, Halloween Boo Bash 2026, Light the Town Event 2026, and Chinese New Year 2027, as listed on our Residency Area Funds, except I increased it by 10 to accommodate our additional 10. B, up to \$10,000 for Kekaulike High School Foundation for fundraising events. C, up to \$50,000 for Upcountry Strong, Inc. for food distribution events, and D, up to \$25,000 for the Aloha Classic.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U‘u-Hodgins, seconded by Member Paltin. Any more discussion? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Member U‘u-Hodgins, did you have one to put under the small grants?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I was going to move either Aloha Classic or the fundraising events, but that’s okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: The 150 kind of covered all the things. That’s okay. If people do come to me, though, and need grants, I’m going to usher them in the small grants way.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I just wanted to make sure we got it all.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So...oops.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All in favor?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Raise your hand, say “aye.” Nine “ayes.”

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, next. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. I, too, would include the wording, residency area Councilmember must be consulted for any changes or request use of the funds. Up to \$15,000 for the Festivals of Aloha, Inc. for the Hāna events. As you know, our Aloha Festival runs an entire week. Up to \$10,000 for the Hāna Business Council, Inc. Up to \$10,000 for Hāna Canoe Club. Up to \$10,000 for Kīpahulu ‘Ohana, Inc. Up to \$20,000 for Ma Ka Hana Ka ‘Ike Building Program for Mahele Farm. Up to \$10,000 for Nā Moku ‘Aupuni ‘o Ko‘olau Hui. Up to \$15,000 for East Maui Taro Festival, Inc. Up to \$10,000 for Compassionate Animal Resource Everywhere, or CARE, Veterinary Services. Up to \$10,000 for Hāna Farmers Market Kūpuna Bucks Program. Up to \$10,000 for...this one is for Ka‘ahumanu Statue patina coating. We don’t have a vendor. I just put vendor to be announced, but maybe first reading I’ll have the vendor, okay? But I’ll change the language to Ka‘ahumanu Statue Maintenance. And then up to \$10,000 for Ke Ao Hali‘i. And then a condition to the small grants would be up to \$30,000 for Hāna Arts...Cultural and Arts Program. If I get a second.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci, seconded by Member Cook. So the small grants, I think it has to be up to \$25,000, was the category.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, not 50?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think it's 25. Anybody has a correction or?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I don't know, but that was my question when we first started moving stuff over, and I thought it was explained that we did that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll get that clarification. All in favor? So that's nine "ayes," yeah? Okay.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I move to add language stating that the residency area Councilmember must be consulted before any changes or requests for use of the funds and add a condition, up to \$30,000 for Maui Food Technology Center, Inc., for Maui Sunday Market.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second? Okay, Member Batangan, seconded by Chair Lee. Any discussion?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. All in favor say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. Mine is last. So I will be adding that phrase also, and what’s in my pot is \$10,000 for Kekaulike High School Foundation for their annual festival that they have, and up to \$10,000 for Pukalani Community Association for the Pukalani Holiday Fair and Electric Golf Cart Parade; up to \$25,000 for Lokahi Pacific for Maui Chinese New Year’s; up to \$25,000 for Keokea Homestead Farm Lots Association for Keokea Ho’olaule’a. This is because I promised Member Kama would do that. Up to \$15,000 for Youth Sports and School Activities, up to \$10,000 for King Kekaulike High School Music Program, up to \$30,000 for Mālama Kula, and up to \$15,000 for Maui Economic Development Board for engineering, math, automotive programs for Upcountry schools. And I think this...Member U‘u-Hodgins and I share these Upcountry schools, so I’m going to increase this by 10 to take us to 150.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci, second. All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.”

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Members. Okay. Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I have small...or I have language changes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, for these...residency area?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, for the small grants and OED.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Wait, I'll put this away.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry, I thought you were done with it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We're done. We're done with our residency areas. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So this is in regards to the small grants that we were just discussing. It's on page 573 of the proposed budget. Right now, it basically states that funding for grants up to \$25,000. I would move to change that number. So I move for it to state, funding for grants up to \$40,000, just widening the pot because, as you know, the price of everything is going up, and I think we want to make it easier for these small grant guys, and \$40,000 is the number I came up with. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, where are we? I don't see it in the ordinance itself.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. It's on page 573 of the program budget, is where I'm going.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're looking for it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I don't...my understanding was that we don't actually amend the

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

April 23, 2026

program budget, we only amend the ordinance, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, we're working on Bill 55.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Because the narrative doesn't get adopted to law so we don't make amendments to it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So it's on page 15, about...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sixteen.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, page 16 in the budget Bill 55.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So I see small grants as number 12 in the budget bill.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's x-v-i.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for that. So that's my motion, if I can get a second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did Member Johnson...who seconded this to increase it to? Second by Member Sinenci. Okay. So Councilmember Johnson, second by Member Sinenci, so this is now increasing small grants to be 40...up to \$40,000, correct? Not 25.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'm still trying to find where we're at. I see the small grants line item as number 22 on page 15 of the budget ordinance. I don't see anything on 16 under x-v-i.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're 15, 22 (*phonetic*).

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Krueger.

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

April 23, 2026

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies to interject. So the way Staff's interpreting this motion made by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Sinenci, is that number 22, small grants line item, on page 15 of the budget ordinance, we're interpreting it as a condition that it would be...each grant may be up to \$40,000, but would that perhaps satisfy what Council Member Johnson said?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. Please use that as a condition.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And Staff, is that sufficient to accommodate all of the things that we moved over? There wasn't the one that was a \$50,000? It was a 40?

MR. KRUEGER: So Staff does have noted a \$50,000 increase to the pot as well as a condition of up to \$50,000 for 'Āina Momona.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So how does the condition of grants being up to \$40,000 score with the second condition for something being up to \$50,000?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We'll do a reconsideration, and she'll move a 30 and a 20, and take the 50 into her residency area one and problem solved.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Wouldn't it be easier just to make the condition that up to...the small grants can be up to 50?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If that's what the body is up to, or wants to do it up to 50, I'm totally amenable. I'm just trying to make it so that, you know, less paperwork, smoother grants, and able to access these funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I understand the intent, the Administration, with all the grants and the challenges they're having in this special small grants program. I'm not supportive of this because I want to hold them accountable, and I don't want to change their structure and impact what they're doing. And they're trying to keep it small, to keep it simple. So anyway, I feel that we should enable them to do what they're doing and then hold them accountable rather than change their structure. Anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. If I could just give you a little point of information. The small grants process is...you know, two-page grant application is what they're proposing, and I think that's the way for small grants to have...we don't want to have our grantees run through the ringer just to get something that might cost them a lot of money to even apply for, right? Some folks have to get audited and pay for their accounting, and by the time you're paying for all these services to apply for a grant, it's not worth it. So I like the idea of boosting it up a bit, and I like the idea that the Administration has come up with a two-page grant application. So I propose that we

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

April 23, 2026

could increase that. And if the body's thinking 50, then I'm here for it. But my original proposal was for 40. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Corp. Counsel has a...

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to...this would affect all small grants. So then just as the Council knows that there's a lot more money that's going to be at risk, potentially, right, with the small grant program when you up the amount.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I guess...well, okay. The folks that are doing the...I don't want to look at them as like...you know, they're the ones helping us. A lot of the folks who are applying for grants, and nonprofits, they're doing work County should be doing. So I want to make it easier for them. I don't think that there's this nefariousness with our nonprofits. You know, there's a few rotten apples, but that don't spoil the bunch. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How do you feel about 30 grand, Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm not so much hung on the amount. It's the process of making a change to their program that they have all set up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I have a question for Corp. Counsel. How did...I know there was a group meeting. So how did they come across \$25,000? Is there a reason, or?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: So I personally was not there in those meetings, but I know that the amount is lower because the requirements are less strict for these grants. So there's going to be less oversight and less documentation required for this money.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So to go to 30 or 40 or 50, it doesn't matter, then? It's just 25 is what they selected?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Yes, because of the less stringent requirements, then the possibility of the funds being used and may be not for the purpose, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins and Member Batangan, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. If I could just quickly chime in. I'm comfortable leaving it at 25 because they've figured out a process. But I was going to make a motion to cut this amount so we could see what the grants actually...their small grants process looks like. And so, in my head, I kind of figured it out. Like, right now, if we leave it at 25,000, that's 70 small grants, which is a lot. But if...I was hoping to cut it. So if you make it, which I wouldn't support any more than that, then the amount of grants are less, but I think they've come up with that \$25,000 process to expedite it,

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

April 23, 2026

so I'm comfortable leaving it as is. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. After hearing this discussion, I probably would not support the motion on the floor. I was up until we had some dialogue on it and would instead be supportive of the proposal from Member Paltin to move smaller grants over and...instead of the larger one that we had.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I also was an advocate of reducing the size of the...instead of 1.75 million...1,750,000. And this is my point. They're—or my concern—they're lowering these grant amounts to make it easier for the grant...for the people who are striving to get the grants. I don't know how much the paperwork has changed. Like, how are they making the paperwork different for a \$50,000 grant and a \$25,000 grant and still holding accountability and being able to be responsive for it? So, you know, that's one thing I don't understand. And then, as my colleague said, they're going to have all of these...I mean, that's a lot of money and a lot of grants. So if you had \$500,000 at \$25,000 apiece for the smaller grants and that this year, they had the opportunity to actually demonstrate that they have the capacity to simplify this process for the smaller grant applicants, I would be...I'm super supportive. I just don't want to tie up that much money and have it...I'm not sold yet.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I see Director on the call, but I will say that, Members, a lot of our nonprofits, they're coming before us. They tell us the prices are going up. They're telling that the process that the Administration has is not good. You saw the survey that I went and had them fill out. They're not happy with it, and they're doing great work, and I don't want to be a gatekeeper. So that's why I wanted to try to make it a little bit easier for them. But let's hear what Director Milner has to say. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. Yes. I just wanted to provide a little more information around this discussion. We arrived at the amount for the small grants pot by looking at how many grants we've received that are under \$25,000. And we reduced some of our other competitive pots to take out those funds that have been awarded at \$25,000 or less and move them into the small grants pot while also increasing it a bit. So if the body is interested in moving it up to 50, I don't think what's in there is going to be sufficient funding. So I just wanted to add that to the conversation. As has been discussed, this is our pilot year with it. So I'm not saying we wouldn't be open to it at some point. I just feel that we need time to get this process started and see what the workload is at \$25,000 before we double that. Thank you, Chair.

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

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Director, so even at \$30,000, was there, like, a number of ones at 30,000? Or \$25,000 was the average? Like, I mean, not average, but the mode or whatever?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah. We arrived at 25. We were just sort of looking at the significant numbers that we got. But if the body does want to raise it to 30, that seems a little more feasible than 40 or 50. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. And that's the reason why, Budget Director, I wanted to ask you how much money was left over in that account at the end of the...well, it's not quite the end of the year. But is there going to be, you know, savings in that account to where that...so that we know that not all X-numbers were loaned out, you know, the capacity?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. This is a new funding source for Fiscal Year '27, so I don't have a way to provide you with that information at this time. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, it would make sense that if there was leftover money, that means there's room to move the limit to \$30,000, let's say. \$30,000 because prices have gone up, you know, gas prices, all kinds of prices. So at least that would at least cover some of the inflation. So how would we know if that's reasonable, or there's an overage of applicants that they couldn't handle?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. We're happy to provide a report to the Council as Fiscal Year '27 progresses with the status of the fund and the awards given.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm going to amend my number. I move for the language to say funding for grants up to \$30,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: \$30,000. Okay. I withdraw my first motion if the seconder would allow me to withdraw.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Withdraw it. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So I move to change the language in Small Grants, funding for grants up to \$30,000 for County-based.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's my new motion on the floor. Discussion has been a dead horse. I'm ready to move on and vote for this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So now the motion is for \$30,000 and not \$25,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson and Member Paltin made the second? Any more discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Probably roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's a roll call? Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote, Councilmember Tom Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins?

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: No.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excused.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that’s six “ayes.” Two “noes.” One excused. Motion passes.

**VOTE: AYES: Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

NOES: Chair Sugimura and Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Vice-Chair Batangan.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shall we reconsider Molokai’s to put the...oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, because of the presence (*phonetic*) here?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think Member U‘u-Hodgins had an additional cut, and she was absent when we were...I mean, not absent. She was driving in low-frequency areas when we were doing the cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member U‘u-Hodgins, do you have?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sure, Chair. Thank you. I have to just quickly redo my math. So I move to cut \$250,000 on page 15 in Small Grants, leaving \$1,500,000, which would equal about 60 grants of \$30,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there a second?

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second Member U'u-Hodgins [sic] and second by Member Paltin. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. So we all heard that it takes so much effort for our grantees to get their grants, and we have so many issues with it. I'm super supportive of our grantees. And as I was explaining, like Mālama Hāmākua Maui, after years and years and years, still have difficulties getting their grants. And I'm excited that they're creating a new process, except I want them to have a better trial number to figure out this process, and I'm happy to see it expand. But for right now, at least that's what I'm comfortable with, but I'll leave it up to the body, obviously. Thank you. I don't think I need to do any more discussion. We kind of beat that horse earlier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have any discussion? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just that I think our other missing Members should come back before we take this vote, and I wouldn't mind to have a pause for the cause either.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we'll do a recess and not take this vote until everybody comes back.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not trying to vote, I'm trying to discuss. Okay? So I can be supportive of the motion, but I also want to acknowledge what we had discussed earlier, which was moving the funds, our compromise with the Residency Area Funds to move the \$50,000 from Molokai, \$50,000 from Hāna. So if, during the recess, Member U'u-Hodgins can consider 1.6 to accommodate the...yeah, my math is correct, the 100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That's totally fine with me.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I also had a condition of one more grant under the...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. So just the funding right now.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Member Batangan is back.

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

April 23, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry. I heard you guys say my name from when I was in the bathroom. Can you fill me in on what I missed?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We recorded your vote as yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this is Member U‘u-Hodgins’ vote...I mean, her motion. You want to explain, Member U‘u-Hodgins, for...but you know what? Member Cook is not here. We need him here.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Somebody can explain to him when he’s walking in. So I made a motion to decrease the small grants by 250, but in conversation with the other Members, I’m reducing my reduction by 150, making the total...I’m sorry, by 100, making my motion to reduce by 150 in the small grants, leaving it at \$1,600,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So that was the motion, and Member Cook is not here, so we still cannot vote, or is that Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He’s here now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay. Okay. Okay. Oh, good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He’s got ears now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now got ears. So this is small grants, Nohe. Nohe is changing...is proposing for it to be 1.6 million. Yeah. From one...from...yeah. Okay. Everybody’s here. All in favor, okay. Nine “ayes.” All right. Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. We got that done, and you want to take a break, you guys? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, Chair, can I do something real quick before the break? I

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

April 23, 2026

wanted to add one more line item to my district funds for LAPA. You know, LAPA's been really great, and they're asking for \$10,000, and they just sent me an email, and I wanted to accommodate them. You guys know LAPA, the Lānaʻi Performing Arts guys, for my residency? It's just \$10,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I think it'll be a quick...thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You got that? Kirsten and James. Member Sinenci. Oh, you're voting? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Did we even make a second? Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you want to make a second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I did make the second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, second by Member Rawlins-Fernandez. All in favor, say "aye." Nine "ayes."

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
 Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: "Aye," again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: "Aye," again. Okay. We're going to take a break. So it's 3:47, and we'll come back at 3.55. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 3:47 p.m.

RECONVENE: 4:10 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 4:10. We are on the Mayor, Department of the

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

April 23, 2026

Mayor [sic], and Member Sinenci has an amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I move to condition under the Office of the Mayor...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Small grants.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sixteen, on page 16. Actually, it was under small business promotion, but I think I'll switch it to the Small Grants, page 15.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And it was \$30,000 to Kelea, condition \$30,000 to Kelea Foundation. That was the offset to my priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Second, somebody?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, second, and Member Sinenci. Okay, you already explained it. All in favor, raise your hand say "aye". Who is...Member U'u-Hodgins, oh, there. Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries. Very good.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
 Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other amendments to Mayor? Are we done? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll have amendments, but I'll do it on my revisits tomorrow.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's it, then, for Mayor. We are done. There's no CIP, so Appendix A, Part I, Grants Budget Bill, page 42. I guess no amendments, as well as Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues, Economic Development, Cultural Program Revolving Fund, page 51; Emergency Fund, 51; Open Space, Natural Resource, Cultural Reserve [sic], and Scenic Views Preservation Fund, 56. There are no amendments and no Rates and Fees. We are done with Mayor's, okay? Now, it's either Police or Public Works next.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, Director Milner is checking on something for my cuts for Public Works.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So if we could give her the time to do Police now, that would be my preference.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Member Johnson. That's okay because he asked if he could.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I did ask, but I didn't know that we're working on something. Again, to have harmony, I'm willing to, you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we are going to take up Police. Police has one priority, and it is Member Rawlins-Fernandez, grant two, to condition \$30,000 for the Molokai Youth Leadership Program.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, seconded by Member Sinenci. We heard this at the residency area meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, it's Police. What are you talking about?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Molokai Youth Leadership Program.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: \$30,000, Molokai Youth Leadership Program, condition under Administration service, other services, or whatever.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay,

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Chief said, whatever Molokai needs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, all in favor, raise your hand and say "aye." Member U'u-Hodgins, is okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department, anybody else? There's no other priorities, so department cuts or fiscal neutral requests under Granicus 177, reduce the department's CIP Radio System Facility Upgrades bond funding by \$14,860,000, there's an extra zero here, page 24 budget bill, per department request.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Member Paltin and Member Sinenci second. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye". Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Could you repeat that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Reduce the department's...Police, right, CIP Radio System Facility Upgrades, bond funding by \$14 million, 800, whatever the correct number is supposed to be, page 24 budget bill, and it's a department request. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What's the basis for it? I thought that we were supportive of their upgrading their communication network.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I believe because they are not ready for it, yeah? Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: They're not going to be able to execute it soon, is that the deal?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To be, and to...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll defer to the Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. Yes. After the budget was submitted, we had further communication with the Department of Police, and they

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

April 23, 2026

won't be able to utilize this funding in Fiscal Year '27 due to significant damage to the Haleakalā Radio Tower. They've reprioritized, and they really want to focus on that in Fiscal Year '27, and they've informed the Budget Office that for Fiscal Year '27, they need \$600,000 to focus on that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for the clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And the number that they are...it's like 14,000,086, I have zero, zero, 860,000, yeah? Is that what it is? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's what I have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page three, departmental request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Nine "ayes."

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Operating Budget, Administrative Services Program, Budget Bill, page 17, anyone has amendments for A or B? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. In big B, 17, Department of Police, little b, (1), Category A, Investigative Services, I move to decrease the appropriation by \$82,000.16, and if I get a second, I'll explain.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: \$82,016, okay. Second by Member Johnson. Discussion.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Discussion is my original had been to decrease the appropriation by \$848,000, and then I read a little closer and realized that they did not restore my \$800,000 cuts from last year. And so, I just defunded the uncreated position, \$82,016, here. At the appropriate time, though, I was informed by the Budget Director that the associated fringe that was cut last year wasn't restored. So given that the Police Commission asked them not to restore the Council cut from last year, I'm decreasing my cut from \$848,188, I'm going to instead decrease it by \$82,016 because there's already a hundred, 800 something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You got that? Yeah? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Paltin, and second by Member Cook. I think...no, wait, Member Paltin, second by Member Johnson, the same motion (*phonetic*).

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. We were in discussion already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry about that. Okay. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Okay. Motion carries. Nine "ayes."

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And my next motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In Category small c, (1), Category A, I move to decrease the appropriation by \$29,984, and this is expansion, not-yet-created position.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So A account.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: A account.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci. So motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, sorry. I did the discussion, but that amount is \$29,984.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hand. Nine “ayes.” Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And similar discussion...oh, before I make the discussion. Same department, small d, (1), I move to decrease the appropriation by \$48,264.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Decrease \$48,000. Technical support services, right? Bureau.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci, second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And for my discussion on this, they did not restore the cut of \$600,000 from last year. This is mostly expansion position cut that I’m doing, and it’s kind of difficult because they created a new bureau program, organizational development bureau program, so that \$48,000 kind of straddles both, but if the Director wants it in one or the other, I just chose d. But my cut in those two categories is not as significant as I originally had planned because they did not restore the \$600,000 cut from last year. But similarly, I would ask us to look back to the fringe cut from last year because that was not taken out. So when we get to fringe, we might be able to find an extra \$1.4 or something million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you got that to check out when we go to Countywide, okay? Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.” That’ll be nine “ayes.” Motion

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

April 23, 2026

carries.

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For my next, in big B, 17, Department of Police, little b, Investigative Services Bureau Program, (1) category, big B and C, I move to decrease the amount by \$150,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I’m sorry, Member Paltin, now you’re saying to the...all right. You lost me now. Can I ask what page you’re on?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seventeen.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page 17.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Where’s the big B?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It’s B, 17, like A is Council Services --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and the Legislative Branch, and B is the Administrative.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That’s the big B, 17 is the Department, small b is Investigative Services --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and then Category B/C, decrease by \$150,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion? All in favor...oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just they have a lot of vacancies, like, you know, in detectives and like that. And so, I just decrease it by \$150,000, and they can choose how to absorb that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Account B, Category B, B/C.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for the clarification, B/C, B/C, operating and equipment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But so, when you say vacancies, you just mean like the positions that don't need equipment, and the things that B covers?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And whatever in Category B/C they want to decrease by \$150,000, I'm leaving it to their discretion. This category usually has...let's see. In 2024...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I was just asking how it relates to the vacancies because that was what you said, which is why I asked the question. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Just, you know, if they have so many vacancies, do they need that much operational and equipment money is the way I look at it, I guess. And I'm open to budget amendments if I was too aggressive. During the year, I'm open to budget amendments, and I encourage them, if I've been too aggressive, but I work really hard not to be too aggressive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? Seeing none, all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, you have more?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For Police, I don’t have more. And Director Milner just got back to me with the information from Public Works, so I’ll be working on that while you guys do your cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I’ll also listen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. It might be a turn because I wasn’t going to propose a cut. I was going to ask for a condition.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So under 17, Department of Police, E, Organizational Development Bureau Program, I move to add a second condition that reads, up to \$100,000 must be for a four-by-four vehicle dedicated to the critical outreach and response through education program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee seconds, so Member Batangan and Chair Lee second. Proceed.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Members. So this had originally been one of my alternates, but I have free condition slots, so I’d like to move it there. Since Member Paltin helped me find how much Carryover/Savings that they’ve had in equipment over

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

April 23, 2026

the last few years, it was brought to my attention that if the Police Department really wanted to purchase the CORE four-by-four vehicle that Member Kama had been fighting for, they could have, they just hadn't. And so, I'd like to help urge them along to do so by adding the condition but not necessarily adding the funding, you know, since they have it in Carryover, or have historically had it in Carryover. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought that they got a donated four-by-four from Human Concerns. Senior Foundation was to the Fire Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I thought I read in one of the responses that they got a donation truck.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. So a slightly different truck from what they were talking about. That one is an unmarked vehicle. The history behind this is Member Kama and Naomi from the Mayor's Office accompanied a member of the CORE team to a site visit that was not just off the side of the road, but a little further inland. They utilized that donated vehicle, but because it was unmarked, it really freaked out the unsheltered population. They thought there was a raid happening because a uniformed officer came out of an unmarked vehicle. And then they did witness things but had difficulties making an arrest because the vehicle itself wasn't equipped to be able to hold people. So Member Kama had pushed for a dedicated CORE four-by-four vehicle that would allow for the department to do outreach to our unsheltered populations in a way that was a little less traumatic for them and would still allow them to do enforcement as needed. That had been, you know, her intent in the past, and I think they . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Carryover/Savings is probably why it was cut in the past. So I am trying to mitigate that concern by just adding the condition and encouraging the department to move ahead with that purchase.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez and Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'm supportive. My question is regarding where the condition...where your proposal because mine was the only one on the matrix.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, because it was...so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Alternate where? No, I have the alternates. It's not one of the alternates that I received.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. It's because I initially had struck it from...actually, I don't know why it wasn't on that one, but I did make an adjustment to the language that was originally submitted because I didn't put in for the funding. I just put in for the --

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Condition.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- put in for the condition. I don't have the matrix in front of me, but the thing that I had submitted was it would be under item 17, Department of Police, E, Organizational Development Bureau Program, and then a second condition underneath the first for disbursement of salaries.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So you didn't get it in by the deadline?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, I did. I don't know where in the various matrices that we have, but it was originally submitted as my second alternate, and it was for...to add \$100,000. I'm on the fly making it so that it's just a condition rather than adding the money.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Your second alternate.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: My first alternate was the Camp Maluhia Program.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What...okay. So you had two items that overlapped with other Councilmembers? Or how are you using your alternate?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I had a free condition slot. And so, I moved it from an alternate slot to a condition slot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You didn't utilize all your slots?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Correct, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I didn't either, so I will use that move later. Support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'd like to hear from Director Milner. Her camera popped on, and I'm curious if she had something to add.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I don't see her. Director, are you there? There. Hi.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. No, Councilmember Paltin made my point that one of the letters, but it sounds like this would be for a different type of vehicle. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any others? Very good. So we also have Uniform Patrol Service Bureau Program, page 17, Technical Support Services Bureau Program, page 17, Organizational Development Program Budget Bill, page 17. Anybody have any amendments, A or B? None? Next, we have CIP. Members, are there any proposed amendments to Department of Police CIP? Seeing none. Appendix A, Part I, Grants Budget, page 43. Are there any proposed amendments? Seeing none. Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues. As a reminder, this has Alarm System Revolving Fund on page 50. Are there any more amendments, Members? Seeing none. Appendix B, Rates and Fees. There are no proposed rate changes from the Administration, and I guess you don't have any either. Yeah. Okay. Okay. Oh, we finished Police. Hallelujah. Okay, now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is Budget Director ready for Public Works?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: See Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, absolutely, just waiting for a little math from Councilmember Paltin. But she can do math on the fly, so I will defer to the body if they choose to proceed. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. So Chair, we have some priorities for Public Works anyway, so that should give a little more time for math.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Department of Public Works, there are two member priorities. Member Johnson, Residency Area one, to add an additional Public Works Highway Utility Worker for Road Maintenance, Lāna‘i, with eight months funding.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. I move to add one additional E/P for Public Works Highway Utility Worker for Road Maintenance, Lāna‘i, eight months funding including fringe. That's on page 18 of Bill 55.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...Chair Lee is a second. So Member Johnson made the motion, Chair Lee second, one new E/P.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Funding in the matrix was calculated using BC-10 with added fringe, adjusted for eight months. Without fringe for eight months, the total is \$50,472. I welcome the Budget Director and Committee Staff to verify that math and funding will have to be added to the Highway Fund Supplemental Transfer since the Road Maintenance Program is funded by the Highway Fund. Members, Public Works, Lānaʻi, already needs this position under the current workload. With the possible upcoming management of the cemetery and the growth of the city from the affordable housing projects, we don't want to leave them understaffed. This provides great opportunity for someone from Lānaʻi to work for the County. The public...and let me just stop right there. You know, we have the largest employer, which is the hotel, working for the company. A lot of folks don't want to go that route. They want to work for the government. They never are short on applicants when a county position opens up on Lānaʻi. I want to make that point. This provides great...okay. The Public Works Lānaʻi District Supervisor told me that they could actually use two of these workers, but for this year, I'm just asking for one. Thank you, Chair. I ask for your full support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good discussion. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then followed by Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'm supportive. How far along in the description...or is the Department with this E/P because you know how long it takes?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I could ask maybe the director on that because they were saying...the manager for Lānaʻi was like, we need this job yesterday. But I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know, but there's a difference between need and then, like, actually taking the action.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm just seeing if Member Rawlins-Fernandez's question could be if the creation of the position requires a reorganization and union consultation because that significantly adds to the amount of time it takes to create a position, so.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Maybe Director Milner can...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And they also have to do the job description, position description, and that also takes time. So definitely not eight months of funding. Budget Director?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director?

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

April 23, 2026

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. As this wouldn't be a supervisory position, I don't think that it would trigger a reorganization or union consultation. But yes, I just confirmed with the Department it would not. And we do have a lot of highway utility workers, so the position description already exists.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MS. MILNER: But I will defer to the body on how much funding they want to provide. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, you heard there, I think that, you know, they got a lot of workers at the...it's all set up. We just need the money.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Have you spoken to the director, the deputy, that they're willing to put in the work to create the position? I know the Lāna'i supervisor is, but I don't know if he can do it and create the position. So if they're in favor and willing to do the work, I'm supportive.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If you guys recall, I asked the director on the floor, and he said yes. That was...I know he was here before us when he said it. So I didn't get it in writing, but he did say it on the floor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm good to support it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion? Seeing none...oh, sorry, Nohe. Hi Nohe.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hi. Thank you. I'm super happy to support, but just FYI, they had...looks like they had \$1.7 million worth of Carryover/Savings. I'm wondering if they could absorb the \$64,000 because it's...I'm happy to support, but it looks like they had some Carryover. If you want to just create the E/P, looks...I don't know, maybe...Member Paltin's about to speak. She'd know better.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's what I was recalculating my cuts on for, I guess, for discussion on this. Similar to Police, which program was this under, Member?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Public Works' Road, Bridge, and Drainage Maintenance Program, Highway Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In their Road, Bridge, Maintenance and Drainage Highway Fund program [sic], they maintained my \$100,000 cut. Or I don't know if it was mine. Our \$100,000 cut from last year. Similar to Police, I have more cuts, but I did try to offset it by taking that into account. My assumption is that they didn't keep the fringe cut for that, which maybe we can pick up some on that end, but I'll defer to the Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Miller.

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

April 23, 2026

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. I just heard from Public Works, and they are a little shortstaffed in their HR department, so they would feel more comfortable with six months of funding for this position. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Support.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's a friendly amendment for me. I don't mind changing it to six months.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So six months, and any questions? No? Okay. All in favor, say "aye."

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, I guess Staff just needs to know how much the six months funding change would be.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can do that math if you tell me how much you allocated for it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So for eight months, the total was \$50,472. That's without fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: \$37,854?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can try to do it again. You said \$50,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: \$50,472, and I see Director Milner doing the math, so I see the challenge. Let's see if I can win here.

MS. MILNER: I also have \$37,854.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did we vote? All in favor, say "aye." Member Batangan? Yeah. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good. And then, now we have Member Cook. Residency area one, to increase the Countywide Bridges [sic] and Drainage Program, CIP General Fund appropriation for \$1,000,000.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I move to increase appropriation by \$1,000,000 for a total amount of \$5,300,000 under Appendix C and add a new condition to read as follows, \$1,000,000 dollars must be used to continue work related to flood mitigation to support the Kihei Drainage Master Plan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second? Member Sinenci, a second. Discussion. Or was that your discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Pardon?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There's more discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, just asking for everybody's support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand. Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just have a question. Did you discuss this with Public Works and they're supportive?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes. In fact, this is the...well, I'm talking really loud. This is the third year that we've been supporting this, and they've been making really excellent time with their engineer and flooding to map and document all of the areas, so I'm really excited about the...it's very worthwhile.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Supportive. Okay.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What funding?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's funding from the Countywide Drainage General Fund, I, Countywide Bridge and Drainage Program.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, it's General Fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: You said you've been doing this year after year for...no, is there a reason the Department hasn't just put in for this money?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Never mind. I heard Chair Lee sigh, so let's take the vote.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What this is, basically, allocating from their program each year, increasing it for this particular purpose to make sure that the flood mitigation gets worked on, prioritizing it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Answers your question. All in favor, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have one more question --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for Member Cook. So the funding that you put in last year is going to lapse, or, like, what happened to the funding for that? Or is it...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: They used it. They're using it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. That's all. But it says Drainage Master Plan.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's an ongoing process for the Drainage Master Plan.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are we good?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good, we voted. Oh, Member U'u-Hodgins. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Is this on County property, Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes. County property by a County engineer doing a County project.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, no. That's what I figured. Can we put it in GET?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I think GET's for...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Water and Wastewater.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: For Department of Public Works and Environmental Management, so this is...I don't think it's applicable for GET.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For all the other counties, it's applicable, but because Maui jumped on the boat late, they limited us to Water and Wastewater.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We can't do roads.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Not water from the skies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Blame Hokama.

COUNCILMEMBER BATANGAN: I generally do.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, just double-checking. I'm sure you thought of it but just wanted to double, triple-check. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So we voted, we're good, right? All right. The rest of the

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

April 23, 2026

Departments, so Administration, General Fund, Budget Bill on page 18. Anyone have any amendments to A or B? Member Paltin, did you raise your hand? Okay. Here we go.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Buckle up. Okay. In B, Administration Program, 19, Department of Public Works, small b, Engineering Program, I'm going to move to decrease little b, (1), Category A by \$87,669, and if I get a second, I'll explain.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second by Member Batangan. Go ahead. So I did recall that they maintained the cuts from last year of 100 grand. And so, this \$175,339 was me decreasing 100 percent of their FY '27 expansions, but being that they maintained cuts from last year, I gave them half their money back, so instead of 100 percent of the FY '27 expansions being cut, I cut half of that out of the goodness of my heart. And when the time comes, I would like to reinstate the fringe cuts from last year, so that'll give us a little extra, and then the fringe from this \$87,669. So that's my discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good job, good job. Okay, Member...okay. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, just a question. Were these all the positions listed on the list?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: These are half the funding for the...all of the Fiscal Year '27 expansions.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The expansions. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No more discussion. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Moving right along, small c, (1), Category A is a Special Maintenance Program. Similar situation, I'm going to decrease Category A by...I move to decrease Category A by \$155,426.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin made the motion, second by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For my discussion, similar situation, they maintained 100,000 of last year's cuts. And so, I'm decreasing my cut this year by 100,000, and then we can take up the fringe at a later date.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussions? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Moving right along to small f in the same section, (1) Category A. Initially, I was going to cut \$450,000, but this is in a similar situation, so I moved to cut \$350,000, which will be inclusive of fringe, and decrease the Highway Fund, inter-trans...inter-fund...decrease the transfer by \$350,000 total, which would encompass both the position amount and the fringe because they maintained \$100,000 of the cut from Fiscal Year '26. Oh, shoot, that was motion and discussion at the same time. Sorry, it's late.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'll second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Member Paltin, seconded by Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I have a question. This is the Road, Bridge, and Drainage

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

April 23, 2026

Maintenance Program?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Didn't we just do something to this program?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. We added six months of funding for Member Johnson's Lāna'i position.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So we added funding previously, and then now we're cutting but from different positions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just off the top.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For my next one in category small g, (1) of the same area, I move to decrease the amount by \$50,000, inclusive of fringe, and then decrease the transfer from the General Fund to the Highway Fund by \$50,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci, second. Discussion? You did it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And this is...I mean, off the top, however they want to apply it, but my justification or suggestion is because there's been a Land Use and Building Plans Examiner position that is an inactive vacancy, and it's been vacant for over two years.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 23, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I mean, at this point, I'm just going off of trust, but can you explain what the difference in your cuts are when you are doing it inclusive of fringe and when we have to revisit fringe? What's the rationale for taking fringe out of this one now?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because the Department, in these other funds, like Highway Funds, Sewer Fund, Wastewater Fund, they pay the fringe out of the fund.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I see, where are the other ones? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So because I'm decreasing the transfer from the General Fund to the Highway Fund, I'm including the fringe because I want to decrease both sides, and that's of the transfer.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hands, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries. Okay.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm done. I yield the floor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're done? Member Johnson, and then Member Sinenci next.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Okay. So, again, this is in Public Works. This is a cut, a reduction. Department of Public Works B, Government Facilities 1, General Fund Countywide DPW Base Yard Facilities Program, and that's at page 25 of the budget bill. I move to reduce the appropriation by \$550,000 for a remaining total appropriation of \$6,600,000.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you in CIP? No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Page 25. I don't think it's CIP, no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead. I'm sorry, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And if I get a second, I can explain.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I will second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Member...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, is it CIP?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. It is CIP.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Yes. I beg your pardon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Member Batangan is your second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, are you entertaining it at this time, or is Member Johnson withdrawing at this time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I need a second for discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan, did your second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I seconded.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So this is a reduction appropriation by \$550,000 for the remaining of \$6,600,000, and it's the least critical projects for the departments are those in the Countywide DPW Base Yard Facilities, and that's in PW-1. But before we get to which ones, I want to ask Director Milner, does that leave enough for the Molokai Base Yard?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, it does.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Director, can I add?

MS. MILNER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So my understanding was that this was what the Department said was their least...you know, like, their lowest priority project, and if we needed to find

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

April 23, 2026

cuts, this is where we would go. I think the will of the body is to maintain the Moloka'i one, which is why Member Johnson had asked. Can I ask what the allocation for the Moloka'i Base Yard was?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. It was part of the larger overall Countywide. I'll see if the Department has a ballpark number for what specifically. They're saying about 750,000.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you. I guess...and you couldn't hear, but from all the way on the other side of the aisle, Member --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- Sinenci was wondering if there are any Hāna projects included in this fund before we take the vote.

MS. MILNER: Yes. There are Hāna projects included in this fund.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Will the remaining balance be enough for you to continue moving forward with this Hāna Base Yard projects?

MS. MILNER: The Hāna projects will not be cut by this \$550,000.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, after hearing that, I would be amenable to increasing it to \$1.5 million, if the body would like that. But I'm going to...that's where I'm at, is the minus \$550,000, but if Budget Director thinks we could go minus \$1.5 million, I would be doing that, but I'd like to hear from Director Milner.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. No. I don't believe I said \$1.5 million, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MILNER: No. They can live with \$550,000, though.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...okay. They can live with it, and I'm not going to push it, Members. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So this will be a decrease of 550 for CIP. Is there a number that we should reference, or do you guys have it? CBS.

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

April 23, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I think it's on page 25 of the...of the budget bill.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Under G, Department of Public Works, small b, Government Facilities, one, General Fund, one, Countywide DPW Based Yard Facilities Program. Is that correct, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That is correct.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And then the motion on the floor is to reduce by \$550,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Okay. All in favor, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I think Member Paltin cut from the Engineering program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I cut --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You did?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Category A, \$87,669.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I wasn't sure if it included a couple of the cuts that I found. It wasn't on your list, P-32804 and P-32805.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think that was absorbed in the \$100,000 that they maintained from Fiscal Year '26. The cuts we did in Fiscal Year '26, they didn't reinstate \$100,000

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

April 23, 2026

of that. And I'm assuming that's from those positions.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So what I did was just take all the Fiscal Year '27 expansion positions and halved them across the board.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And that was the two of my proposed cuts. And then the other one was P-30...P-27507, the Civil Engineer V.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In Engineering?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: In Engineering?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That was part of the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The same cuts that they didn't reinstate from last year.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And I just went off the list as well, too, so. All right. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you're fine? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Okay. Any other amendments? So we did Highways. Traffic Management, anybody have anything with Traffic Management on page 18? Or Roads, Bridge we did. Highway Administration Program on page 18 also.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I didn't make any cuts from there, but if anyone wants to, I mean...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think Traffic Management is pretty...I mean, they're all important, but yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Critical. Okay. Appendix A, part one, Grants, budget bill on page 44. Or Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenue. The following funds is under this Department. Plan Review, Processing, and Inspection Revolving Fund on page 53. Are there any amendments? Seeing none. Appendix B, Rates and Fees, which is a Ramseyer version on page 37 to 51. Are there any amendments? There's no proposed amendments. Does anybody have any? None? Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. As it relates to Appendix B, Staff just wants to be extra sure that Members do not have any amendments relating to the fuel tax. And then apologies, if we could also throw the motor vehicle weight tax, that's technically a Finance...that's technically a Finance tax, but it's just because the Clerk's office is preparing to...their public hearing notices. So if there are any changes, we need to be aware of it. So we just wanted to confirm with the body there's no changes for either.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fuel tax. He said fuel and what?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, the fuel tax, and then the motor vehicle weight tax. And apologies again, the weight tax is technically a Finance tax, but we forgot to raise that issue earlier in the week.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, no changes. Okay. So we're good.

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, sorry, real quick. I'm trying to find it right now. I don't remember. Is it flat from last year, or did the Administration propose a change?

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, we're just pulling it up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll wait.

MR. KRUEGER: For weight tax, there appear to be no changes. Same for fuel tax.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So no changes.

MR. KRUEGER: No changes from last year. Apologies, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So I got everything, right, for Public Works? Got all the categories.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we're done with Public Works. Okay. Wait, now. Wait, now. I have revisits. I know. We need you. Okay. Okay. We did all that. Revisits. You guys want to take a little break?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, can we revisit legislative branch, big A?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, big A. Okay. I don't have that on this list. What is it? Okay.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, legislative branch in the...Bill 55.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's us. Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All of the legislative branch under A, I move to collapse A, B, and C.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. I thought it was already.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have to do it every year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, every year. Okay. Any discussion? All in favor?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: The Budget Director would like to weigh in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, she wants us to do it for the whole County. Just kidding.

MS. MILNER: No, not kidding. Maybe not this year, but I'd really like the body's consideration for discussion for future fiscal years of eliminating this if we're going to continue eliminating it for the legislative branch. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want same, same? Thank you. Okay. All in favor?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for clarification, are you saying everybody or just the Mayor?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I'm saying everybody.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. We'll consider it heavily.

MS. MILNER: I know that's a bigger conversation. I just wanted to throw it out there. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Popped up at the right time. All in favor, raise your hands and say "aye."

MR. KRUEGER: Chair? Apologies. Just for clarity, so would this...so typically, the language that's included in the budget bill for this is that the appropriations would not be restricted by section seven.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: Does that apply only to Office...to the Council Services Program, or is that intended to also to apply to County Clerk Program and County Auditor Program?

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: He read my mind. All of it, with that language.

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Since I think they're watching while we're doing this, can I move to reinstate the 1.4 percent one and a quarter percent cut for the Clerks? I'm not actually serious. I just know Moana's really mad at me for proposing it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, there's a motion on the floor. You can do it after I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hands and say "aye." So this will be nine "ayes." Okay.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other revisits? I have.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is Member Batangan not going to make his motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I thought he was joking.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I was just joking. I know it really made them mad, so I wanted to go poke them again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So on the revisits, do you want us to go in the alphabetical order, or what's the process? Because I know some people really care about that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this is what I got from Staff, right? I'll just read the headings, and

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

April 23, 2026

then you guys can...let's talk about it. So Office of Council Services is one, Department of Agriculture is another, Department of Fire and Public Safety, Liquor Control, and Department of Management. So this is in alpha order, according to Bill 55.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Did I miss Countywide? Are we taking that up after revisits?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to take up last.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So hold on. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Under Agriculture, I move to condition, on page 2 of the Operating Budget, Section 3.B.1.a.(3).(i), to put, up to \$140,000 must be for Maui Farmer Support Network for the Farmer Navigational Coaching Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's up. Okay. Member Paltin and seconded by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This was a departmental request to reflect miscommunication.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else for...okay. I'm going to go down my list, then. Yeah? Member...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did we vote on that, though?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's vote on it before we move on to something else.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, is this a Granicus item?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Huh? If it's on departmental request, page one, we never did it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I thought we did all of those.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I thought we put her in.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I thought we...I thought Budget Director helped us through the budget request before it was transmitted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. We didn't add it in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think somebody got huffy, and we didn't do it. And so, now

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

April 23, 2026

we're doing it because we're all fed and happy.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I thought Member Johnson did it on Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Tried to...he tried to.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So nine "ayes."

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You know what? I'm going to ask to take a short visit. Let me get this organized to come back at 5:15. Is that all right? Okay. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 5:05 p.m.

RECONVENE: 5:28 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 5:29. And so, I have some revisits, and I would like to propose this. So Department of Ag, Members, I'd like to ask Staff to please confirm the conditional language for the Lānaʻi Food Stimulus Program grant condition.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So we just wanted to raise...when the Committee acted on this, there was talk of kūpuna meaning 55 years old and up. So we just wanted to confirm with the Committee that Staff's under the impression that it means 60 years old and up and ensure the Committee's okay with that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, Chair. And I think the...you know, in addition to changing the age, we do want to take out the term kūpuna because it doesn't mean

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

April 23, 2026

exactly...so I have the word, the language. I can read for you if you'd like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Funds must be used for a grant to implement a food voucher program for Lānaʻi residents. Vouchers must be used for the purchase of locally grown source fresh produce, fruit, edible algae, poi, meat, fish, eggs, and honey with the County Lānaʻi Farmer Markets vendors. Vouchers may be issued with preference given to seniors age 60-plus, children or members of a household with seniors age 60-plus, or children. That's...we took out the term kūpuna, and we said the proper age that MEO uses for what a senior is. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got it.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. Maybe if the Committee could just do a motion and a vote on that real quick, just to confirm.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I move that, to what I just said.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I second that, what he just said.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, seconded by Member Paltin. Any discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The discussed was already discussed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Discussion was already discussed, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. All in favor, raise your hands, say "aye." Chair Lee, and Chair Lee, so that's eight "ayes."

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Lee.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Department of Fire and Public Safety. Members, we are...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have one thing to say.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You can say it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I just wanted to make note that I supported a lot of brand new programs and priorities with the understanding that we would have the white paper at a certain time, and I think we said first reading, but because we're going through revisits now, I wanted to reserve the right to change my vote because I haven't seen the details. Like, I was willing to give folks the benefit of the doubt, but I would need to see the white paper to make my final decision. So I know we're going through corrections today. I want to reserve my right to change my vote if either the white paper doesn't materialize, or I don't agree with it. But we don't...I didn't make that clear at the time, and we're on corrections today and tomorrow, so I don't know what the process is going to be if a white paper doesn't materialize by first reading or how to do that. But this isn't in regards to existing programs because they already know how existing programs are run. It's in regards to brand new programs, about how they disburse their money or what because that's a big component of it. And so, you know, I was willing to say yes at that time and then wait for the details and then make my final decision. So I don't know how to do that, being that we didn't...I don't know if you meant to text me, but you texted me. But...but.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're tired.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But yeah, that's my disclaimer statement on revisits and corrections is I reserve my right to change the vote if the white paper never materializes

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

April 23, 2026

for brand new stuff, or if I don't agree with it. I don't know how we're going to go about it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We hear you. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. The vote that we just took, you know, the motion made by Member Johnson, can I ask that the body re-vote and allow me to abstain?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, I wasn't quick enough to catch that one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to reconsider the last vote.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second, okay. All in favor?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the reconsideration.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So it would...remember...oh, there's Chair Lee. She's...let's see. So that's eight, seven...seven "ayes." Okay, reconsider.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers Cook,
 Johnson, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and
 U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Vice-Chair Batangan.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Lee.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And all those, I vote yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So all in favor for the...what is it?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The change of language.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The Lāna'i Food Stimulus Program. All in favor, say "aye." Okay. We're re-voting, and we're not including Member Batangan. So it would be eight "ayes." One

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

April 23, 2026

excused.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, not excused. He's recused.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, one recused.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, and Councilmembers Cook,
Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci,
U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Vice-Chair Batangan.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Now, Department of Fire and Public Safety, we are revisiting the Fire and Public Safety raises [sic] and...Rates and Fees under Appendix B, for Councilmember Sinenci, your explosive materials fee amendment on page 18.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. We spoke with the Department, and it looks like the \$100 fee is sufficient at this point because it's just...and maybe Corporation Counsel can chime in. But it's just for the holding of the explosives, and Chief said that they're going to come, and I'll leave it to Corporation Counsel to explain.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Corporation Counsel.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you, Chair. So and I actually received this information from Ms. Milner and...Budget Director, but there is...they do plan to do a new permitting program for actual blasting events, which will take more time and can be charged more fees, but they're not quite there yet.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So does this mean, then...

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No change, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No change?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we're withdrawing?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Withdraw.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Next is Department of Liquor Control. Members, I move to amend the Department of Liquor Control's Appendix B, Account 3763 and 3768, to increase the penalty amount to not exceed the sum of \$5,000. I need a second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'll second. But Chair, can you...what page are you on?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this is Appendix B, Account. Oh, let me...let me --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm just checking if we're going in order or jumping around.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This is alpha order.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I had one for Housing, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Liquor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're talking about Liquor. Will you let me finish mine? Or you want to...you want to go?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: You have a motion on the floor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. You have a motion on the floor.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can we finish this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But can you also help me figure out where we're at --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- in Appendix B?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: James or Kirsten.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or what document are you referencing? Because it's not in the departmental request.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, Chair. So this one is a staff-identified discrepancy in the Department of Liquor Control. And apologies, that the Committee did discuss it when it brought up Liquor Control a couple of days ago. But the motion...Staff's records indicate that the Committee corrected one discrepancy relating to missing classes in the Liquor Control fees but not this one. It's just that the law says it can go...it's the max. The penalty's up to 5,000. So we're just making sure to catch that. It's account 3763 under Department of Liquor Control. I believe that's page 24 of the Appendix B, the clean one.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: All right. I'm on the Ramseyer one. So 3763...oh, I see it.

MR. KRUEGER: So it says, shall not exceed the sum of 2,000. So the proposal changed.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: That needs to be amended to 5,000.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes. And I believe, when the Committee did discuss it, the Budget Director confirmed that the change to 5,000, the Department had no issues with that. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I had it in my notes as we did it already. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Mr. Krueger explained these discrepancies. So these discrepancies came from OCS staff as they were listening to all of our motions. So they're bringing up and trying to clean up. That's where this is coming from. Okay. So all in favor...any questions on this? All in favor, raise your hands.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So it was on the 3763, you said?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 3763 and 3768.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Both. Any questions? Okay. All in favor, raise your hands, say "aye." Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. You want to do yours, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure, thank you. Okay. On page 41 of the Operating Budget, Appendix A, part I, 5, a...small a, under Department of Housing, reduce the appropriation for Community Development Block Grant Program by \$269,935.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, seconded by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: This was a departmental request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You got that? Okay. All in? All in?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Before we vote, the Budget Director’s seeking recognition.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. Sorry, I don’t want to delay the proceedings. I just...as you know, when we prepare the budget, we don’t have the official award letter. It was received in the interim, so that’s the reason for this requested adjustment. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We like awards. Oh, grants. All in favor, raise your hand and say “aye.” Okay. Nine “ayes.” Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anything else, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If we can go back to Environmental Management?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, what page?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On page nine of Rates and Fees of the Ramseyer version, I move to add account 3429 for Moloka‘i Landfill Green Waste Disposal Fees, \$40. Add that, add account. I move to add account 3429 for Moloka‘i Landfill Green Waste Disposal Fees, \$40. I guess I’m reading the department request for EM-02 response.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So motion made by Member Paltin, seconded by Member Sinenci. You’re done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think Member U‘u-Hodgins has her hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you. Member Paltin, did you say 3429?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: That one is used for fees and recycling surcharge with a tipping fee surcharge of 11 per ton, but then there’s a Moloka‘i Landfill and Lāna‘i Landfill, which, of course, they don’t have one, and that one is already up, \$40 for Moloka‘i?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think I’m going to need to call a resource in...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Director Milner, because this is a department request.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. I am just confirming from the letter that we transposed the number correctly. Apologies. If you want to take up something else, I'm happy to text Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll withdraw that at this time if Members are okay with it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You can withdraw.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shall I move on to the next one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. On page 35 of Rates and Fees of the Ramseyer version, I move to add all other permits or reviews for which no public hearing is required unless otherwise specified herein, including Special Management Area Assessments for exemptions, minor permits, comma, not including Special Management Area Emergency Permits, period.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm sorry, permits in parentheses, period. If you want to be exact.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I have a question on that one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Is a Special Management Area Emergency Permit like a proper noun? I don't think I've ever heard of one of those.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Proper noun is not my specialty. Math major, math major, not English.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: There's the Emergency Permit right above that one, but they call it the Emergency SMA Permit, at 688.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Budget Director, can I just confirm that the language that we're adding is for an actual permit type?

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

April 23, 2026

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. Yes. This language was provided by the Planning Department, so this is the type of permit that they issue.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ready?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we have your motion and second by Member Johnson. Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I have one more. Are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just the Environmental Management one. And I did receive, Member U'u-Hodgins' Māliko. So I got that white paper, and I'm looking it over. I did also just receive the text that 3429 is the correct, is also a landfill disposal fee, so it's correct. Okay. So shall we go back to that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. On page nine of Rates and Fees of Ramseyer version, add account...I move to add account 3429 for Molokai Landfill Green Waste Disposal Fees, \$40.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second and discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, seconded by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For discussion, this was on page six of the department requests, based on EM-02 response.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, and I have EM-02 response. For account 3433, Molokai Landfill, please explain why Molokai is subject to a \$40 green waste disposal. The \$40 Green Waste Disposal fee is a per-ton fee that commercial haulers pay to Molokai Landfill. The revenue collected for Molokai Landfill Green Waste should be applied to a Solid Waste Fund and be listed under 3429 fees, landfill disposal fee. So it is for commercial only, not residential, and I swear we did this already because I remember asking this question.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair. Maybe. I don't have it in my notes. But my understanding was that we're just adding the account number to the line, not that we're changing the...or adding the...not adding the fee. I think we're just adding the account number to the line.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. And so, that's what I said because it was 3433, and they're asking to change it to 3429. And I remember asking Budget Director about the green waste fee because we don't pay a fee as residents, and she clarified that it's for commercial.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did we do it already?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would you like to add?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, no. I mean, they know what they're doing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oops.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm ready to vote. Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else? We’re done? Okay. Department of Management Chair Lee [sic] Revolving Fund, number one, is to add a new condition for up to 13 million for Ho‘onani Village mixed-use development for well and water system improvements under the general excise tax.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. My colleague, Member U‘u-Hodgins, will discuss that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Tag team.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I think right now we’re still trying to work it out with Budget Director, so if you don’t mind giving me a moment, we’re figuring out specific language, or maybe she can magically appear again, and she can tell you we spoke during one of the recesses. So we’re going to...give me a moment, please, if you don’t mind, to figure it out. But she can confirm.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did receive, Member U‘u-Hodgins’, Nā Maka O Māliko E Ho‘i i ka Nani to Māliko white paper.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Member U‘u-Hodgins...do you all want a break for dinner? Then you can come back to this. Are you almost done, Member U‘u-Hodgins? You’re in consultation.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I’m...for this one, I’m okay with the...with what I’m trying to propose.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I still need a minute, I’ll be honest, to convince Budget Director that I’m correct. Okay. So I’m not too sure if that’s going to happen over dinner, or if I’m going to need a little bit.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I was not able to connect with the Director of the Board of Ethics. I have...honestly, I don't understand the proposal, but I don't know if I'm conflicted or not. It sounds like this is a project on the same TMK as the Maui MEO Transportation Base Yard, based on representations from Mr. Ueoka. It should not. But, like, I don't know, and I would rather just be safe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. It's okay. So you'll recuse.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins, what would you like to do? Take a dinner?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I would like Budget Director to tell me I'm correct, but I don't think I'm going to get that. So I'm willing to talk stories with her. Is this the last thing we're going to do for today?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Then would you mind if we discuss this maybe tomorrow?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: If that's okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. It's okay?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: If that's all right with everyone, I would appreciate it. I know this is, like, the 15th time I've done this, but I would appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So revisit tomorrow. Okay. That's good. Then, just so you know, we're going to take a dinner break. General budget provisions and the additional bills that we have to talk about. So it is now 6...I'm sorry. 5:50 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you want me to finish my residency area conditions before we break? I'm just going to read it, and then I already emailed it to Committee. Okay. Residency area condition, 20,000 Molokai Arts for 'Ōiwi Arts; 60,000 for 'Āina Momona; 20,000, Waipilihoa Inc., dba Ka'ahele Molokai; 50,000 for Molokai Canoe Club, under small grants, now that we increased it to 30,000. 30,000 for Hui Wa'a o Molokai. 20,000 Nā Mea Li'i. And Staff, I just emailed it to them so that they have the exact language.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. That's your motion. Is there a second? Second is Member Johnson. Any more discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hands and say "aye."

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. So all the residency area meetings [sic] are done, yeah? Okay. Okay. We're still fussing with it. All right. So I'm going to take a dinner break, and can we come back, like, at 6:50?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: 6:50?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 6:50. It's 5.51. So, one hour. And we have dinner, our Office bought dinner, which is arriving at 6:00. So then we'll come back to do general budget provisions and additional legislative...or additional bills, and then Countywide, which is a biggie, right? All right. Members, so we are coming back at 6:50. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: **5:51 p.m.**

RECONVENE: **7:09 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back, everybody. It is now 7:09, and this is the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. I am going to start with a revisit. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I propose up to \$500,000 to be used for the design and permitting of a private wastewater treatment facility to serve a portion of Wailuku [sic] Country Town.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The justification of the need is with the uncertainty of the Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility's completion in 2030. This would allow the project to continue and move forward. I just want to share with my colleagues that the...so that's my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, somebody seconded. Member Batangan. Okay. Proceed. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Wailuku Country Town, none of the project can really proceed forward until there's a kind of a solidified...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Point of information, are you talking about Waikapū Country Town?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. I thought it was, like, some other project I'd never heard of. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, Wailuku Country Town.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Waikapū.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm sorry. I apologize. I'm tired. Okay. Thank you very much for your patience.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Main thing I know what you're talking about.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, it's important. Waikapū Country Town, and basically the school, the affordable housing, all of the different...the entire new project, and the wastewater plant was supposed to be done in '27, '29, now it's '30, and it's maybe '31. So this \$500,000 is the developer group wanting to do design and permitting, which would be working with the government.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...oh, yes.

MS. SZABO: Thank you, Chair. I apologize for interrupting. We were hoping we could ask where this appropriation should be placed into the budget bill.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is this an alternate priority?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, it's on page 34 under Special Purpose Revenues. This is...this was slated for the GET Fund, and last night when it was proposed, Budget Director said that this fund cannot be used. And I believe it was, like, for a private wastewater treatment facility, or just it couldn't use that fund.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So what is the difference between what you proposed last night and what you're proposing now?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The difference is I'm asking my colleagues to find out if there's another fund that can be used besides the GET.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And mostly, too, I want people to be aware of this. That's why I'm bringing it up. I'm making it...I would like people to be aware of it. If anybody has any other ideas to facilitate this, I welcome it. So that's...I'm putting it out there in this motion, asking for assistance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What's the total ask, 13?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 500.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: \$500,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. You...if we were to revert our property taxes to last year's property taxes, I think that's 12 million on the table.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir. I don't think it's a matter of funding. It's a mechanism of how do we use County funds for a private project. It wasn't applicable in GE. Maybe Ms. Milner --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Director Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- the Director, can inform us if there's another avenue.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. Is the intent that this would be a grant to Waikapū Country Town for this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MILNER: Okay. So we would put that under maybe, Housing? I'll text Remi.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you guys don't mind, I have a question that I don't understand, if I can ask. I mean, I can ask the question to help me understand what's going on. Is this Wastewater reclamation facility going to be the same as the Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility, or it's something different?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Different.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's going to be a small, private, packaged plant that won't replace the County one. It will enable a portion of the property to be able to be built.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And they can do that for 500,000?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no. This is for design and permitting, so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So it's a private wastewater treatment packing plant for design and permitting, and they think they can do this side plant faster than the Central Maui plant, but we wouldn't own it. And then what happens once the Central Maui plant comes online?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't have all the answers. We could condition...no. We can condition this with questions or whatnot. I've been asked by the developer because they're stressed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Atherton or Ueoka?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, I kind of...just off the top of my head, I think that really pushing for the existing plans to move forward faster would be more...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I think wastewater is really tired of hearing from me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. My...not my table partner, but my neighbor said Housing Fund, I don't know. That's...I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Director?

MS. MILNER: Sorry, Chair. Yes. After more thought, I think this probably makes more sense under DEM, similar to what we did with Mā'alaea Village Association, since it's for a wastewater system.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Sounds good. I'm going to take a quick recess and ask Michelle.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Before you recess, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can Budget Director consider language of a loan? And then we can take a recess so we can all think about that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I do like a loan option.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. That's up to the body.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So there is a mechanism for that.

MS. MILNER: I mean, we have done...I don't know that DEM has, but as you know, Housing has, and I'm sure Corporation Counsel would be happy to work with DEM to execute it as a loan rather than a grant. Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member Cook, are they offering more affordable housing in exchange for assistance on this, or no?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Just checking.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's 7:20, okay. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 7:16 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:25 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. 7:25. We are back in business. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I propose to do a zero-interest loan up to \$500,000 to do the design and permitting for a private wastewater treatment facility to serve a portion of Waikapū Country Town. And I propose to fund that by Department of Parks and Recreation, Countywide Parks and Recreation, General Fund, Countywide Parks, decrease the Department of Parks and Recreation, CIP, CBS, 4581, Countywide Parks Facilities by \$500,000. It's a General Fund account, and that will...they'll still have \$6.8 million in their contingency. So that's my proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second for discussion, but the Budget Director's on the line now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So a motion made by Member Cook, second by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And point of order, Chair. We did already have a motion on the floor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we did, so double duty. Okay. We're good.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Withdraw. I withdraw mine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Tom can withdraw his. Go ahead. Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. So I had a chance to touch base with the Department during the recess, and the last they had heard was that Atherton's team was against having their own treatment plant. The Department has no awareness of this, so I think they're

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

April 23, 2026

just a little confused about where this is coming from because this isn't what they've heard from the project. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Oh, and I'd like to reiterate, I'd really prefer no more cuts from Parks at this point, but I'll just leave that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's coming.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, that's my proposal. I think we've talked about it enough. I don't really know what to do besides...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Propose it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Besides proposing it. We can vote it up and deal with it. We can vote it down, but I want to move on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Budget Director, will you clarify again for me who said they knew nothing about it? Wastewater?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The Director of Environmental Management.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, okay, okay. Okay. And then this is something that Mr.....oh, Coach guys are doing? Mr. Atherton is requesting?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Via Jeff Ueoka, the attorney for their group, they are requesting this because they want to move forward with some of the project.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then Member Paltin's question about how long would this take to build because you said the Central Maui Landfill would be...oh, I just keep saying that. The Central Maui Wastewater Facility would be done...would be operable maybe by 2031. And so, you said how long the project would take?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I've been told two years. The package...it's a different animal, the package plant. I am super supportive of the environmental, the County's Wastewater plant. My preference would be, pedal to the metal, make that happen. The concern is that if it's delayed and delayed and delayed, that project is hemorrhaging, and we need the affordable housing and the school and everything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Now, this package plant is not going to enable all of that to happen, but it would enable some of the housing to occur.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then last question, would Mr. Ueoka and Mr. Atherton be supportive of a zero-interest loan?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I was told yes. I asked.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for your responses.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So since you're kind of the resource, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, maybe a different department, like Housing. What do you think?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, mahalo, Chair Lee. I think the recommendation was to...well, it's Wastewater. Have we funded Wastewater facility construction, design, and permitting under Affordable Housing Fund before?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think we have funded various types of infrastructure for housing projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins has her hand up too. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt. I just didn't want to be forgotten about because I'm the only person online. But it's for, as I understand, in member Cook's language write-up, design and permitting. And as I understand it...and Member Cook can correct me if I'm wrong. But this will help push through the affordable...or the workforce single-family portion of the Waikapū Country Town. And if not, then that's held up until the Central Maui Wastewater Facility Treatment Plan and the whole acronyms that come along with it. They couldn't start that portion. So this will help enable it to move through. And I guess, best-case scenario, the Central Maui facility comes online as planned. But as Member Paltin said, let's not get our hopes up. So I guess this is a contingency plan on their end. And on our end, this is, again, to help the workforce housing come through on a project that has...you know, we've been discussing this project for the better part of, I don't know, 20 something years. I don't know. Member Chair Lee, can probably tell us the origins, how long this project was...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Only 20 years. Only 20.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Only 20 years. Okay. Good. I was graduating high school about that time, so yeah. Anyways, that's my thoughts, but I don't think...I'm okay to just put it in as a line item zero-interest loan, if that's what we're going to do, on page six under the Mā'alaea Treatment Plan, but I wouldn't probably be supporting a cut to Parks at this point, and that's all. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can we put it in with no money, and then when the

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

April 23, 2026

Carryover/Savings starts rolling in, say that it has first dibs? Is that a possibility?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, who do we ask that question to?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Michelle.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or maybe, I know Michelle. Maybe Mr. Hanano, Corp. Counsel?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: I think I would...thank you, Chair. I think I would defer to Budget Director to see if there's ever been something included in the budget that hasn't been funded, is what you're asking?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So my proposal is to put it in the budget with no real money, and when the Carryover/Savings starts rolling in, then you get first dibs. Go ahead, Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I'm not aware of that happening before. I don't know if Director Raatz is still around. He definitely has better historical knowledge than I do. I don't know if there was a way to put in something that takes the form of an urging resolution, if you get my meaning, like no funding, but put a condition that the body urges the Department of Environmental Management, if sufficient Carryover/Saving are available, to prioritize a zero-percent loan for design and permitting of a private wastewater treatment facility to serve a portion of Waikapū Country Town.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's like we share a brain. That's exactly what I was thinking.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Sounds good. All right. Got it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Ditto.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Never done before, sounds like. All right. So Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. To Corporation Counsel's point about putting in a line item with no money in it, I feel like we would have to put, like, a dollar or something, otherwise there's no point to putting a line in the budget. So I guess I would just add that for discussion. But I also really like this train of thought about conditioning Carryover/Savings. I'm not in a good place to be pushing this out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll give you a dollar. I got a dollar.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I do think that we need to amend the motion to...so that the thing can have a line in the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's good. Second on the motion?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So is the proposal to put the line in the budget with a nominal

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

April 23, 2026

amount of money, knowing what it's going to be?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. If that's acceptable, I think we've...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Solved a problem.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's an accomplishment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I just want to make it really clear. We can't condition money we don't have. So I just kind of need to say that for the record. I don't think it's an issue to say, you know, what I said before and add \$500,000 to that, but we can't condition money we don't have. So I just...and it's urging, so we'll do our best, but I just want the body to consider that when they finalize the language. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, I'm enjoying my pretzel, wishing it was something else. I don't have anything to add.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Too funny. Try bitcoin.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I really want to move on. I think that...can we table this? Yeah. That's...I propose that I withdraw my motion for right now, or do I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And revisit.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Withdraw your motion.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. I withdraw my motion. I think everybody will dream about it tonight because we talked about it so much. And before this is over, maybe at the beginning of the week, we'll be able to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, actually, the reason why we probably need to solve it soon is because we're trying to complete all this money stuff so that we can do RPT tomorrow and close this out, have revisits next week, Monday and Tuesday. So if you don't do something then...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Corrections on Monday and Tuesday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, corrections on Monday and Tuesday, right? So, James or Kirsten?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So right now, right, the Committee has one more day for Decisions Week tomorrow. If the Committee is able to complete the general budget provisions and

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

April 23, 2026

its discussion on the other bills today, as well as any other revisits, then all the committee will need to do tomorrow is...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: RPT?

MR. KRUEGER: Yep, is to balance the budget with...by settling on its RPT proposal and making adjustments in case...depending on its RPT proposal. And then once that's complete, then typically the committee recesses till Monday just in case there's any corrections that need to be made.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So do you see any ideas as to where we can do this for half a million dollars? With your years of experience, I think you probably have ideas.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, Chair. I think as Staff, we don't have anything really to offer right now. The only thing that we...I guess our note was, the motion that was on the floor was to put in that condition that the Budget Director said under the Department of Environmental Management Administration Program, but I think that was withdrawn. So I think for the time being, Staff doesn't have anything to offer.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Member Cook, would you be open to withdrawing your motion? And instead...okay, and instead, drafting a reso urging the Administration to create this with the money that we do not yet have but know is coming.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct, Carryover/Savings.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Through Carryover/Savings.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I think that's an appropriate thing. Also, Environmental Management needs to be engaged in it. Okay. Thank you all for your patience.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I wish we found a solution.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We'll move on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because we're going to do a reso and ask the...huh? And ask the Administration to do this, and we can if we found money, but okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Non-owner-occupied, real RPT, there you go. There's other options, this is options you don't want to support.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: That's also true. We don't have to be.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yep.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: We should not be.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's move on. Let's go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I just made a pot in the budget because there's so much fat there. All right. So...next, general budget provisions is what we...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'm sorry, Chair, can I interrupt you for a hot second?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Before we move on, during our dinner recess, I had a minute to talk to Director Milner. And is it okay if, right now, I make a quick change, even though we took, like, 15 recesses for us to get to this point? And I got to walk half of it back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez, thank you so much again in advance for your help with navigating this. And then I realized some of it was right on my end, and some of it wasn't right on my end. So I move, on page 14, when I added in money for...well, I guess I'll do this part, and then I'll move. On page 14, I added in money, \$50,000, for Nā Maka O Māliko in the Office of the Mayor under paragraph three, stewardship and maintenance of County-owned land. So they're actually going to move. So I move to reduce the addition from 130 to \$80,000, leaving Mālama Hāmākua and reducing it by 50. So just reducing it. I won't add anything. And instead...shucks, where did I go? Sorry, one second, I had it here. Okay. And instead, adding a condition to DEM...sorry, baby, I'm in the middle of something. I'm going to have to...can you give me a minute? Oh, here, you can have my pencil. And adding in \$50,000 under Environmental Protection grants for Nā Maka...up to \$50,000 for Nā Maka O Māliko.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? This is about grants or?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Um, I think we also have to move to increase General Fund transfer to EP&S because I took out 50 grand first someplace.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Friendly amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I made that motion.

COUNCILMEMBER U’U-HODGINS: I didn’t have that in my notes, but happy to do whatever makes sense. That’s totally cool. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Friendly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U’U-HODGINS: Super friendly, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got it. All in favor?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. Just to confirm, so the condition under Environmental Protection grants for Nā Maka O Māliko, it has the remaining information to...for Nā Maka o Māliko for disposal, recycling, testing, and remediation of environmental contamination?

COUNCILMEMBER U’U-HODGINS: Yes, please, I just didn’t want to say all of that. But yes, James, you got it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Any more discussion? Yay, solved this. All in favor. That’s nine “ayes.”

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U’u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Congratulations, good teamwork and persistence. So general budget

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

April 23, 2026

provisions, I know that we talked about it in committees. All of you would have gotten a copy of the Ramseyer version that was passed out to everybody. And so, what we would like to do is, Members, on Granicus is 120 with track changes. Document was transmitted to show the changes made in the general budget provisions for Fiscal Year '26-'27. The changes are highlighted in yellow with deleted material in strikethrough text and new material is underlined as usual. Are there any amendments to this? Or I need a motion to accept. Chair Lee? Sure, five-minute recess, so 7:48. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 7:43 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:48 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 7:48. So we're looking at the general budget provisions, and I'd like to make a motion to delete...in the first paragraph where it says General Excise Tax, it's highlighted, which is an add, I want to delete this. I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. And then at the very end of this document, which has, in the last page, within 45 days after the end of each quarter, the Managing Director must submit to the Council a report on all capital improvement projects for which an appropriation has been made. And then what was deleted, I want to add back in. So it's either that highlighted, and it's crossed off, has been made, including for each project, the following, put that back in. Yeah. So everything that's trying to be deleted to add back in.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And then Chair, the other thing about...so you explained that portion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But the other portion, I believe you're asking to delete.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because currently, what they do now, and what they're required to do now is any General Excise Tax revenues collected in excess of the estimated budget is not necessarily transferred directly into the General Excise Tax Fund because they have to come in to us to do an amendment. So they're trying to not have that step.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. So we're trying to put it back in.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So that's the reason for striking that paragraph.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Mr. Hanano, do you have any comments?

MR. HANANO: Chair, I just wanted to clarify that we're talking about the first...as far as the

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

April 23, 2026

first amendment, that was section 15. On page --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great, Special Purpose Revenues.

MR. HANANO: -- 32 and 33 of Bill 55, general budget provisions. And section... I lost my place here. Section 19, sub H, on page 35 for the second amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So do we have the Director online? I think we do. She can comment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. The purpose of this section is absolutely not to avoid coming to the Council for an amendment. If we need to recognize General Excise Tax Funds during the fiscal year, we will come to the Council for an amendment to recognize those funds and appropriate them accordingly. The purpose of this is in the fiscal year process, previously, we recognized General Excise Tax additional revenues collected as part of the General Fund Carryover/Savings and then appropriated them in the transfer to GET and transfer to GET DHHL line items in the Countywide costs. That was a really messy process for the Finance Department and for the Budget Office. This seems cleaner to just recognize it directly in the General Excise Tax Fund without adding all of that unnecessarily. I will say if the body does choose to proceed with this, that is absolutely their choice, but I would...then you will need to make those amendments to the operating budget as well. You will need to increase General Fund Carryover/Savings, and you'll need to increase the transfer of the General Excise Tax Fund and the General Excise Tax Fund Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I'm happy to provide that information to OCS if that's how the body chooses to proceed. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'd like to respond to that. But by striking this paragraph, wouldn't it provide more transparency so we can see what is moved, when it's moved, and why it's moved?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. You see the balance of the General Excise Tax revenues, including any revenues collected in excess when we submit the fiscal year budget every year. And if any revenues need to be recognized outside of that, we would come to you for an amendment in order to be transparent about the availability of those funds.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Well, you know, we have so many amendments throughout the year. So the timing of when monies are available, we have no idea. That's held.

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

April 23, 2026

That money is held. Any extra money is held until you guys are ready to spend it someplace. You know, to me, the more transparency for us and for the public is more preferable. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Paltin, and then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Director Milner, what if we amended the language to say General Excise Tax revenues collected in excess of the estimated budget will be transferred directly into the General Excise Tax Fund or the General Excise Tax Fund Department of Hawaiian Home Lands per the distribution percentages in Chapter 3.100 Maui County Code and a County Communication will be sent immediately notifying the Council when that occurs?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, that's fine. I will just add that we don't usually add those additional revenues to the fund except for if there's a need to utilize them when we come to you for amendment, or when we submit the fiscal year budget. But I'm happy to provide that information, and I can work with Department of Finance when the ACFR's done to submit a separate communication specifically communicating the excess General Excise Tax revenue collected for that fiscal year. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just to follow up, I think it's not only the General Excise Tax revenue. I think that Members are concerned with all of the Carryover/Savings that are available when it is known by the Administration that it becomes available, we would also like to know, I mean, even though we can't propose budget amendments.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. The Administration finds out at the same time as the Council when the annual ACFR's completed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or, I mean, I guess if items that have been budgeted for are no longer needed to kind of want to know when we know, but I'll yield the floor.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'm looking at County Communication 43-26, dated February 11, 2026. It has FY '26 original estimate, FY '26 amended estimate, collected to date, budget over or under, percentage collected. We get this quarterly report. It tells us how much has been collected. If you want to know, it's already required. I'm looking at it. It says GET projected 70 million, amended 70 million, collected to date \$43,883,734. Budget over or under, it's under \$26,116,266. We've collected 63 percent of what we estimated to collect. You want the information, it's right there already. I don't understand. Like, I support, like, making it easier, more streamlined, and less work for our departments. I mean, be more efficient, right? That's what we want all of us to do, right? So I don't support the motion. I support the second part of the motion if you want to split it, but I don't support striking GET, that section, because it's very clear to me what is trying to be achieved, and we already have the information that you want. And what was said is like, this would still require a budget

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

April 23, 2026

amendment. This is not removing the requirement of a budget amendment. We would still have to do that. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Chair and Members, it's 8:00, and it's getting late, and this kind of stuff, not only is it complicated, it's contentious, and I don't feel like this is very...we're not working on our A game right now when we're this late, and I got a lot of Panda Express in my belly, I'm kind of sleepy, and I'm kind of slow. So I'm curious, are we going to end at 9:00? Because I don't think we're going to get to where we want to go by nine. So if we're not, I might just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't leave.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- leave --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't leave.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- and see you tomorrow because what's...we're not going to go all day tomorrow. Tomorrow's a brand new day, fresh start, new beginnings. I don't mind leaving this on the table till tomorrow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We will.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Why do we got to go till 9:00?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We will. So I withdraw, whoever's second, withdraw. We can talk about this later. We have, more importantly, the Countywide, and then we have the additional bills, which we can pass. So...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: For my bills, I'm not looking to pass tonight. I'm looking for discussion, which is, again...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't waste your time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just want to do it with a sharp mind and sharp tongue.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So if we talk about this, the bills, tomorrow, are you guys fine?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have one bill I would like to work on tonight.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Work on tonight, so pass tonight?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We don't have to pass, just discuss. We don't have to pass, just discuss. Go ahead, Member Paltin.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to amend a bill for an ordinance amending Section 3.38.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What bill is it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's...let me look.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bill 61, 62, 63, 64, 66 is Gabe, and 67 is Gabe's, he's going to pass on that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Did we skip Countywide?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Countywide is last.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's Bill 63.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to amend Bill 63 to say, "A Bill For An Ordinance Amending Sections 3.38.010 and 3.38.020 Maui County Code on Renaming the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund and Using the Fund to Expand the Lahaina Royal Complex Area" as opposed to "Royal Lahaina Complex Area."

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Made by Member Paltin, seconded by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This change in bill title was recommended or requested by Corporation Counsel.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. All in favor...any discussion? All in favor say "aye." Motion carries. So Bill 63 is amended.

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

April 23, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussions on the bills? Seeing none. Okay. We can continue with that. The last thing is the important thing, Member Paltin, which is the Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I had some bills.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I thought you said you’re not going to take it up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Take it up. Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He just wants to discuss the bill.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just want to discuss the bill.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, go.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Bills.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And not make a motion.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And not make a motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That’s what we’re doing for all. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. So members, there’s Bill 66 and Bill 67. Both bills essentially do the same thing. They set aside 20 percent of our County Transient Accommodation Tax to fund actions and strategies that support the County’s Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, the CARP. Bill 66 creates a separate Climate action

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

April 23, 2026

Resiliency Revolving Fund for these revenues. And Bill 67 funnels the revenues into the existing Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund. And I'm totally open to the body's preference. I will note that Director Milner, last week, said for tracking purposes, a new revolving fund, which is Bill 66, might be cleaner and easier. My intent is that this would not impact FY '27 budget, but it would be implemented for the FY '28 budget, proposed...budget proposal. So by passing this sooner rather than later, the Mayor can plan for this while doing the budget outreach for FY '28. Establishing a fee-based program for visitors to Maui...a fee-based program for visitors to Maui County so the fee can support climate action and resiliency programs is an action identified in the Climate Action Resiliency Plan, which I'll remind you members is officially codified under Maui County Code in Chapter 20.44. This Chapter also requires regular updates to the plan and progress tracking via a dashboard. Establishing dedicated funding tied to a plan and requiring tracking on a publicly accessible dashboard connects the policy dots, improves transparency, and ensures measurable progress and accountability for an issue that is of great importance to our constituents, our climate, environment, and resilience. We're already seeing and discussing the impact to climate change in these chambers, fires, drought, water availability, heat waves, sea level rise, unprecedented storms and floods. How we play our part as a community to mitigate climate change and how we adapt to become more resilient is a matter deserving of our dedicated attention and funding. I often talk about untangling knots of the past, and this, Members, is probably one of the most important knots we can untie to leave a better, safer, more resilient community for our children and future generations. If you look at the current CARP, you can see the range of important projects that can be funded through this new source. We don't want to just make a plan and have no funding tied to the plan. So here's some of those...so some of these that can include the funding. So state-of-the-art composting facilities, waste-to-energy and wastewater reuse projects, complete streets and multimodal transportations. I just recalled Mr. Barbosa up here standing there talking about complete streets and how important it is for folks with disabilities. Curbside waste and recycling pickup projects, construction and demolition waste diversion programs, environmental education, workforce development, internship programs, micro grants to help needy constituent transition to renewable energy, community gardening programs, mental and physical health programs for folks impacted...impacted by climate change disasters. Identifying, managing, and possibly relocating culturally sensitive areas that are at risk due to climate change. Evacuation routes and planning align with areas that are vulnerable due to climate change impacts like flooding, fire, and sea level rise. Storm and cyclone readiness programs, nature-based shoreline solutions, wetland management, ungulate removal and fencing, all of this is tied. This is a long list, Members. In short, we know the visitor industry and transient accommodations have profited in our special climate culture and environment for decades. We know that this has increased traffic and human presence, disrupts our natural ecosystems, and that we, the people who live here and whose livelihoods depend on the land, are left with a bill and negative impacts. They have privatized the gains and socialized the losses. At the end of the day, the TAT is a targeted tax for our tourism industry to offset their impacts. Setting aside a portion of these revenues to implement the CARP ensures our TAT's use is accountable for these purposes. So, Members, these two bills don't affect us this year, but I wanted to kind of show it to you and think about moving forward. This could be a revenue source. And

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

April 23, 2026

there's two paths here on how you want to do it. And that's by discussion and I would hope...I know it's late, but I hope you guys were able to hear some of that and maybe you can lead me on where you want to go with this. But that's my proposal to the body. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good job. Okay, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think that's a good idea, personally, because we're already funding a lot of things that fall in that alignment. And for me, I like the rollout of it, that we don't make a decision. You're not proposing we make a decision during this budget process, just consider it or?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I mean, there's several paths. If someone says, hey, I want this in my Committee, and let's talk about it. If someone says, let's do a Charter amendment, or someone says, let's pass it today, we'll just make it...it happens, it doesn't take effect till next year's budget. Those are all...I'm open to all those.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So for me, my preference was with DEM, taking recycling back to Solid Waste, it a little bit leaves the rest of EP&S dangling in Environmental Management because that's where they ended up at the time when the Charter created them. And then when you look at the EP&S grants and you look at the 'Ōiwi natural resources grants, it's really similar. And 'Ōiwi Resources was created by a Charter, right? And EP&S was created by a Charter, and they're super similar. And so, like, for me, I'd like to smush them together because Wastewater and Solid Waste is full of engineers, and they're just built different, engineers, in the way they think about things and like that. And so, it's like, you got EP&S in here with all these engineers, and it seems like the fit of EP&S would be better in 'Ōiwi Resources because natural resources, environmental protection and sustainability are like, who does it best?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, and that's the original cultures, the host cultures, because, he wa'a he moku, he moku he wa'a. You know, they lived it for how much generations. And so, if we're just having a discussion, that would be, for me, my preference on the path forward is now that Solid Waste has taken up recycling because it fits together. And then you have Wastewater and then you have EP&S. And nothing against the director and deputy of Environmental Management, but I can see Wastewater and Solid Waste. I can see even Wastewater and Water together, but EP&S just feels more of a fit under environmental protection and sustainability, natural culture resources, 'Ōiwi Resources. It feels like a better fit to me. And you can kind of see in the grants that are distributed, we could have put 'Āina Kuko'a in EP&S because they have Maui County wetlands, or we could put in 'Ōiwi Resources because it's a better fit. So my preference on the pathway forward would be to take EP&S that's remaining after recycling goes to Solid Waste, move it under EP&S and then do this to 'Ōiwi Resources, Natural Culture Resources, Environmental Protection and Sustainability. That would be my discussion. Thank you.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, thanks for that discussion, Chair. I'll just respond in one paragraph, one little sentence here. So in Bill 67, it's creating the Sustainable Fund. It has a section in there that says, number two, ensure the sustainable and informed disbursement of such funds through required consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division, the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources and the Department of Agriculture. So in the bill, it says they all have to sit down and sort out where the money should go and talk about it with themselves. So I was hearing where you're coming from, and I think we're trying to do that, you know, not the way as specific as you said, but I was trying to get to the way you were talking about. So just wanted to throw that out there, but.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And I don't mind the consultation with Ag. I just want to take out that step where EP&S is 'Ōiwi Resources , but that's just my two cents.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee, then Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think this is an interesting proposition, but it, of course, lacks the community input. And we need to have more...you know, more participation from the public and many other people besides ourselves. And, you know, we're focused right now on the budget, and this is probably better dealt with in Committee, in another Committee. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Member Johnson, for bringing this proposal forward. Can I ask for those talking points, or what you had read? Admittedly, I'm not at my best right now, and I'd love to be able to review that again with some fresh eyes. If I'm understanding your proposal, or at least the broad strokes of it, it's essentially creating, like, a green fee or, like, a green fund by carving out a piece of the TAT, and I'm open. I just want to let you know that I'm just not in a good place to be making...to be tackling that at the moment. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And so, and that's why Member Johnson is just explaining his bills tonight and not asking anyone to vote on it because it's 8:12 p.m. And just to flag, because I made this mistake in my first year, don't give any other Councilmember your notes if you don't want that to be posted publicly because I did that, and I had, like, some typos and stuff, and then it just was, like, on Granicus for everybody to see all my notes and typos, handwritten stuff. So later on.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Understood. I'll look for the transcript.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. Thank you very much. Oh, sorry, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And yeah, thank you, Member Johnson, for that. I guess going back to the CARP and looking at some of the goals and objectives that we

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

April 23, 2026

set for ourselves prior, just while you were speaking, just thinking about all the discussions we had in the last couple days, Chair. I mean, it seems like Wastewater, all of these projects was kind of taken...was at the top of our discussion. So while we...I think it's a good, pivotal point to...you know, we even had all these scientists, even though, you know, it was above our heads today, this morning. But, you know, they kind of, you know, presented a different idea. And so, I mean, you know, I don't understand it as much as they do, but when you think about moving forward and how we should, you know, like Member Paltin said, maybe rethink our strategies moving forward, maybe this is the time that we should start, you know, actually looking at those goals that we set for ourselves and maybe putting the monies now, investing. A lot of the County workers have shared that they don't want to...after the Kona storms, they don't want to increase. You know, yeah, we can build more houses for ourselves, but actually, we got to start putting our money into the infrastructure first before we even think about increasing the population. And so, they want to focus on infrastructure. And this kind of discussion, we should...I think we should be considering all ideas that are coming to us during this process. So, mahalo for that. It was kind of refreshing a little bit.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, if you imagine all of the Members...or not all, but so many of our priorities, we could use this money. You know, like we were just talking about Councilmember Cook's wastewater plan. This would have helped. This is where you could get that money, right? So a lot of our priorities, a lot of things we've been discussing, where we could scratch our head, where are we going to get this money. We could have gotten it through this, on many of these things. But I just wanted to bring that up. And maybe Charter amendment, here we go, but we'll see what happens. Thank you, members, for the discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't want to add.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, just to add, the Charter amendment would, as Chair Lee said, bring in the public input.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And as well as taking it to Committee. We could allow some discussions there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But thank you Members.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. What an awesome team. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'll try and be brief because I know everybody's tired. Interesting what you're saying, and stoked. I just wanted to kind of weigh in. The engineer this

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

April 23, 2026

morning, the guy, David Whitney, he is...I think he represents...I don't know him well, but I've talked to him before. He represents...there's a new breed of young, progressive engineers bringing...blending old and new. Something that I'm super passionate about is the opportunities with South Maui for flood mitigation, where instead of just, like, building channels, having detention basins, having reservoirs and ponds and regenerative agriculture and regenerative solutions, and not simply thinking that you're just stopping the water, but you're utilizing the water and the topsoil and everything. So I just...blending the old and the new together, and the whole thing with algae and da-da-da-da-da.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I think it's interesting. I'd like to continue to work on it. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So thank you very much. I'm going to put all these bills aside. Is that okay, James and Kirsten? I want to get to the Countywide. So this is the last thing we're going to do tonight. So we have...on pages eight and nine of Bill 55, we have one member priority, and this is mine, is to move to increase fringe benefits by \$750,000 and to insert a new condition to read as follows, up to \$750,000 must be for Bargaining Unit 11, Bargaining Unit for their supplemental agreement for additional cost items. That's my motion. I think we also wanted to include the bargaining unit for the lifeguards. I don't know what their bargaining unit was.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, before you guys get into discussion, I'm going to recuse myself.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's right. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can I ask for advice? I can turn off my camera. I don't know what to do while I'm online.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you want to vote on the lifeguard one, though?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, can you tell us what their bargaining unit is?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can I?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's Bargaining Unit 15, and the cut I previously made with fringe should be \$247,545, so I took that from their A Account to move it to Countywide fringe with Member Sugimura's for Bargaining Unit 15. So I don't know if you want to do that first, or us to call you when we get to that part.

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can we just put it in one motion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, because she has to recuse herself.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. I see what you're saying. We can do it separately.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Well, Member Sugimura just made hers, so I'll just...why don't you folks do that one first? Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So on this, the planned offset is to reduce Countywide Parks facilities by 750,000. Countywide Parks facilities is CBS-4581, page 23 of the budget bill, and page eight...no, I'm sorry, page 933 of the program budget. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, isn't that the fund that we keep raiding? Isn't that the one they keep asking us not to keep digging into?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I need a second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'll give you the...yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So myself and me by Member Batangan, for a second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Your motion includes both?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. It's going to be just one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, just....

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bargaining Unit 11.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, not the offset.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: By both, I think she meant the add and subtract.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm thinking...well, what I'm telling you is what my offset is for Countywide Parks' facilities.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can you please say your motion again?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I move to reduce fringe benefit by 750,000 and to insert a new condition to read as follows, up to 750 must be for Bargaining Unit 11, for Bargaining Unit Supplemental Agreement for additional cost items.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You said reduce. You mean increase?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This is to increase fringe benefits.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, not reduce.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You said reduce.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second by Member Batangan. Discussion. So this is for...as you know, we passed the bargaining unit at the last Council meeting. We approved it, the resolution, and in anticipation of the day that all the contracts are done and our firefighters then can have received a supplemental agreement, which only the Mayor can do, we cannot do, so we couldn't change that agreement. I just wanted to prepare us so that we have money in the budget so that the firefighters can have this. That was my intention. Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. I've discussed this with the Managing Director, and we feel we have sufficient funds in the budget already. We're not opposed if the Council would like to add this. I just wanted to state that for the record and also reiterate, please don't cut Parks anymore. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So the bargaining unit...Director, can you come back? Okay. All right. So for Bargaining Unit 11, we wanted to put this money in for if a case that day comes. So you're saying you have enough money for this as well as whatever is decided for the contract?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. We feel we have enough funds in this account to cover that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Including for the lifeguards?

MS. MILNER: Yes, including Ocean Safety.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, Members. Your call. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So you read the offset as if that was something that was going to actually offset this. It's not. So this would actually be an add, and then you would have to figure out tomorrow where to increase property taxes to cover the \$750,000. So since Budget Director said they have planned for it, I'm okay with letting them cover that. Otherwise, tomorrow, I guess you're going to be supporting some of the increases to RPT, huh?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Can the Budget Director explain...is it possible

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

April 23, 2026

to explain how they plan to supplement firefighter and Ocean Safety both under Maui Fire Department, Department of Fire and Public Safety, what the supplemental agreement would look like so that we...I guess, you know, the thing I don't want to happen because I get stopped at Costco gas station is they're like, oh yeah, the supplemental agreement was junk and whatever. So, like, can you share how it's structured, or you cannot share because Ocean Safety didn't get their contract yet or how does that work?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. No, because negotiations are ongoing, I can't really share right now. I can just tell you that talks are happening between several various parties. And as we have more information, we will share that with the body when we're able. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the negotiations that are ongoing are for Bargaining Unit 15, that you're referring to?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, because I believe Ocean Safety hasn't concluded their agreement yet, we can't enter into supplemental negotiations until that's complete.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Until everybody is power with their negotiation. But from what I understood from the sixth floor is it stalled, Bargaining Unit 15 stalled. So how does it un-stall?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I believe DPS and Admin are working on that together to try and move things forward, but I will have to defer to them on the current status of anything, any discussions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And your plan with the money that you have set aside, on your opinion, you think that the Fire Department will be happy with it, based on historical...what they usually get kind of raises, not like Unit 3 kind of raises.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. We believe we've included sufficient funding to account for the current binding arbitration as well as any supplemental agreements that have currently been discussed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The ones that currently have been discussed, who have you been discussing them with? Anyone from the Fire Department?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I will have to defer to Managing Director and the Director of DPS as to who they've been discussing them with.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would it be okay for any of the eight of us to talk with them offline, confidentially, like executive session one-on-one?

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

April 23, 2026

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I'm sure they'd be happy to take your call. I don't know what they're currently allowed to discuss, even private one-on-one, so I'll have to let them make that decision once they speak to you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Who's the person that we should call, that they would take our call? Josiah?

MS. MILNER: Managing Director's always happy to take your call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And he's standing next to Leslie, smiling.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Everybody's really happy to take my call, but is that the correct person?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes. I'd start with Managing Director, and if he thinks you need to talk to someone else, he'll let you know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I'm ready to move on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I got my answer. So I want to move to increase fringe benefits by 750,000 and to insert a new condition to read as follows—which I've already read—up to 750 must be for Bargaining Unit 11, Bargaining Unit Supplemental Agreement for additional costs. And I got my answer. They don't need any money, right, because they already have it covered. But I want this in there so that at the time when the bargaining units are...contract is finalized, that our firefighters are going to have money in there for the supplemental agreement.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. Don't do that because up to your capping it at 750. What if...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For supplemental agreement?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. What if what they have in the plans is more?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Then they can give them more.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You said up to.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that's not the definition of up to.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I said I move to increase fringe benefits by 750,000 and to insert a new condition to read as follows, up to 750,000 must be for Bargaining Unit 11.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No more than.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe you should consider "at least."

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: "Up to" means "no more than \$750,000."

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or how about...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's a ceiling, not a floor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: "At least."

CHAIR SUGIMURA: "At least," okay? How about "at least?" I like that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can we condition that if we're not a party to the negotiations?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, at some point when that happens --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I don't know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- they're going to have to come back to the budget bill to get money.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Tell her, Kauano.

COUNCILMEMBER BATANGAN: No, no, no, no, Budget Director. She has more brain cells than I do right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, here comes Michelle.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. No promises on that. Yes. As you'll remember, I believe it was last...this fiscal year, we had a condition in there for hazard payments for the Fire Department, and the ultimate payment ended up being higher, so we had to come in for a budget amendment to change that. I will defer to OCS and Corporation Counsel. I don't believe we've had an "at least" condition before. I will say, for purposes of our financial system, we will still only put the amount listed in there but maybe having that at-last language in there will give us the flexibility to tap on other index codes. The other option is to not put a dollar amount and just say...you know, to say, you know, to say funding must be used...if supplemental agreements are reached with the HFFA and Ocean Safety Bargaining Units, funds must be used to support those agreements.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if I had a union, I'd like to call my union rep and go home. I don't know how fruitful this discussion is going.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And I would really like to just end --

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

April 23, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go home.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- the whole meeting and go home.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do we have any more Countywide costs?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I have a Countywide cut in the Emergency Fund, but that's...I can wait till tomorrow. I'm in no rush.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think you're trying to finalize the budget tonight, right, James and Kirsten?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we'll balance up to the point that we can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: And we'll just...whatever remains, if anything remains undone, we'll just ask for the Committee's grace in needing just a bit of time to ensure we rebalance if needed.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I can be really fast if the Members can be really fast. I'll talk a little bit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So we're in the Emergency Fund, Countywide Special Purpose. I move to reduce Emergency Fund by \$2,400,000 and transfer it to the EP&S fund. That's on page 51 of the budget bill, 55.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for the second. This is for the funding of the Nāulu Cloud Bridge, and the project will reduce extreme weather events such as drought, flooding, and fire. I think Director Milner suggested that this cut, when I asked her where to find funding, so we can bring up Director Milner, if she likes. Putting money into EP&S funds may help them or will help the Nāulu Cloud Bridge. And once again, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If you look at the number on page 55 of how much we have in the Emergency Fund, I think we could take some of that for future...to help prevent emergencies down the road. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else for discussion? Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I take issue...I don't know how much local projects are going to solve the global issue of climate change. So I do have some angst,

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

April 23, 2026

but I would like to hear. But you mentioning that the Budget Director suggested this cut does make me open to consideration. Can I ask how much is currently in the Emergency Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, it's a big number, \$117 million, Members. And we're talking about \$2.4 million. I mean --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Is that...yeah. Is that inclusive of the money that we've used this year?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We'll ask the Director on that one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. No. I don't believe that is. The body has not made the amendment to reduce the estimated revenues as of 6/30/26. So it would be \$117 million minus \$32 million. That's available.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, maybe we should make that motion sometime tonight because it's an easy one and it's not controversial. \$32 million, we got to subtract.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: From the estimated balance. Yes. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think we should have a more brisk and thorough discussion on Member Johnson's proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're mic button.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Let's talk about his proposal tomorrow.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Maybe we can speak to the Staff and say put that \$2.4 million in parentheses when you're doing the budget, so we don't jam them up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If he's going to withdraw his motion, I would like to make a motion to decrease the total for FY '27 by \$32 million that we already authorized for the Kona Low storms, which would bring the balance to \$85,851,900. If I can get a second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Hold on. I have a motion on the floor. And I'm looking around...you guys want me to withdraw. Okay. I'll withdraw my motion if...who's my seconder?

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

April 23, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'll withdraw my second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. The floor is clear.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I move to reduce the Emergency Fund by \$32 million because we already did that in reality. So the new total would be \$85,851,900.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee's second. I guess we've discussed it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, it's not controversial because we already did it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Can I just confirm that the number is accurate, and that the Budget Director wasn't giving us, like, a rough estimate on how much we had appropriated? It was a clean number.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You can confirm it but not with me because that's what my...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah, yeah, Budget Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. Yes. The bill for an ordinance is up for second reading on May 1st to raise the amount from \$12 million to \$32 million. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Budget Director. I'm happy to support the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor say "aye." Eight "ayes"...no, nine "ayes." Motion passes.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and
 Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVED.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else for Countywide?

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

April 23, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Chair. On page three of the budget ordinance...I'm sorry, of Appendix B, I move to create an idle fee. So at the end of the proposed Rates and Fees for the EV chargers, I'd like to add an idle fee of \$1.00 per minute applied five minutes after charging ends until vehicle leaves charging stall.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wow. Okay. Is there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second, I don't have . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin, for the second. Member Cook, I'll speak closer into the mic, I apologize. So a lot of charging stations have the capability to allow for an idle fee to be assessed. So if you park in the stall and plug in the car, you can stay as long as you're charging, but you cannot continue to stay in the stall after your car is fully charged. So the idle fee would apply \$1.00 per minute starting five minutes after your car is fully charged until you vacate the stall.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would the motion-maker support 15 minutes? Because, you know, what if you're a new mom or with kids or something like that? It always takes longer to drag your kids out of whatever you're doing to move your car. So would you support 10 or 15 minutes?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can we split the difference and go 10?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, friendly amendment.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No. I'm ready to vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What page is that? I was looking at page three of Rates and Fees, and I don't see where you would add that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: At the end of the fees for Countywide EV charging stations.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Page two?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No. It's on three.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page two starts, and then page three at the top, the blue.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. So it's at the end.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It straddles page two and three.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's in blue. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. In my mind right now, we're talking about a billion six budget, and this is very small, and I think we got big fish to fry, and it's kind of micromanagy [sic] for me. I mean, I don't know if that's something that I would want to support.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's not about the money.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. It's about you staying there for 10 minutes, and I mean, life is life, and sometimes, like you say, I'm late 10 minutes, and I'm getting charged...what was the fee? A dollar a minute? Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: A dollar a minute starting after 10 minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. That's too micromanagy for me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, I'm supportive of this. As someone who owns an EV, we charge at home, but this type...our society is learning to basically manage this. We don't have enough charging stations in general, and this, I believe, makes a lot of sense because it's an incentive for people to pay attention and not just be going like, oh, no mind, no mind, I'm shopping, and let's, oh, by the way, let's go have a couple beers, and then we'll come back. And you don't have to wait till your car is 100 percent. If you come out and, like, 95 percent, you're not going to wait, you're going to go. So I think it's a practical, prudent thing, and my brother used to work for the Department of Transportation, I think.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez followed by Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So two things. One, where are you planning to position it because there's the regular speed charger and the fast speed charger, so if it would be both. And then two, where are the...because this is only for County-owned EV charging stations. I know we have one out here at the Service Center. Is that it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: At the community centers. There's one in Kula.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Lahaina Aquatic Center has.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. There's actually lots.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then, so there's an idle fee, but then if you remove the charger, and you're just parked there because you're trying to move them out of the way. That's the point, right? And so, if the charger's not in there, there's not going to be a fee, and they're still...it's not achieving your point.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Then you get a ticket.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Member Sinenci, I didn't see you. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Who gives you the ticket? Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was working on that legislation for years. It felt like I can't even remember if it passed or not. Like, about, like, you know, if you're parking in the EV thing, and you're not actually charging, trying to make it like if you're parking in a differently abled stall, and you're not actually differently abled. But I can't remember if I passed it because it was so, like, extra.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I just wanted to add. Our gas prices went up to eight bucks a gallon in East Maui. I just wanted to...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our gas price went down.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You went down.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sure that's relevant.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Call for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, wait, I speak in support of this because I can totally see a lot of West Maui people. You know, the EV chargers are front row. And I can totally see people wanting to park in the front row and being like, oh, I'm charging, however long it takes to charge and not leave. I'm telling you, choke West Maui people will do that because I live in West Maui, and I see it happen. And it'll...well, I mean, I guess that's not County chargers. That's...but so, Member Batangan, did you say that this is kind of like a standard thing among other place...other kind of chargers? So we're just standardizing the County to be in line with private chargers?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes. It's a standard feature for EV chargers, especially if they're publicly available. It's kind of a tool used to keep them moving along. And you're correct in that there are charging stations all throughout the island. It's not just the two of you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson...oh, sorry. Yes, you're fine. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Council Member Batangan, in your experience in the past in Transportation and all that, isn't there federal grants that build EV chargers for us?

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

April 23, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, there is. There are federal grants that allow for us to have EV charging stations, and then there are regulations in the Code that require an EV charging station at facilities that have a certain amount of stalls.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That's all I'm saying is that that would be something I'd be in support of, is going out and getting that federal monies to build more. But this is micromanaging and punitive. It's not my style of government. I don't like when government does this to our people. I'm not going to support it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee's going to leave. So, yeah, let's take a vote. All in favor.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I think you need a roll call.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Roll call.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Roll call, and then what was the answer to my question about fast charger, regular charger?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I was planning for it just to be underneath the entire section and apply to both. But if you insist, we can take it under both.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So you would have that draft in...oh, I don't care, I'm going to vote against this.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And the regular speed charger.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I don't really...well, I mean, whatever. But I just don't see cops, like, going into parking lots to do this because Chief Pelletier said that they fight crime and not so much monitor EV charging stations. Mahalo, Chair. Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm going to take a...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wait, I just wanted to clarify. Like, what part don't you...cops are involved in the...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Member Cook told me that you get a ticket if you don't put the charger in your charger thing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah. So the money collection doesn't involve police, though, right, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, the whole point of an idling fee is to make people move along. And so, then I said, well, what if you don't even have the charger plugged into the car? And then Member Cook said that there would be a police that would come and give you a ticket. And so, then I said that police don't really monitor --

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I get it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- EV charging stations, it's not a high priority.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. The other clarification is, do we need a number here instead of the X-X-X-X for, I guess, the Budget Director?

MR. HANANO: Chair, I think the Bill 64, which is part of the budget bills, is the one that addresses the fee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. HANANO: I think that's why it's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It'll address the X-X-X-X.

MR. HANANO: Right, right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. All my questions have been answered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote, Council Member Tom Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Ye...no.

MS. MONIZ: That was no, correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was no.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She's here, she's here.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that’s six “ayes.” Three “noes.” Motion passes.

VOTE:	AYES:	Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Paltin, and U‘u-Hodgins.
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	NOES:	Councilmembers Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.
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	ABSTAIN:	None.
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	ABSENT:	None.
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	EXC.:	None.
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MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVED.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Anything else for Countywide?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If Director Milner can assist OCS Staff with the cuts that have been sustained or carried over for Police and Public Works, I believe, in letting them know what the fringe was that was cut in Fiscal Year ‘26 so that they can have it for their calculations so that when we come in in the morning, we can have, like, a big fat fringe bonus of cuts.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. We’ve actually already been texting about it, so absolutely. Thank you.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Cool. And I think my Fire cuts, I included the fringe anticipation. So I don't know how that works but thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other Countywide? Okay. So this is it. Are you fine, James and Kirsten? Sure. So now the important thing is that OCS Staff are going to take all our numbers and tomorrow morning look at...well, we got FN, the questions regarding real property tax, FN-9 response and FN-11 responses. That's going to help you, right, with the calculation?

MR. KRUEGER: Well, so for that, it's primarily for the members. It's FN-09 and FN-11. Those are the letters we sent to the Department of Finance to request the valuation information for the members, the tiers that they're considering for certain classifications, so Members can utilize the information in those letters to kind of come up with proposals for, you know, RPT, basically.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And then you all, you're going to send us the Excel spreadsheet to use for our calculations?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes. We can provide an Excel template for Members for their use.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So tomorrow you'll have the Excel spreadsheet to use for calculations for RPT. Congratulations, we have accomplished a lot. We got kind of fussy at the end, but it is end of the evening.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member U'u-Hodgins.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry, Member, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, I'd like to make a request, if that's okay with you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Considering we're asking OCS to do all of this work and it's 9:48...oh, I'm sorry, 8:48 in the p.m.'s, in the dark, can we start at 10 tomorrow and give us a minute to sleep and give them...like, James sounds like I did, and I feel bad for him.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He's not feeling well.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, nobody is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Do you mind if we start at 10 if we did all of this, and tomorrow we're doing RPT stuff, is that okay with you so we can be kinder?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Happier?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So yes, we want everybody to be happier.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we have posted for 9:00 tomorrow. I’ll come, start the meeting, and then recess. And you all can come in at what time?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. I can be on my phone.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do four of us need to be online for you to be able to gavel in?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is the...yeah, I think so.

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

MR. KRUEGER: Yes. So the Committee will need a quorum for that recess, for being able to do that recess, basically from 9:00 to 10:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I’ll come in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I volunteer the folks that live closest.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sorry. I will join online and help with quorum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I still volunteer the folks that live closest.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thanks for everybody working hard. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I can be here at 9:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I know you’d like to be in person. And I’ll be here, that’s two. Member Sinenci, you’re going to be here?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I make no promises.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. I’ll be here.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Surf looks kind of good. It’s going to be good surf in the morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I need four, right? So I don’t know who else.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I’ll be online, Chair. I can join online.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can be online? Okay. Good. So, one, two.

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I just don't want to be in town at 9:00. But I can be at home at nine. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So is that enough time, 10:00, or you want to go 11:00?

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, yeah, whatever the Committee wants to do, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, because you folks are doing the hard work. You've got to crunch the numbers so that, you know...

MR. KRUEGER: Well, since the Committee's going to be recessed...exactly, we'll be here at 9:00 to help the Committee recess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I hope you feel better. Okay. So that's what we'll do, then. We'll start the meeting at...is it 10:00 okay, or you want 11:00? I mean, you know, the recess meeting.

MR. KRUEGER: Whatever the Committee decides, Chair. We're going to be working tonight anyway, so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. What time do you guys want? I'm going to come in at 9:00. We'll have four of us online...I mean, five of us online or whatever, but what time? You want 10:00, 11:00?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: 10:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What, 10:00?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't want to go this late.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think I have a flight at 7:45 so I can finally see my family again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for being here. It's so much better to have you guys here in person.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't think they remember what I look like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Awww. Okay. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Recess.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, that's what we've done in the past.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Leave our stuff here, right?

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

April 23, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mic.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we'll recess this meeting and come back at 10:00. Okay. Yeah? We'll come back.

MR. KRUEGER: So Chair, that would mean that we would cancel the 9:00 a.m. meeting, and the Committee would just recess this meeting from now till 10 a.m. tomorrow, right? Is that what's being discussed?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't do that. Okay? Don't do that. Wisdom has come in and don't do that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, can I ask that we take a recess while we figure out what the plan is for tomorrow?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So it's 8...So go ahead. 8:55. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 8:55 p.m.

RECONVENE: 8:58 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee, it is now 8:58 p.m., and we are talking about how we're handling tomorrow. So I would like to adjourn tonight and then come back tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to start the meeting. Director.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Into the mic so Member U'u-Hodgins can hear you. I can hear you, but when I'm online, and you don't speak into the mic, I cannot hear you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Just, like, go ahead.

MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Chair. I appreciate the Committee Members and Staff working so hard so late tonight and just want to keep things simple procedurally. What you just announced would be workable. So you would need a quorum of five members tomorrow to convene. You can start late. If we don't have five members right at 9:00 a.m., the Office of Information Practices has told us it's okay to start late. You just need to communicate with any members of the public who show up at 9:00 to let them know you're waiting on quorum. You just need five to convene and take testimony. So you wouldn't need all nine members if you want to work out an arrangement among the committee members who can plan to come in later. You know, if you want to have a plan to take testimony and then recess and really not begin deliberations until 10:00, you have a lot of options under the Sunshine Law. I'm just...I'm really thinking about members of the public who might show up at 9:00 tomorrow morning expecting to testify and just make sure we do our best to communicate with them what the plan is. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. So we will adjourn tonight. I'll be back tomorrow at

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

April 23, 2026

9:00 with at least five of us or more. We'll take public testimony because I'm sure there will be, and we'll just see how many Members are here, and then we can start the meeting appropriately, right? That's what you're saying?

MR. RAATZ: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. And in the meantime, OCS is going to be crunching our numbers and working hard, and then therefore, you will send over to us the Excel spreadsheet that we will use for calculation of RPT, is that correct? And we can look FN-10 and FN-9, 9 and 11? Okay, FN-9 and 11 to see the range and whatever Finance has answered our letter as a basis. Okay. Any questions? Oh, wonderful. Okay, okay, let's go. Thank you, everybody, for working hard. It is now 9:00 perfect. This meeting is adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 9:00 p.m.

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Transcribed by: Terianne L. Arreola

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

April 23, 2026

CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne L. Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 211 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 26th day of May 2026, in Kahului, Hawai'i.



Terianne L. Arreola