

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

MINUTES

April 6, 2026

Helene Hall, Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:02 p.m.

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

EXCUSED: Councilmember Alice Lee, Member

STAFF: Keone Hurdle, Legislative Analyst
Lori Ann Tengan, Committee Secretary
Joseph Revelle, Hawaiian Communications Specialist
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

OTHERS: Sheila Roback
Timmy Satot
Mark Tanaka-Sanders
Josalind Akoi
Matt Bachmann
Alan Jahns
Claire Kamalu Carroll
Hau‘oli Kahaleuahi
Lipoa Kahaleuahi
Michael Opgenorth
Kane Kanakaole
Weslie Brown
Ryan Zucco
Theo Firestone
Chuck Estin
Keahi Lind
Sunnie Makua
Claudia Kalaola
Noe Lecker
RJ Lecker
Lehua Cosma
Heidi Lea

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Matt Keiley
Scott Crawford
Barry Chang
Akaneki Lind
Earle Medeiros
Mary Brook
Laua'e Lind
Sam Akoi

Others (20)

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Wow. Good evening, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 6:02 p.m. We are in beautiful Hāna, such paradise, and thank you for letting us be here. When we arrived, all of us talked about how long did it...how many minutes did it take for us to get here, how was the traffic and all of that, and we got here and we said wow it's all worth it, it's so beautiful. So, thank you for letting us be in your community.

ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 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) and RESOLUTION 26-63)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are the Budget and Finance, Economic Development Committee and we are here to listen to you. So, we go to every district because we want to know what do you see that we wouldn't normally know or be able to experience that you can, and we want to hear testimony so we can provide priorities...priorities for the budget that we receive from the Mayor, Mayor Bissen. So, we take his budget, Fiscal Year '27, and then we dissect it as Councilmembers and put in items or approve things that are in there. So, your voices are very important. So, I'd like to first introduce the Councilmembers. I'm going to have Shane introduce the Members. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Starting from my far right, and mahalo everybody for joining us this evening, from our Molokai Nui a Hina, Ms. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. From Lele, we have Councilmember Tamara Paltin. From our Central District, we have Kauano'e Batangan. And our Budget Chair, Yuki Lei Sugimura from Upcountry. I'm Shane Sinenci, and next to me is Ms. Nohelani U'u-Hodgins from Pā'ia. And then from moku Lāna'i, we have Gabe Johnson. And then finally from the South Side, we have Mr. Tom Cook. Everybody, we're...we're on live on *Akakū*. That's Austin. Wave, Austin. We have some OCS Staff here with us. We have Keone, Kepa, Ryan, and Lori Ann in the back. I see Claire from our OED office is joining us tonight too. And then we also have some of our own Staff members. We have Mavis Medeiros from Hāna. We have

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Uncle Don Atay. And then we have Kate and Sarah also from our district offices. Welcome, everybody. And Ryan, our security.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Our Aloha Ambassador, so thank you very much, Ryan. I want to thank Member Sinenci for the ono food. Every time we come to Hāna, we know we're going to have Hawaiian food, and it was very delicious. Yeah, so thank you. It was exceptional. Also, I wanted to invite everybody that when you come up, state your name, what organization you're from, and you'll have three minutes to testify. If you're not done, we'll give you another 30 seconds to complete. We really welcome written testimony, so whatever you're saying, if you would like to send it to us, please send it to the bfed.committee@mauicounty.us because then we'll have a written version of whatever you testified. Sometimes we cannot write fast enough. Or you can also send it on eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. So, that's another way of doing it. I also want to say what we tell everybody, that if you don't want to give us your name, you do not have to and you can...you can testify anonymously. We recognize that. So, thank you very much, everybody, and we will now listen. And Members may ask questions if they have questions of you, but please proceed. First testifier, please?

MR. HURDLE: Thank you, Chair. The first testifier is Sheila Roback, to be followed by Timmy Satot.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. ROBACK: Aloha. Is it on? Aloha. Oh, yes. First one up. Okay. Well, my name is Sheila Roback. I'm the Senior Center Director here for Hale Hulu Mamo, which we are a program of Maui Adult Day Care Centers. And I'm here to first mahalo all of you for being here. And I do want to thank Parks and Recs. As of April 1st, we are now back in our center. So, we...we're the first to move back. I think they call it the civic center. So, they're still working on it. But mahalo to Parks and Recs and the County that we're now back there with our kūpuna. And I'm here to support my fellow Hāna people. Of course, first of all is our po'e, especially the kūpuna and the youth, and then also to perpetuate our culture, all those agencies that mālama our 'āina. So, first I have MEO, Hāna Youth Center, our Hāna Dialysis, Hui Laulima O Hāna, and Kīpahulu 'Ohana, Holani Hāna, Ke Ao Hāli'i, our Hāna Canoe Club, Hāna Arts. Also want to support Festivals of Aloha for Hāna, and Kaunoa Seniors, the Hāna District. Also our Taro Fest that's coming up. Nā Mamo O Mū'olea. Just to mention a few of the agencies that take care of our 'āina, take care of our people. So, again, I support all these organizations and nonprofits of Hāna, and hope that you will continue to support them too. Mahalo.

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

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MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Timmy Satot, to be followed by Mark Tanaka-Sanders.

MR. SATOT: Aloha. Yeah, I'm Timmy Satot. I...I guess full disclosure, I work part-time with the County with the Maui County Office on Aging, part of the Department of Human Concerns. And the other part of my week is spent at Hale Hulu Mamo, Hāna Senior Center. And I'm here to...to ask for continuing support for the programs that affect our kūpuna, namely Maui Adult Day Care Centers through Office on Aging. Also Kaunoa Senior Services, the Meals on Wheels Program. Also MEO with their transportation. You know, they help the kūpuna who aren't...aren't able to drive anymore to...to shuttle back and forth from...to Kahului and also within Hāna. But with not only the kūpuna, but also anyone else, you know, at all ages with MEO. So, grateful for them. Also grateful and support for Hāna Dialysis Home, Hui Laulima O Hāna with...with...it...it...it allows our kūpuna, as well as our dialysis patients, other dialysis patients to get the treatment that they need without having to travel. So, it's been a great help for them. Also like to support Hōlani Hāna, Ke Ao Hāli'i, Hāna Canoe Club, Hāna Arts, Festivals of Aloha Hāna, and also Mū'olea. And so, any of the nonprofits that are...that are receiving funding, like to see that they continue to get the funding. Thank you.

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

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Mark Tanaka-Sanders, to be followed by Alan Jahns.

MR. TANAKA-SANDERS: Take my three minutes to stand up. Mahalo for coming to Hāna again. And we appreciate the opportunity to have a say in how our tax dollars are spent in your Budget Committee. And we thank you for being here before. I'd like to make one statement that doesn't cost anybody any money. We just went through a storm. Another one expected tomorrow. And some of us got our hair wet walking to the post office or something. But there were people that were soaking wet for five or six days in...in wet (*audio interference*) from helicopters and up in the mountains. So, I want to say thank you to the State and County road crews, to the Water Department, to the electric company, bringing all those crews out. Really appreciate it, keeping the lights on or getting them back on, those of us that didn't have any. For the hotel to bring in a generator to get the gas station pumping. We don't...we will never have enough votes to compete with Kihei, Wailea, or Kā'anapali. And we will never be able to have that kind of money to support campaigns. But we are here. We're used to doing for ourselves and we're used to doing...helping our community, helping each other, helping our neighbors, and our family. But we appreciate the County's efforts in this last storm. And thank you all for being here and listening to the people here. One thing that I brought up at the last meeting, the budget meeting, when the Mayor was here, was a need for a recreation needs assessment. Rather than a normal government thing of here, we're going to give you a playground, or we're going to build you a ballpark, find out what the Hāna people want. Do it like a regular government study. Find out, ask questions first, and then make a plan. We only have a ballpark because the hotel owner owned a ball company. There's no parking for any special events. Taro Fest coming up

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this week...or next week. We have all kinds of things, Aloha Week. There's no place to park. The few places we have are people going...trying to find a nude swimming beach. So, there's no place for the senior center, for the youth center, for just County business at the new...newly-restored County building to park. So, I propose a parking plan. I gave Shane a copy of a proposal and I'd like that to be given some thought of where we can put recreation facilities that meet the community's needs. The County and State own a lot of land around here. We don't have to limit our thinking to the current ballpark. And anyway, that's...so I appreciate you coming. I forgot what the other thing I was going to bring up, but...it was probably the most important thing in the world, but I'll get it on paper. But thank you for coming.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. You can...could you send in...if you remember what you wanted to send to us, could you email it to us?

MR. TANAKA-SANDERS: Oh, sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah? Mark. Oh, your pictures, you shared it. Thank you. Thank you very much. Any questions, Members? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Alan Jahns, to be followed by Claudia Kalaole [sic].

MR. JAHNS: Aloha, County Councilmembers, and mahalo for being out here to Hāna. Thank you for coming out here. I really appreciate it. My name's Alan Jahns, and I'm a Hāna resident. I live on Maia Road, my wife and I. I'm also President of Habitat for Humanity Maui County. And it's music to my ears that after waiting ten-plus years now, this project that we've had going out here is now in the Mayor's budget, it's my understanding, for next year...or for 2027. And finally, it's here. Twenty-five units, single-family homes, much needed here in Hāna Town, affordable housing. You know, it's on everybody's lips, and it's much, much needed. We're just waiting on the Hawaiian Electric to put the poles in. We've got the streets in, we've got the water meters. It's...it's ready to go, just waiting on the electric. And we're ready to go. As soon as the electric gets in, they can then hand it over to us, and we can start building homes, the much-needed affordable homes for Hāna and the people of Hāna Town, East Maui. So, again, thank you for coming out here. I really appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. You know, I remember all the testifiers that came and...and spoke about this project, so I'm glad it's finally happening.

MR. JAHNS: We've had town meetings here, and, you know, we've had a lot of huge interest. You know, got hundreds of people, you know, that were interested, and we keep getting push back, push back, push back, and finally, it's in the budget. So, we're just...it's a very happy time for Habitat for Humanity here in Maui County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks for being the President.

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MR. JAHNS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. JAHNS: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Claudia Kalaola, to be followed by Lehua Cosma.

MS. KALAOLA: Thank you. Aloha mai kākou. Welcome. Welcome to Hāna. And I'm testifying on behalf of myself, but I'm also affiliated with a lot of different groups. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, just sitting, I'm with Nā Mamo o Mū'olea, I'm a founding director. Ke Ao Hāli'i, I am employed by them, I'm their Executive Assistant and also their Grant Manager. I belong to the 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu and represent them as their pelekikena. And also to the Wākiu Community Development Corporation as Vice President and Director. So, yeah, I just want to say welcome to Hāna and to open, you know, first thanking the County for all of the support that you folks give us. You know, it's hard with the nonprofit situation, limited funding, and every year we have to hustle, hustle, hustle. Yeah. So, it's...it's a lot of work, and we thank you. We thank you guys for all of the support that is repeatedly given to us. Many of us with this funding has...has been able to further our efforts in restoration of native species, therefore revitalizing terrestrial as well as coastal ecosystems through reintroduction of native plants, removal of invasive species, and implementing indigenous sustainable management, habitat management. We also are able to support our...the...with the funding, it helps us to support the experiential learning workshops that we provide to the different agencies. Some of our...some of our collaborators, and especially for the kids, the...the students, they have been able to come on 'āina and do hands-on removal of native...invasive species and also to learn and plant native plants. We work in...at Ke Ao Hāli'i, we work in collaboration with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and also with the Seabird Project, Restoration Project Group. We pray that you can continue to see the vision and know that the work is not complete. We have quite a ways to go . . .*(inaudible)*. . . our request for funding. As pelekikena of the 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu, I must point out this. It is in regard to the statue of Ka'ahumanu. It is literally deteriorating because of poor implementation. After months of trying to find a solution, we are stuck now in a place where many are angry at us because they think that we are the ones that put it there. I have to correct that and set that straight in that that was a County-funded project and we had no input as to the material, the artist, how...how all of that was created. But we have been very active in trying to get a solution, and we don't at this point. When I contacted...I've contacted Shane's office and also Parks and Recreation on the other side--not Hāna, Hāna has been very helpful to us--but I was told it's not their kuleana, but you know what? It's in a county park, and the situation, if you look at her, it's not honoring her. You know, it's a black eye to the County and to us as a community of Hāna where Ka'ahumanu was born. This is her...her one hānau and we cannot forget that. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I just want to say I also support many other organizations and I want to name a few so that we can follow up on them. Wākiu CDC, we are

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developing...we're supporting the pilina initiative which will promote Hāna residents getting awarded Department of Hawaiian Home Lands first. Also Hale Hulu Mamo who cares so diligently and lovingly for our kūpuna. MEO Transportation is so beneficial to all of our community, from keiki to kūpuna. Hāna Arts, Hāna Canoe Club, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, Kahanu Garden, Kīpahulu 'Ohana, Hōlani Hāna, and Hui Laulima O Hāna. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions? So, I have a question. Are you speaking of that...that statue right there?

MS. KALAOLA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. KALAOLA: Do you see that it's...like it's all black now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. KALAOLA: Yeah. What...what the contractor on the other side told us was that they put the wrong --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Finish.

MS. KALAOLA: -- what you call that, patina on it. It's not something that's conducive to ocean. Hello, it's right next to the ocean. And I know that Shane's office had funding but that funding never went through because the...because the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . people said they couldn't do anything with it. So, now we stuck. That's why I say now we stuck. We don't know where to go next.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Any...okay. No more questions. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Lehua Cosma, to be followed by Barry Chang.

MS. COSMA: Yeah. Aloha mai kākou. 'O Lehua Cosma ko'u inoa. Mahalo to each and every one of you for coming out to Hāna. I think it's a blessing that we get to share our mana'o with each and...with all of you. First of all I'm the Executive Director as a volunteer for the Hāna Dialysis Home under the nonprofit Hui Laulima O Hāna. And I represent that organization and I thank you for your past, your present, and your future contribution to Hāna. Because we serve such a vital services to allow our community, our kūpuna, to remain home without traveling to and from. And we've made 15 years last year, and over that 15 years we were able to provide over 19 patients, you know. And these patients, we don't look at them as numbers. Hāna will never have numbers because we live in a remote and isolated community. But we look at the lives that we extend, you know, the quality of life, the well-being of them is important and that's part of our mission. But besides that, I'm here because another thing that touches my heart is the

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Koki subdivision. I don't know if you see it in your budget but Koki is by...the owner is Hāna Ranch. But we, as a community, who fished there for many long years, it's a tradition to us to keep it as open space so that our future generation can enjoy what we did in the past and with what we do present. We oppose the subdivision wholeheartedly because it would change the whole culture. It's not going to be the same. Every...Koki is not a place to make money. It's a place to preserve so that we can continue the lifestyle that our kūpuna left behind us. And when there's high tide at Koki, the water goes all the way up to...they call Make Man Bridge. And I know that because my father was a fisherman and he used to go up on that highway and fish for āhole in the river, the pond. He wasn't the only one, there was other Hawaiian people that did it before him. So, that's the importance that I want to preserve that area. You know, I oppose subdivision wholeheartedly. Number two, MEO. I like where MEO is relocated at the preschool. The reason is, it's so much space there versus the old Hāna school where trees fall on the bus many times. Break the windshield. There is...no trees is around there, and it's so spacious and convenient. So, if you can support that, I will be happy for the MEO because they do such a fabulous job. I never dreamed that I would need MEO one day, but I use it every month to go to my doctor's appointment. And they doing such a fabulous job for everybody. And that program is so essential for Hāna. And then I want to bring up MEMA. We recently...on March 23rd or maybe before March 23rd they hired a Hāna girl. . . .(timer sounds). . . Oh, already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MS. COSMA: Anyways, she doesn't have office space for MEMA. So, I'm thinking now that they're almost finished with the Hāna School, the community school, that she could have a space up there for her. Because that's such an important thing to have in Hāna since we've been through all this bad storm. And then one more last thing. I want to acknowledge Parks and Recreation, Miracle Helekahi. She has done such a fabulous job in Hāna. I mean activities for the keiki to kūpuna. They have line dancing here for kūpunas. We have softball now going on, soccer. Our biggest highlight was Easter egg in the evening. Who find eggs at night? But it was awesome. Over 300 kids showed up. You know, she needs to be recognized because we haven't had that in long time. And she's such a bright girl and creative and talented. And furthermore, her parents and family is her backup. They support her 100 percent. And so, with that, I just want to say mahalo. And I support all the nonprofits in Hāna because we lean on each other for support. We count on each nonprofit. There's too much to list but my three minute up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And more.

MS. COSMA: And anyway.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. COSMA: And thank you, Yuki.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you.

MS. COSMA: Mahalo --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mahalo.

MS. COSMA: -- to all of you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for all you do. Thank you. Any questions? Oh, can you help her?

MS. COSMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Barry Chang, to be followed by Josalind Akoi.

MR. CHANG: Aloha kākou. Thank you for coming out to Hāna. Real short, we...thank you all Councilmen for our 'āina. For the Maui Nui. A lot of flooding, the fire, it hasn't stopped. We might get some more this weekend. Hopefully not as bad. But we out here in Hāna, we found out with no roads open, no electricity for three days. *(Audio interference)* was that avoidable? We don't know. But it happened. Wanted to also mahalo the Council for the canoe club, Hāna Canoe Club. Our . . .*(inaudible)*. . . over there is for the keikis and families. MEO, who helps support transportation on the weekends. Hopefully we still have weekend drivers because all the canoe clubs for the races for the kids are on Saturdays. Also, we have a lot of nonprofits that supporting natural resources, mauka to makai. It's a problem statewide. So, we're a little more fortunate here. There's a lot of subsistence, food available. We hope people that do ask for funding with food and food security which we're moving forward on. So, thank you. And one more thing was housing. We still don't have it. Thank you.

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

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Josalind Akoi, to be followed by Matt Bachmann.

MS. AKOI: Aloha mai kākou. Aloha. I'm Jos Akoi and I'm a Kīpahulu resident, a retired DOE teacher. And I'm here to speak to you guys on behalf of a group called the Hāna Mamas. And we are a group of moms who are concerned with behavior health services or lack of here in Hāna specific to mental wellness and unwellness and substance abuse and need for treatment. So, we're an unincorporated hui of volunteers, and we put together a budget proposal that got sent to the Mayor. I'm not sure if you guys saw it. I just resent it to you, Shane, and I'll resend it to everybody with the address that you gave, for 650,000 for Fiscal Year *(audio interference)* specific to a sober living house for both kāne and wāhine, and 'āina-based intensive outpatient programs that are paired with existing or new to be made 'āina experiences that are happening through our nonprofits. When the proposal was put together, one of the things we found out is that the 2020 Census

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information for Hāna is horrifyingly inaccurate. It said we had 793 residents or something, but the Mamas didn't agree with that. And so, we each took portions of the ahupua'a in which we live and we counted homes because there's not that many of us. And we came up with about 2,100. Additionally, I think median income was like 90,000 and median education level was one or two college degrees. That is not indicative of our demographic. So, the Mamas are also asking that, Councilman Sinenci, if we have any emergency funds in our Hāna fund, that we be granted some monies to work with existing nonprofits to actually go out and do a census similar to the ku'e petition that was done. Door-to-door, home-to-home, resident...lineal descendant resident to people and find out what are your needs, who is living in your household, what are your concerns? We'd also like to have QR codes and get people registered to vote because the absolute lowest demographic involved in voting is our young people, which is the highest demographic for substance abuse. So, it's kind of a win-win to get started on a ground level like that. We appreciate you guys greatly. The fact that you came out, that you're listening to our mana'o, the fact that during the budget proposal and the Holomua Kākou, our Mayor was so gracious to us and listened and gave us really good advice. And a lot of County services have come to Hāna to help form the Mamas and to move forward. So, we really, really appreciate you. And we recognize that we are a demographic that's unique, and we're not asking for you to fix us, we're asking for you to support us to fix us. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, anybody have questions for her?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I have a question. Yeah. I just wanted to...thanks, Jos, for your testimony tonight and for all your work. You did mention --

MS. AKOI: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- you did mention that the Mayor had not just the Hāna Mamas, but some other...he sent out some people?

MS. AKOI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And there were other people, part of the group, if you...if you want to mention.

MS. AKOI: Yeah. So, the Mamas started out with like 3 of us and it was like a core of 4, then about 12. And then we extended out to providers. And so, we've already had maybe five different provider services from outside of Hāna willing to partner with us. We're taking it a little bit slow because we don't want services to come in and take over. What we're looking for is help in growing a plan from us up instead of somebody coming in and giving us a program. And we want it to be done through a resident and Hawaiian lens. So, there's actually been...yeah. Is that what you...was that your question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. I mean, we had a lot of people from outside also, Aloha House or some of the counselors.

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MS. AKOI: Aloha House, Piha Wellness, Maui Youth and Family Services. I want to give a huge shout out (*hoo-hoo*) to Kāne Connections and to Kawika Mattos and to Sam Holi. He hit the tarmac running and he...as we kind of put the brakes on because he is part of a Ke'anae family, he's already giving services. And there has been a Hāna Kāne Connection cohort since...I think we really started in about September. I think he started it like first week of October and it's been running weekly except for the storm. Yeah. So, amazing. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin? Member Paltin?

MS. AKOI: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha. I was wondering, did...did you know any of the Census workers when they came into Hāna? They were not Hāna people doing the Census?

MS. AKOI: I don't believe they were. And I know from my own 'ohana and extended 'ohana that it's kind of an under...like a not said, and sometimes the said thing, no say nothing. Don't give them your demographics. And so, when I looked at the Census information, because Mayor Bissen said, okay, Jos, we need data. And so, I went to go look for the data and I was like, oh my gosh, this is not accurate. And I was really surprised. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then has the County Clerk come out to meet with you guys or...because they...they help with voter registration drives and like that, and maybe they can...have you spoken to Moana or Richelle?

MS. AKOI: So, we haven't, but this is what we identified in the first Hāna Mamas meeting, that we have had a lot of fairs and things like that with different organizations coming in. But the issue is that the demographic that we're really trying to reach don't go to the fairs. And so, the ones that do go to the fairs, those are the people already registered and not as in need of services. So, I don't know. I come from Kīpahulu, so we say you got to go in the bushes, you know...you got to go talk to people. You got to go open the cattle gate and go down the driveway that looks like it's not a driveway and you got to go talk to them and they got to trust you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are you guys gearing up to have you guys work the 2031 Census?

MS. AKOI: I don't know. We're open, really, to all kinds of possibilities. And so, we've really appreciated the partnership and the mana'o that we've gotten. We're open to it. Yeah. We just know that in order to be represented accurately and to get the resources that we actually need, we need correct information, and we don't have it right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And you said you're working with Imua Family Services?

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MS. AKOI: No, Maui...MYFS. I think it's Maui Youth and Family Service. No, Maui Support Services.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maui Support Service. Maui Family...did they...

MS. AKOI: Maui Family Support Services.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did they budget money for Hāna?

MS. AKOI: So, what happened...no, is that they have their budget, but Kawika Mattos' son is intermarried in our 'ohana. And Sam Holi's 'ohana is Ke'anae. And so, what was brought up at the Holomua Kākou is that we started as a community to talk about--sorry, I'm going to cry--mental unwellness. And it was like, this is us. And we know it's us because we know each other. And so, because the heart of both Kawika and Sam are here, they said let's just do it. Which is why Kāne Connections is so successful.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. AKOI: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And Tam, just to answer your question about the Census, I think one of the problems was that we had a lot of part-time residents that was taking the Census, so it threw us...or took us over what we actually make in Hāna.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. No other questions. Thank you very much. Do you have your testimony you could give it to us in writing so we could gather the breadth of all that you shared?

MS. AKOI: So, I attached the budget proposal to the email I just sent to Shane and the Staff and the Mamas. And so, Shane, if you can give us...I didn't quite get that web address. If you could just forward it to them or if you could give me that info I'll forward it to you folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. AKOI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. AKOI: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Matt Bachmann, to be followed by Claire Carroll.

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MR. BACHMANN: Aloha. Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Matt Bachmann. I'm the Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Maui and I'm here to testify in that capacity. There's two things on the budget that I want to just bring up. One is real short. We get \$250,000 a year from the Maui County Office of Aging. We...we're in that, this will be our seventh year. We do about 30 homes a year of repair and renovations throughout all of Maui County. We have two part-time employees on Molokai and they just bang it out, man. And so, we are helping families that way, and in a way that we have a program, we know how it's funded, so we just want to keep that one going. The big one that I'm here for and that I could come and see you guys anytime in your Chambers, but I wanted to make it a special point to come out here and talk about the money that's been set aside for . . .(inaudible). . . We've been working on this project for 14 years, and we are at the point where we are ready to put the shovel in the ground. The money that I asked for, that we are asking for, just to let you know what it's for, it is to purchase the land. The landowner has always wanted to have affordable housing here in Hāna, and he is selling it to us at a very discounted rate, 7.2 acres. And so, we asked and it's in the budget for 6.595 million and that's just going to cover getting the land and getting it into our name. That doesn't cover, you know, the power, it doesn't cover the water meters that were already purchased, it doesn't cover the septic systems that we have to put in. All of that is from other philanthropic dollars, but we just need to get over this one line and get that...get the land in our name. We're going to do, as mentioned, 25 homes. The way that we're going to do it is, we're going to do five homes a year for five years because while Hāna is ready for us to start building, not everyone in Hāna is homeowner ready and, you know, that is a thing. But we came out--it's been two years, I believe, in April--and had townhalls. We had over 150 people come. We have all their emails, we have everything, so that the moment that I know that you guys are going to support me and the Mayor is going to sign off on this budget with it in there, we're going to start looking at applications and finding out who we can get ready. Another thing that you guys can do for me, if...if I might be so bold, right now our permitting system is broken. And so, while I can get a permit in Lahaina in three months, it...currently it's 330 days. So, if I were to go and say, you guys are saying, okay, go for it, I couldn't even get a permit to put that shovel in the ground for another year. And we...we need to fix that system as best as we can. I just want to say thank you very much. This...the funds actually had been in the budget previously, due to administrative errors and splitting of Department of Housing and Human Concerns and the Department of Housing, some paperwork didn't go through, but it's there. And we have a plan for it, and I know that the people of Hāna are ready for it. So, thank you so much for...for being here, and this isn't the last time you'll see me. Thank you very much.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Bachmann. I just wanted to clarify, it's like the same submission of permit that in Lahaina would take 45 days to three months and it's taking 330 days here. The same guy working from your end?

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MR. BACHMANN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And did they say what is...why?

MR. BACHMANN: Well, because we go through 4LEAF for...for Lahaina, but we have to go through DSA at the County level.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, so it's the burn zone you're talking about?

MR. BACHMANN: No, this is not in the burn zone. So, the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...the Lahaina ones are not in the burn zone?

MR. BACHMANN: I'm sorry. The Lahaina homes are in the burn zone and we can get those in 45 days. The ones that we're going to build out here is going to take us 3...330 days average right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because DSA?

MR. BACHMANN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. BACHMANN: Yep, you're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for your presentation, for all your work. For clarification on that, down here you have to...you do septic systems?

MR. BACHMANN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is Department of Health part of the problem with the delays? Or what would you...I would just ask this --

MR. BACHMANN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- for a clarifying question.

MR. BACHMANN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What would you put your finger on at DSA as part of the challenge?

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MR. BACHMANN: Yeah. I think the biggest difference that we've seen, it's not Department of Health. It is...it is the...and it's not like Department of like Works [sic], and it's not even the department that's doing the subdivision. It's actually looking at the...the...the architectural drawings and coming back with something. But they're not even getting to look at the plans for eight, nine months before...it's going to sit there for nine months before someone actually picks it up. I think it's probably, if I had to say, number of employees.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much. We'll work on that.

MR. BACHMANN: Yeah, absolutely. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. BACHMANN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No other questions? Great. Thank you very much. If you have your testimony, can you submit it in writing, right? Okay. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Claire Kamalu Carroll, to be followed by Hau'oli Kahaleuahi.

MS. CARROLL: Aloha, everybody. So, for full disclosure, I work for the County of Maui. I run the Maui...American Job Center and Maui County Business Resource Center and then on a part-time basis, deployed into East Maui to assist our residents. Okay. I'm going to start off with three numbers. \$6.91 for gas, \$17 for one pound of poi, and \$12 for milk, one gallon of milk. I'm going to address the economy. If most of you have not had the chance to go in our community, the struggle is real. Most of you know that I commute to work, and I'm now struggling with the opportunity to serve our community and how I'm going to do it. That's the challenges. So, when we talk about economy, please look behind me because most of the economy is our own people making one living. They cannot afford to be out there. I run programs such as Hawai'i Job Corps. They're our partners. Getting our students out there to learn the trade, whether it be carpentry, plumbing, electrician, that's important. The food trucks, it's not Walmart, it's not...it's not one box store. The...the businesses here in our community is our people, our keiki o ka 'āina. I'm actually happy. You guys don't come often, but for see this younger generation over here to attend and be knowledgeable and hear the rest of the community speaking. And some of them probably not going to stand up and talk, but I told them it's one good start. Be involved with our community. Second, MEO. I tell you, MEO is one lifesaver. I wish had...I wish they had hours so then they can take me to work. I would tip them. But, you know, they bless people actually getting them to work, getting the kids to their sports. They even go to Ke'anae, and I think once a month they go to Kīpahulu. But it's...it's overwhelming that we have one service, it's nonprofit, and I always say, okay, County no own MEO, but we really need the County to support MEO. Because then plenty (*audio interference*) participation coming in, the

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livelihood...families can't even afford the second car. And imagine all the kūpunas, they sit underneath the kamani tree every day, that's where they drive to, and they're going to pay the \$6.91...you know, a subsidy to help the community or something. We lucky we no pay for landfill. You know, that's one big blessing, because you can imagine. We're just spiraling slowly. Okay. Moving on. Sidewalks. It's on...most of the sidewalks in this community actually belongs on a State highway, but we want it to continue for the safety. I born and raised here, we used to walk to the beach all the time. People don't know how to drive, and I hope everybody behind me is listening, because some people don't know how to drive. It's not safe to like...oh, you like to go beach? Walk 'em. Not anymore, unfortunately. Whether it be a visitor or a resident, it's not safe anymore. So, I ask when that is put on the table to please support sidewalks. And I am addressing the other half to the State. So, I've been in active talking with them. Support all of our nonprofits. Some of them, I'm not sure where they stay, but we get 35 nonprofits in this community. You know, I do Hāna Youth Fest every year. This gonna be my fifth year. And I got to thank out loud Children's Justice for saying, Kamalu, go make one youth . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . fest. And I'm just like, holy crap. Five years to date, that's gonna...but this is where we bring in our nonprofits. Because we're working on the space for them to return to their homes, but we don't have any. And then last but not least, we really need one business district. Our town is growing. So, if the opportunity comes across, one business district, we get so much entrepreneurs in our town. I mean, we stay crowding everything into the yards because there's no place to put it. But thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Claire. Question from Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Claire, for your testimony. I just want to clarify, you know, when you mentioned in your beginning statements about affordability, I mean, we feel it, right? I totally understand where you're coming from. So, last year, this Council voted for one of my priorities to do the Kama'āina Credit Program, which is \$12 million through Maui United Way to help people who are ALICE, which is asset, constraint income, limited, employed. Basically, that means you have a job, but you struggle and pay your bills. So, that program is going to come out in spring of...you know, it should be coming out really soon. So, when that comes out, I just want to let everybody know that we did fight to make money to reach those folks that you're describing, you know, the milk, the mortgage, and the medicine, right? That's what the folks are struggling with right now. So, there is money. and it's going to be going through Maui United Way. So, when that program gets kicked in, hopefully we can share all that information in your community as well as everybody else. Thank you.

MS. CARROLL: I just want to mention, sorry, to Maui United Way is also one big part in our community. We do the farmer's market. We have the keiki boxes. And I going tell you one thing, I'll be shame if I needed something. I going...I'm going to my parents' house. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Do you know what I mean? Like how do you explain that? People go, why you commute then? I say because our community is worth it. But Maui United Way, like, praise them. Praise the farmer's market. You know, they...they just went put out one grant for the storm, but then plenty people never have electric for over nine

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days. And then the deadline...the deadline came and it was like, what? Because majority of our farmers was actually out of electric during the storm. And that actually started on the 13th. And some people went go into two weeks. And that kind of what I was doing in Hāna.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more questions for Ms. Carroll? Seeing none. Give our best to your mom and dad. Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Hau'oli Kahaleuahi, to be followed by Lipoa Kahaleuahi.

MS. H. KAHALEUAHI: Okay. Aloha nui kākou. I'm going to read from my phone. E kala mai. I'm Hau'oli Kahaleuahi and like many others here, I kāko'o various hui, groups and organizations working to protect the moku of Hāna. I'm here today to speak about protecting and stewarding 'āina in the Haneo'o Ahupua'a, which is where I'm from. We are requesting...and it'll say a little bit more on the one-pager. We are requesting 3 million in the Open Space Fund to go toward purchasing this 'āina, which is approximately 115 acres. In 2025, the Haneo'o Hāmoa Fishing Village Hui, which is not a 501(c)(3), it's a group (*audio interference*) and 'ohana of the area. It was formed in direct response to what is recognized as an urgent development threat on this 115 acres. The current "owners" known on paper as Ranch Partners LLC. Aunty Lehua Cosma testified earlier. Mahalo to that. It's Ranch Partners LLC are the owners, not Hāna Ranch. Anyway, they remain a mysterious collection of people that we have yet to identify and who refuse to meet us even after we have sent warm invitations passed through their lawyer. They applied to consolidate and re-subdivide existing TMKs and kuleana parcels within the 115 acres. This application was actually approved on paper by the previous planning director. I know there's a new one that's going to be coming in. This consolidation and re-subdivision would eliminate those kuleana parcels and create seven five-acre developable lots that Ranch Partners LLC could sell off for luxury homes that are unaffordable to most Hāna families. The Haneo'o Hāmoa Fishing Village Hui, represented by Native Hawaiian Legal Corp, appealed this application. The appeal still stands today and the hui awaits a contested case to fight against luxury development and the commodification of 'āina. It's important to know the effort to protect this 'āina from development is a multi-pronged approach. The Haneo'o Hāmoa Fishing Village Hui asked Ke Ao Hāli'i to kōkua in raising funds to steward this 'āina. So, here we are asking for kāko'o. The 'āina we speak of today is mauka of Leho'ula and Koki beaches, famous and renowned amongst our people for practices like fishing and surfing. The 'āina rests near the foothills of Ka Iwi o Pele, with ideal vantage points to Kilo (*phonetic*) toward 'Alau Island and the chief's favorite wave to surf which is known as Puhele. The Kaholopo'o River runs through the 'āina feeding coastal habitats below. Freshwater springs in this ahupua'a flow into the loko i'a of Hōkū'ula and Kuamaka, both of which are still watched over by descendants and members of the hui. Heiau Lu'umaikaua is here. To the south is Kaluanui, Hale O Lono, and Pāki'oki'o. We've learned the mo'olelo which recalls the events leading up to and the battle that took place on Pāikalani (*phonetic*), a flat-topped pu'u which is on the 'āina. We got to stand there overlooking the home of Kū'ula and 'Ai'ai. I knew I was going to get emotional at this

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part, so e kala mai. But this is my ku'u one hānau, the sands that my father raised my siblings and I on. If you visit Haneo'o today and see the hale, the ahu in the hae Hawai'i blowing in the wind, that's him, my dad Ha Boy Kahaleuahi, and that's us. We mālama 'āina that on a piece of paper it doesn't belong to my 'ohana, but no matter. People like Ranch Partners LLC probably couldn't fathom doing anything like that. So, I'm 31 years old, raising my 7-year-old son, Mokae, in Haneo'o still, and will always be there. So, along with him, I bring forth the nearly 1,000 people who have signed paper and online petitions opposing the consolidation and re-subdividing of this 'āina and Ranch Partners LLC's profit scheme. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? Member Paltin has a question for you.

MS. H. KAHALEUAHI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks, Ms. Kahaleuahi. Full support. I...I just was wondering is there a willing seller?

MS. H. KAHALEUAHI: Yeah, we do have a willing seller. It's very general, but we have provided those documents to Uncle Shane and can...we have like a folder in a secure place that we can share with any of you. But we do have a general willing to sell letter from Ranch Partners, basically saying that they will, you know, enter potential negotiations. And then we also have a willing holder letter from HILT for the conservation easement.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Let's go.

MS. H. KAHALEUAHI: Yeah. And others from our hui or from Ke Ao Hāli'i will come and testify on other, maybe more technical areas. But yeah. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Lipoa Kahaleuahi, to be followed by Michael Opgenorth.

MS. L. KAHALEUAHI: Aloha mai kākou. Mahalo nui for being here. My name is Lipoa Kahaleuahi. I am speaking as the Executive Director of the organization Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike. Mahalo nui for your continuous support of our organization. We are economic development. Together we are supporting currently 81 students in apprenticeships, paid apprenticeships that provide them an opportunity to live, to gain and earn a wage, as well as tool awards that they can use to...kind of like a savings account to purchase tools of their trade. Together, again, we are supporting approximately 15,000 training hours. We're supporting over 138 kūpuna annually with various produce and home modification projects. We have completed together 20 building projects here in Hāna, and hosted 32 distribution events of that produce and those products. I do want to speak from a place of pride. Our hui is strong, but that comes with your support. So, mahalo nui. And it is from that strength and this

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confidence and the stability that I feel confident to be able to advocate for another already-mentioned project that is needing your more urgent concern and attention. As my sister has already shared and as a fellow daughter of Haneo'o, I am speaking in support of supporting that ahupua'a and requesting the 3 million from the Open Space Fund to purchase the approximate 115 acres in the Haneo'o Ahupua'a. In 2025 the Haneo'o Hāmoa Fishing Village Hui formed to stop this urgent development threat. The group as you heard, Ranch Partners LLC, moved to subdivide this 'āina into luxury lots for profit, an action that would eliminate kuleana parcels and threaten the very fabric of our community. You heard already the famed story places, wahi pana of this area. It is a vital part of the heiau complex of Haneo'o and Hāmoa, and I have many mo'olelo that we'd like to see intact. Like many of you that come from where you are located, you hope to never leave, and so such is our plan. We're not going anywhere. And so, joined by those nearly 1,000 people who have signed the petition we are here to ask for your support of that...of those finances so that we can continue to keep these lands in community hands in perpetuity. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Oh, you do. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I...I missed it. Did Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike have a request that was...it was met by the Mayor's proposed budget?

MS. L. KAHALEUAHI: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. L. KAHALEUAHI: So, mahalo for...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, just keep it in there.

MS. L. KAHALEUAHI: Keep it going. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. L. KAHALEUAHI: Thanks for clarifying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Michael Opgenorth, to be followed by Kane Kanakaole.

MR. OPGENORTH: Aloha mai kākou. My name is Mike Opgenorth. I'm the Director of Kahanu Garden and Preserve located on 'Ula'ino Road. We're part of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, a nonprofit chartered by Congress. Yeah, even though it was a nonfunded charter in the '60s. But yeah, we're all privately funded through donations, through grants, through partnerships such as those with the

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County. And so, first I just want to thank you guys for the support of Kahanu Garden and...and more specifically Pi'ilanihale Heiau, right? It's a national historic landmark. It's so much more, and it's an irreplaceable part of this community. So, for the last 50 years our nonprofit has been given the opportunity to steward this site and we've worked very hard in doing so. I'm a part of a crew of 13 right now. Everybody does *(audio interference)* has just one single job taking care of a place that big. I mean today it's 293 acres, and so everyone's got to be flexible. Everyone's got to work hard and...and we do a lot. So, I just want to share first, you know, because of the partnerships with the County and so many of the nonprofits, you know, you've heard from some already in this room, we're just really fortunate to be a part of this community and to contribute to some of the needs that we have. The County, you know, through partnerships, at least during the time I've been with the garden, help with equipment, facilities, events, signage. It's been a monumental part of our ability to balance a living cultural site and cultural landscape with a place that visitors can come to. You know, it's hard to balance both of them sometimes but, you know, thanks to the support that we've had, we've been able to make it so it doesn't need to have "X" amount of visitors a year. We don't need to operate from that paradigm, nor should we, right? So, thank you so much, County of Maui, for...for seeing that, the need for Kahuna Garden to maintain that balance. I do want to speak about a need that is, you know, currently we're...we're dealing with and that has to do...it's kind of two parts, but invasive species is really the foundation of it, right? So, in the last year we were notified that little fire ant had made its way down from the original infestation site in Ka'elekū down to 'Ula'ino Road and now there's multiple hot spots on 'Ula'ino Road that we are dealing with. I got to thank MISC for identifying them. They...you know, they have this great campaign where they ask us to submit our peanut butter bars and our sticks and things like that, but it really took their expertise in testing regularly and having that capacity to tell us before it was a huge infestation. So, that's the good news is, we don't have a massive infestation down at the garden, actually on the garden property. We don't think we have it anymore, we've treated, but 'Ula'ino Road is a very different story. And it's not just the challenge of it being on the road but the condition of the road, the water that runs down it has been an issue for a long time. And so, every time that it gets resurfaced--and we're very thankful that the County does that--new material comes in, the infestation might move or, you know, the whole dynamic might change. So, you know, for a long time a lot of us we've been very hesitant to say we want the road to be paved all the way to the garden. We really appreciate the rural nature of 'Ula'ino Road. We understand that there's a lot of history there, especially with the 'ohana past the garden, but there's a safety issue and now there's an invasive species issue too. And so, I do want to just bring it up not as like a very clear defined solution, it's got to be paved like this, it's got to look like this, that's not an answer that I have, but I do want to ask that we put our heads together, we think about what might be a better solution for protecting the road from invasive species but also for safety. So, the current condition of the road, what happens when folks come down--and they could be visitors from somewhere far away or they could be someone from down the street. If people have issues, there's no service down there, they often . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . come to us for help. So, with that, I guess I'll just wrap up by saying thank you for supporting all of our Hāna nonprofits. Want to kako'o what both of the sisters Kahaleuahi mentioned about Haneo'o, it's a very

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important timely topic, and for all those other folks down there Ke Ao Hāli'i and other 'ohana that are taking care of that space. It's...it's really...it's really an important endeavor to...to pursue, so mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Member Paltin has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mike. I was wondering...so the...the eradication of the LFA on Kahanu Garden was you in partnership with MISC (*audio interference*) and then 'Ula'ino Road, they don't have a partner to eradicate it over there?

MR. OPGENORTH: Right. So, Kahanu Garden staff hasn't been treating the road, like that's out of our...well, I mean, property lines, right, stuff like that. But we've...I mean yeah, we...we've really relied on MISC alone. And they've had some extra support, I forget what that temporary crew was that came last year. They had this like...I don't know if it was an AmeriCorps group or something like that, but they did a lot of extra work during that time, but I think that was all through MISC for the most part.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But they need more regular, consistent?

MR. OPGENORTH: They do. I mean they're...it's just getting to be a bigger problem, right? I mean unfortunately, and I know you guys hear this all the time, but invasive species are only coming in more than we're able to take care of them. Another one I didn't even have time to talk about is banana bunchy top virus. This is like banana bunchy top virus. Okay. So, it's a systemic virus that attacks bananas. It's present in most of the Hawaiian islands and it causes a major effect on the long-term health of a banana clump. When you get banana bunchy top virus it's basically a death sentence for that clump. It's spread...sorry, it's spread through a banana aphid, it's something that's hard to control once it gets out, and bottom line, bananas are really important to us in Hāna. Yeah. And so, that's another thing that's been treated in these isolated instances throughout the community by MISC again, but it's only becoming more common. And I'll also mention that our Hawaiian cultivars, like our...our maoli, our pōpō'ulu, our iholena bananas are super susceptible to this virus. So, we just really need more done on invasive species in general.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, MISC doesn't have Hāna residents on staff?

MR. OPGENORTH: Oh, they do. Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They do?

MR. OPGENORTH: Yeah. Did I say they didn't?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, no. I just was asking, sorry.

MR. OPGENORTH: Yeah they do.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. OPGENORTH: But they brought in some other folks for like a temporary program that were helping them is my understanding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay, 'kay, 'kay.

MR. OPGENORTH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. OPGENORTH: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Kane Kanakaole, to be followed by Weslie Brown.

MS. KANAKAOLE: Aloha mai kākou. My name is Kane Kanakaole and I serve as the Hāna MEO Branch Manager. Mahalo for your continued support of our Hāna and the East Maui community. I respectfully ask for the continued support for MEO services in Hāna which provide critical transportation, youth excursions, kūpuna assistance, and outreach for our residents. I also want to recognize the important work of other nonprofits, including Hale Hulu Mamo, Hāna Youth Center, Hāna Dialysis, Hui Laulima 'Ohana, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, Kaunoa Senior Services, and Ke Ao Hāli'i, all of which strengthen our community through education, culture, and care for our families and kūpuna. In addition, as co-chair of the Festivals of Aloha Hāna Division, I respectfully ask for your continued support of this treasured week-long cultural celebration. Hāna is proud to be the only division in the State of Hawai'i that continues this full tradition, preserving our culture and bringing our community together. I would like to end with your investment in Hāna is an investment in our people, culture, and future. Mahalo.

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

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Weslie Brown, to be followed by Ryan Zucco.

MR. FIRESTONE: Sorry, if you don't mind us switching up our order. We're from the Kīpahulu Community Association. We've all kind of like rehearsed our own part of this...of this presentation. So, my name is Theo Firestone and I live in Kīpahulu. And I've...I've lived there since '97 and it's...I've been calling it my home for...for a while now...and in fact, I haven't left the island in 17 years. Well, I haven't gone to the mainland in 17 years. So, I'm the Treasurer of the Kīpahulu Community Association, and a little background on the association. The Kīpahulu Community Association was established in 1993 to

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support the needs and advance the collective well-being of the whole Kīpahulu community. And some of the...an example of some of the things that we've done in the past is we've hosted a CPR first aid class for our residents to attend. We've...we've...each year we award the high school graduates from our area with a bonus, like an award just for achieving the, you know, high school diploma. We've supported the Hāna Canoe Club, and we've also assisted a resident, a kūpuna in our neighborhood, who had a problem with a squatter on there on his land that would not leave, and we granted him money to be able to hire the legal help that he needed, and...and that was successful also. We also support and have in the past a lot...the Kīpahulu 'Ohana, another nonprofit in our neighborhood. And in partnership with them, we've...we...we...we put a lot of work into helping them build this agricultural facility building, and we were...we were able to hold our meetings at that facility for a number of years, and a lot of residents had contributed their efforts. And the KCA had helped obtain grants to...to...to build that building. And so, we were able to have our meetings there and gatherings. So...but in recent years, changes to access and use of that facility has...has...it's no longer available to us for the kinds of things we want to do and for our meetings, our quarterly meetings and stuff. And so, as a result we've...we've had to relocate our meetings to Kīpahulu Point Park and the neighborhood gets together and we have quite a...quite a turnout for...for our neighborhood. But it's kind of just...and we've kept our continuity, we've kept up with our nonprofit filings and our...you know, we've kept everything in order to become...to be an organization. And...and...but it's sort of underscored the need for us to have like a true home for our organization. A place that we can do all of the things, which you'll hear about from my...our other speakers, you know, for this...you know, for our...for our residents. Over the past year, a group of about 40 or more Kīpahulu residents and their keiki have been meeting at that park or at the Palapala Ho'omau Church to...to...let's see, I'm sorry. They've been meeting every Saturday morning and they've been held in the park and they focus on strengthening their community relationships, deepening cultural and spiritual connection, and advancing local food and security initiatives. You know, despite the limitations of meeting in an improvised outdoor space, the group has already contributed significantly to the community with roadside cleaning up efforts, harvesting bamboo for traditional fishing boat launching structure . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . volunteer work and maintenance, and...and cultural enrichment programs, including Hawaiian craft workshops. So, the acquisition and stewardship of a dedicated KCA home and...and piece of land would provide a stable, culturally-appropriate gathering place, and it would also support the development of a community garden and food forest and create a reliable source of fresh food for our...for our neighborhood and for local distribution. It also would be a hub of...it would have a first aid station and a CPR defibrillator, and we are the liaison between government authorities and our organization in our...in our entire neighborhood for communication like, you know, for emergencies and stuff. And so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. FIRESTONE: Yeah, you're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Could you give us a copy of your testimony?

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MR. FIRESTONE: Yes, absolutely. We'll give you a copy in a little bit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. FIRESTONE: I have some notes on this one, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody have questions?

MR. FIRESTONE: And we have other speakers lined up on the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To continue your story.

MR. FIRESTONE: Yeah, to continue, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. FIRESTONE: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next...next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Okay. We'll take the next individual from the community association and if you could just state your name for the record.

MR. ESTIN: Hi. My name is Chuck Estin and I'm on the board of...of the Kipahulu Community Association, KCA. And I was involved in the land acquisition committee that started almost a year and a half ago, and...and one of the pieces that we looked at was right next to this Palapala Ho'omau Church parking lot, a 2.64-acre piece that is owned...was owned by someone who hadn't been on the island since he was six. And he...as it turns out he died in his 90s about a year ago. But we were able to get in touch with his...his son, one of his sons, who's a renowned jazz musician in Seattle, through his Facebook page. And he answered...answered us on Messenger and said he'd talk about it with his family, about the possibility of selling it to us. And they generously offered to sell this 2.64-acre place for \$50,000. So, time is of the essence. We...we are working out the details with them. Our...our intention would be to keep this...to...to set up a covenant so this would remain KCA, you know, for perpetuity and not be...and used for our community purposes. And the budget that...that we've submitted is a total of \$226,000, 117 of that would be in-kind donations. And we're asking the County budget for 109,000. And that would be 50,000 for the purchase of the land, 5,000 for closing costs, and 54,000 for development. And we're going to talk about...more about what...what the development would be. So, I'm going to leave it there so I save more time for them. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chuck. You're going to submit to us your testimony, right? I know you were talking to Member Sinenci.

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MR. ESTIN: Yes. Yeah, I'm going to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. ESTIN: I'm...I'm going to email it to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: BFED.

MR. ESTIN: -- to the main...main...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: bfed.committee@mauicounty.us.

MR. ESTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. ESTIN: Question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering, do you know if the land is zoned? Is it agriculture?

MR. ESTIN: It's conservation land that's on the ocean, on...on the cliff. And...and since we wouldn't be using it for a...you know, any residential houses, it's suitable for having just a shelter, which is all we'd want. But we would be using it for putting in a garden. And I'll...I'll let...let the people...other people tell what our purpose for it is.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Conservation.

MR. ESTIN: It is...it is ag land.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Conservation ag.

MR. ESTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. ESTIN: Is that it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: We'll have the next individual from the Kipahulu Community Association.

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MR. BROWN: Aloha. My name is Weslie Brown. I'm from . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Kīpahulu Ahupua'a. I'm here for the project overview, and here it is. KCA's vision includes purchase and protection of the 2.6...2 point...2.64-acre parcel, installation of a safety fence along the coastal cliff, removal of invasive vegetation and ecological restoration, construction of a 20x30 traditional hale, development of a kalo patch and vegetable garden, installation of a rainwater catchment system. This process will itself strengthen community bond through shared labor and stewardship. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? No...no questions. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: We'll have the next individual from the Kīpahulu Community Association.

MR. LIND: Aloha kākou. My name is Keahi Lind from Kīpahulu. I'm a lineal descendant of the East Side of Maui, I'm a cultural practitioner, and I'm also the new President of the KCA board. I am here because we are acquiring...trying to acquire the land. I get this stuff for read, but I think I'm going to just share what I feel. My whole life growing up in the rural place of Kīpahulu, we...the native people moved out, and there's a lot of people that moved in that was of different race, different color, different mindset. And I have to deal with that. We as people here have to live with that, and we've got to find balance. We've got to find a way to live with each other and to find one way that we can actually live life happily and free. And with that, I've figured out a way of like working on...focusing on our...our similarities and getting rid of the differences. So, I started up a group that lasted...it's going on for a year now in Kīpahulu. This is just like...it's a free will, and this is my mission statement for it, which is going to be adopted by KCA now because I'm on it. So, my mission is to nurture a community grounded in Hawaiian culture, philosophy, and symbolism, where shared...shared knowledge and collective practice strengthen our daily lives. We're committed to building a subsistence way of life that emphasizes cooperation, kinship, and the well-being of all generations. Through open dialogue, cultural learning, and the redistribution of resources, we cultivate social stability, emotional support, and respect for both youth and elders, ensuring that all are welcomed, valued, and cared for. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Can you give me your name again? You're...you're the President.

MR. LIND: Keahi Lind.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. LIND: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He's a Lind.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Question.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Lind. Will you please submit your mission statement to us in writing?

MR. LIND: Sure, I will.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. LIND: Thank you.

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

MR. HURDLE: Okay. Our next testifier is Ryan Zucco from the Kīpahulu Community Association.

MR. ZUCCO: Aloha. Yes, my name is Ryan Zucco, and I've been living in Kīpahulu for about 26 years. And I've been a farmer on a single piece of land the entire time. And just, I wanted to introduce myself. I'm an at-large member of the KCA board. And I just wanted to read you the closing statement for our request, and just to let you know that this project represents a critical investment in the future of Kīpahulu. By securing and stewarding the land that we're asking for, KCA will establish a permanent community-held space for cultural practice, food security, and connection. The inclusion of a land covenant ensures that this resource remains protected in perpetuity. Combined with strong governance and deep community commitment, this effort will create a lasting legacy for future generations. Thank you all for your service to Maui County, and for being here to listen to us all tonight. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah. Are you going to...

MR. ZUCCO: Yeah, we're going to submit all of the testimony as one piece.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good.

MR. ZUCCO: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Sunnie Makua, to be followed by Scott Crawford.

MS. MAKUA: It's on my phone, so... Welina mai me ke aloha. Put it...squeeze it. I'm sorry. Oh, to bring it down to me. Okay. Mahalo. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah, I am short. Okay. Yes, mahalo. Aloha kākou. Welcome. Welcome to Hāna, and thank you for your time

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and your service to our community. I'm going to read from my phone because, yeah, first of all I want to support all the nonprofits in Hāna. Just going to state that upfront. So, thank you for this opportunity. My name is Sunnie Kaikala Makua, and I come before you as a descendant of the Kauimakaole 'ohana from Kaki'o, the Ahupua'a of Kaki'o. I currently serve as the Vice-Chair for Ke Ao Hāli'i, and tonight I'm speaking on their behalf. In 2017, Ke Ao Hāli'i was founded in response to the exclusive high-end development threat that would directly impact the native landscapes and subsistence way of life for Mokae and Maka'alae coastline. Today we face another such threat as we heard earlier at Haneo'o. The Haneo'o Hāmoa Fishing Village Hui, composed of lineal descendants, subsistence gatherers, and other residents, was formed in 2025 in direct response to the yet another threat of this high-end luxury development for profit. The hui approached Ke Ao Hāli'i for our support in purchasing 115 acres from Ranch Partners LLC. So, you can see on that handout. As an 11-member board, we unanimously voted to support the hui. Ke Ao Hāli'i, after formally establishing...established eight years ago, has acquired 180 acres. We have completed and continued working towards significant accomplishments, uplifting 'āina and people of Hāna, hiring Hāna's own to be active 'āina stewards, mitigating overtourism and exploitation at wahi pana such as Kaihalulu and Waioka, rehabilitating 'āina through native plant restoration along the Hāna coast, hosting local students with hands-on experiences in...on the 'āina, and more. Our kuleana is to work alongside our community to re-establish our rightful place as 'āina stewards for generations to come. This evening we are collectively asking for the support in the amount of \$3 million for the Open Space Funds to help us purchase the Haneo'o lands. Ke Ao Hāli'i stands firmly alongside the hui, not only because of the closeness of our proximity of the lands, but because of who we are, because of our collective history, a shared mo'okū'auhau and the connections to our 'āina, as 'āina is our ancestor and those ancestors that have come before us. The esteemed stories that you heard of before of our ancestors Kū'ula-kai and 'Ai'ai rooted in the land and the ocean has forever changed the way of life, the ingenuity of loko i'a and...and the way in which we fished. The history lives not only in the landscapes but also in the DNA of the people of Hāna and the generations yet unborn. Along this coastline were well-designed complexes where our ali'i and maka'āinana lived and thrived in harmony with the natural elements. Today, some ten generations later, post-colonization, we are the descendants of our beloved ancestors and we are...we of...of these storied lands and her people, and we are still here. We are the answers to the prayers of our ancestors. So, I leave you tonight to ask you to consider what part you will have in keeping the storied landscapes alive and for our future generations. Mahalo nui. Aloha kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Thank you. Question. So, we have Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you so much. So, I'm looking at your guys' one-pager and now that I've had a minute to sit with it. So, the appraised value is 3.5 million, you guys are requesting 3. The Legacy Land Conservation Program awarded you folks 600,000 with another 700,000 possible. Is that going to go to the potential purchase of the property as well?

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MS. MAKUA: I think Scott will be able to cover that --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay.

MS. MAKUA: -- in his...yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I can hold it. Thank you.

MS. MAKUA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MAKUA: Okay, mahalo.

MR. HURDLE: Our next testifier --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: -- is Scott Crawford, to be followed by Noe Lecker.

MR. CRAWFORD: Aloha. Good evening Chair Sugimura and Members of the Committee. Thank you for coming out to Hāna to hear the needs of our community. I'm Scott Crawford, and I'd like to first off say, as an individual, I'd like to speak in support of the request of the Kīpahulu Community Association, and then also just follow up on the earlier testimony from Ke Ao Hāli'i regarding the Haneo'o 'āina and provide a little bit more, you know, information about the...the request and sort of the current status of that. I serve on the board as a board of directors for Ke Ao Hāli'i, and as...we...we just recently received an appraisal...actually the...from ACM Maui for the...the valuation of the...little over 3.5 million. We have...the Legacy Land Conservation Program award of 600,000 was just approved by the BLNR last week, or two weeks ago, and so that will be matching funds to go towards the acquisition. So, that total with the Legacy Land and the request we're asking for is 3.6 million, which is basically the 3.5, plus like 100,000 for, you know, closing costs and related...related costs for the transaction. And I just wanted to mention that some of the specific criteria that meet the open space, natural resources, cultural resources, and scenic view conservation values. Historic and...historically and culturally-significant land area, mo'olelo, heiau, iwi kūpuna, wahi pana. It's a coastal area preserving the water quality and the adjacent significant habitat and ecosystems of the fish pond and the nearshore subsistence fisheries. Rich alluvial agricultural lands with Kaholopo'o Stream flowing through, public outdoor educational opportunities. So, you know, you've heard from other testifiers of the urgency of this request because of the threat of development, and so as a member of the board of Ke Ao Hāli'i, we're pleased to be able to step forward and try to provide...try to provide a solution that will keep these lands in the hands of the community and allow, you know, the...the stewardship of the lands going forward. And for that we need your help in the Open Space Fund. So, thank you for your support.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you Mr. Crawford. Any questions? Can you provide your written testimony --

MR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MR. CRAWFORD: And I have...real quick before questions, a couple other things too is we'll submit a link that has a folder of documents that are sort of the supporting documents for this request. And I also wanted to mention that in the special purpose revenues, a...a...prior year appropriations, item 6 is 600,000 to Ke Ao Hāli'i for the purchase of Nānu'alele, which was actually put into the budget two years ago. In the doing the due diligence for that we found out, through Corporation Counsel, that because that land doesn't have a public access it's not eligible for Open Space Funds. So, basically you could take that out of the budget and put that 600,000 back into the Open Space Fund. So, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha, Mr. Crawford. Okay. So, I have two questions. One, do you know why the Mayor didn't include...so the Legacy Land Commission, they awarded five of the properties...two on Molokai, three on Maui. And you folks was one of them. But Ke Ao Hāli'i isn't included in Open Space. Do you know why?

MR. CRAWFORD: It's...basically has to do with the timing of the request because like I mentioned, we just got the appraisal like last week and so this has all been...we've kind of been trying to figure this out since the...since the contested case. But since the appeal was filed last fall and the hui came to Ke Ao Hāli'i to try to put together a proposal, our first focus was on Legacy Land. And because we didn't even really know the number that we were asking for, we...we...we met with Mayor Bissen and he expressed his support for this proposal, but he said basically at that point it will have to come from the Council to be put into the budget. So, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that. And so, is that why, in the Legacy Land Commission agenda, the proposed request was \$4,540,900?

MR. CRAWFORD: That's correct, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

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MR. CRAWFORD: That request was actually based on the...the TMK, the value in the...the...whatever, it's the market value listed on the TMK and the page, so that was what we were going off of when we went to Legacy Land.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, it's like half a million dollars less than what?

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or is it half a million?

MR. CRAWFORD: And...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No it's 1.5...no, I can't do math right now.

MR. CRAWFORD: . . .*(laughing)*. . . And I think the...the handout that we gave you also mentions that there's another potential \$700,000 in the Legacy Land Fund which is a DOFA project that they anticipate that money being freed up and then it will become available for this project. And if that happens then it would be \$700,000 less that we...than we would need from the Open Space Fund. But we don't know that for sure so we're asking for for...what we need.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Got it. Mahalo for that clarification. I was at that meeting supporting all of our Maui County proposals and I remember them considering not approving you folks, and I'm really glad that they did.

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm supportive. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thanks, Scott. Just to clarify, the...the TMKs listed on this current will be...will be the TMKs --

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- that we would use for the proposal?

MR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, and we'll provide all that in a written submission as well, the details.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice seeing you. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Noe Lecker, to be followed by Earle Medeiros.

MS. LECKER: Aloha. My name is Noe Lecker. This is my son RJ. I asked if he wanted to speak...at first when I signed the paper he said no, but after hearing from the rest of the community he was like he wanted to share. So, go ahead.

MR. LECKER: Aloha. My name is RJ and I'm 11 and I go to the Kula Kaiapuni o Hāna at fifth grade and I just want to thank you for MEO and Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike. Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: *(Applause)*

MS. LECKER: Yeah, he uses that service weekly. So, again, my name is Noe Lecker. I am a lineal descendent from Kahikinui through Kaupō, Kīpahulu all the way through Hāna, Nāhiku and Ke'ānae. So, I'm going to be speaking on the different districts. I wanted to go off what Jos Akoī said about Hāna Mamas. This is a very important thing that we're trying to do for our community because it's a much-needed program. We don't have those services anymore as far as mental health illness and substance abuse or even housing for that program. So, we are hoping that we can get some community support in putting some of these programs together and working together. And I wanted to go off what a lot of the community members said in support of MEO, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, Kahanu Gardens. A lot was said. I now live in Kīpahulu for ten years so I do support what Kīpahulu Community Association is doing. So, I wanted to also talk about Kīpahulu Point Park where we do hold the community association. We talked about having a playground or some kind of a structure for families to come and bring their kids. They have one picnic table, and the fence that runs along the coastline that there's a hill drop, there's a hole in the fence and that's really a security issue because we do have kids that play at the park and that hole is very dangerous. So, if somehow monies can be used to upkeep the park and the fencing along Kīpahulu Point Park. I also wanted to touch base on funds that can secure Pa'ani Mai Skate Park. We started the phases, but it's never been completed. So, if somehow we cannot put funds towards getting the skate park finished. There is a need for a parking lot because cars park on the road and maybe five cars and that's not enough. And I also wanted to talk about Ke'ānae, lower Ke'ānae having...I know one of the kūpunas, Janet Redo, been pushing pretty much every year asking for some kind of a community center there for the kūpunas to gather. She also asked for a park as well, some kind of park facility for the kids, same as what Pa'ani Mai Park have. So, if you guys could like, you know, look back at those requests that has been made. I wanted to give a shout out to our Hāna Police Department if possibly...I know this has been on the agenda for a while, if we could have a Hāna community base officer in place for Hāna to where that

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community officer can handle calls just regarding community. Because what happens is when you have officers on duty and there's an emergency in Kaupō, but at the same time there's a call out in Nāhiku, they can't get to those places in time. But if we had a community police officer when it's just kind of like hey, there's something happening at my home, that that could be assigned to that community officer, it will relieve the other officers for those types of accident or emergency calls. So, if you guys could consider putting some funds for that, hiring a community . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . officer. I know that it does go by numbers and Hāna does not have numbers. We have people, we have families, we have lives, but if somehow you guys could count maybe the tourist numbers, the amount of people that come into Hāna, because that should be counted as our census. We get more tourists that come in and out of Hāna and not a lot of them support our community. And so, if we can get some funds towards that, I would greatly appreciate it. I also support all of the nonprofit organizations here in Hāna. It's much needed. We're a rural area, and we really need a lot of support from other entities, but from...from County . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . would be even better. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Lecker. I was wondering if you could clarify, I...I don't think I caught it, because there is police but you wanted a community police officer. If you can clarify the difference of your expectations?

MS. LECKER: Well, I know outside in town they have...I don't know maybe if one of the officers can talk about it, but a community officer would be assigned to just community calls versus an emergency, accident, a fire, or...could you clarify that? Sorry, it's been...we've been requesting it for several years now, but there's a...there's a difference between a regular office and a community officer. Thank you.

MS. BONACORSI: Hi. I'm Lieutenant Bonacorsi. So, what she's talking about is a community officer. So, all of my officers are versatile in both the community and...but she's right, we're short-handed for the vast...so we go from Ke'anae all the way to Kaupō. So, sometimes there's two officers on shifts, sometimes there's one. And then we have Emi at the school, they have a school resource officer. So, any other officers would be very helpful for the community to provide any services. And a community policing officer would also be like a visitor policing officer if something happened, you know, like a death or unfortunate. We have a lot, you guys know, we have a lot at Red Sands and all that stuff. But any officer would be beneficial for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's not in the budget?

MS. BONACORSI: I do not know if it's in the budget. I know they were trying to put it in the budget. I don't know if it went into this budget. So, for that, but thank you.

MS. LECKER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more questions? Thank you.

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MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Earle Medeiros, to be followed by Heidi Lea.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How many more testifiers? We haven't taken a break.

MR. HURDLE: After this, we have three more testifiers signed up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Anybody...

MR. MEDEIROS: Aloha, Councilmembers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MEDEIROS: I'm glad to see you guys here. You guys can hear? I'm just here to testify mainly for Hāmoa Haneo'o Village Hui. You know, this...this thing that they're doing is very special. We get a lot of sacred places, a lot of heiaus and everything on that...that lands, yeah, that they want. And also I come from that area, yeah. My real father is John-Bull English (*phonetic*). That's my real father. I was brought up in the house that I live in today. Yeah. And that I hear...you know, he raised cows. I used to go chase a cow in a pasture with friends and we got to bring the cows home. Then I raised cows and I will do that in the younger days. Yeah. And so, I just hope that you guys can support us, you know, in every way you guys can, yeah. Because, you know, nowadays everybody's grumbling, everything so expensive. And especially Hāna, how can you live in Hāna? The mainland grumbling, oh, 5, \$8, whatever. Hāna been like that from years ago. Expensive. I mean, they're grumbling out, but, you know, we've...

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

MR. MEDEIROS: Yeah. So, get...get other guys that I went write down that went, but most of the people talk like Ke Ao Hāli'i and also the...the Lind 'ohana and, you know, get Mahele Farms, the Kūpuna Center, you know, all those guys, but it's been brought up a lot. So, I'm not going there, yeah. And Yuki, you said it right, you know, at the beginning of this program, you said this is paradise. We want to keep it like that. That's...I know. You guys got to understand. We have to keep it like that. And if we're not going to fight, we're going to lose in the end. The locals going to lose in the end. You know, we all know that as a fact, yeah. So, thank you so much. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Heidi Lea, to be followed by Matt Keiley.

MS. LEA: Aloha kākou. Like so many people here, I wear a few hats. I'm the marketing and advertising and editor for the Hānaside News. . . .(*laughing*). . . But I also serve as the Director in the Hāna Community Association, and we really support what the community associations are doing, and Kaupō and Kīpahulu, so many of our nonprofits. And I'm just so grateful for the community who helps put together the content and

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shares their stories that we can put out on a quarterly basis. So, I thought that would help fill in some of the blanks from people speaking this evening. But I really want to thank you all for coming out this evening, and on behalf of the Hāna Business Council, where I'm the Executive Director, mahalo for the support of multiple...from multiple departments in the County of Maui. So, for the Department of Agriculture for granting funding towards the development of the Hāna Hub project, successfully bringing us to completion of the acquisition of property to move the project forward. Additionally, it was Director Kali Arce who recommended the Hāna Business Council in this project for the congressional earmark funding that was approved for FY '26. So, we're integrating that funding for our first phase development. That was \$1,015,000. And the acquisition funding, we thank the Mayor's office and you Councilmembers for supporting and getting the earmark funding to cover the purchase of the 14.57 acres next to the Hāna Airport for the location of this project. It's been something the community has asked for, for like 35 years, and finally we found the right, we hope, spot. But it's adjacent to the Hāna Airport, and we share a boundary with the runway. And we really want to extend so much gratitude for the Grants Management Program Manager of the Office of Recovery, Lyle Kobashigawa, for taking this purchase over the finish line. We closed on March 27th. So, yay. As the...yeah, and so also, the Hāna Business Council is the fiscal sponsor for the Ho'omākaukau Maui Hikina, or East Maui Ready. We anticipate working on building the resilience of East Maui's community with the earmark funding that was allocated for the FY '26 Budget under the Maui Emergency Management Agency. That has not been executed yet, but we look forward to working with that funding and ongoing planning and building this facility and a network of support for better...that better prepares us for future incidents affecting our 'ohana and infrastructure. We're also extremely grateful that we got Akaneki Lind hired as our East Maui liaison with MEMA and excited to work with her and make this a resilience hub that can be prepared in advance of the Kona low type situations that we just went through. We learned a lot from that. And then also, from our East Maui discretionary funding through the Office of Economic Development, we're grateful for ongoing program support for our hanamaui.com website and supporting community outreach to inform and grow engagement in areas like the community pathway, cesspool conversions, using 'āina-based solutions for addressing environmental and health concerns for our district's future. We have been renting this property that we just closed on since October of 2024, and quarterly, we have the Maui Humane Society come and do their community clinics. We also have had our wala'au sesh with our Hāna Police on a quarterly basis and 'Ohana Makamae does the food bank distributions twice monthly . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . out of the kitchen. We...the Hāna Community Association donated 50 Chairs and 6 tables for community gatherings that we do regularly at that space. We do our monthly East Maui Ready and Hāna Business Council meetings hybrid out of the house at that location, and we put up a lot of our community support at the house. MEMA's going to be there over the Taro Fest in a couple weeks. People with wastewater alternatives and innovations have stayed there and that's done free for goodwill to build engagement with this project. So, we really appreciate your support and everything you do for our East Maui communities. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for what you do. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Matt Keiley, to be followed by Akaneki Lind.

MR. KEILEY: Good evening. I'm Matt Keiley. Thanks for coming. I'd like to express my support for the 37 nonprofits in East Maui here. I'm a Director on the Maui County Farm Bureau, so that's the main reason I'm here. I'd like to thank you for your support and ask for continued support as well. Some of the programs, a program that I...is dear to me is the Keiki in the Classroom Program which is...you know, helps bring our younger students exposure to agriculture. And it's...it's kind of a sold out deal. We don't have...you know, there's more demand than there is space. So...and we need...we need more farmers, younger...younger farmers. It's just...it's a known fact. The USDA says the Hawaiian farmer is the oldest in the...in this...in the country at an average of like 62 years of age. So, that's very important. And I'd like to see some...maybe some more funding in...in that area as far as with the Department of Agriculture. And I see a lot of...get some emails and things and it's just young farmers need...need...need financial support. They need education first off as far as business and what they're going to go into. But they need startup money and they need the land. And that's...land is very expensive here and it's...so we need that. On some other subjects...let's see, what have we got here? Oh, MEO, great...great program. MISC needs funding. They're...they're fighting an uphill battle. There's a lot more...there's some things...well, the CRB on...on O'ahu and now the Big Island. We...we lucked out here, I would say. There's a new...it's gone from basically Puna all the way to South Point now. There's a coconut rhinoceros...no, it's a Queensland longhorn beetle, and it's...ulu is very susceptible, cycads and palms, bananas, all these type of things. So, we don't want that here as well. So, continued funding for MISC is very important. And oh, the project, you know, shutting down the potential development of . . . *(inaudible)*. . . I think that \$3 million would be very well spent. And the 25,000...\$50,000 out in Kipahulu, that's kind of a no-brainer. Okay. And thanks for your time. Aloha.

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

MR. HURDLE: Chair, the next testifier is Akaneki Lind, and then the last person signed up is Mary Brook.

MS. A. LIND: Aloha. Hi. My name is Akaneki Lind, and sorry, I'm also going to be reading from my phone. So, I am the new Emergency Staff Specialist here in East Maui for MEMA. Thank you. It's a really important role for me and for our community. And I am basically using this as an introduction, and then I have a few other things on the side as well. So, I'll be serving as the East Maui liaison between the Hāna community and the EOC or the...or MEMA. And I'm going to be transitioning into this role slowly and surely. I've got a lot to learn in this role. I stepped into this role in the middle of the Kona storm on March 18th, and I'm currently working remotely and also currently looking for office space as well. I did talk to Hoku Hobbs. I'm also still in training, but

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I'm truly grateful for this community, especially in times of the Kona storm. In this short period of time and also just with being a community member of Hāna, I realize how important it is to keep a consistent connection with the community and our County Emergency Management response teams. East Maui is uniquely isolated and during...and during emergencies, our communities are often among the most impacted and sometimes the last to receive support. Having a dedicated MEMA presence in Hāna helps strengthen this coordination and can improve communication and build local preparedness as well so that we're not solely reliant on Central Maui. That also includes improving emergency resources in the East Side and supporting community-based response efforts. So, I noticed during the storms that a lot of the communities got...in Hāna supported the community, like a lot of the organizations, nonprofits, which was really...I mean, I already...I already knew that, but it was really awesome to see it in action. Because as we all know, MEMA was also busy with Lahaina and Kihei and other areas as well. So, next, I would like to take my MEMA hat off, if I can, and I want to speak on behalf of myself and as a community member. When the Kona storm hit, there were a lot of local volunteers and organizations that donated a lot of their own time and supplies, and some of them put their own lives in danger. Organizations like Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, Mahele Farms, Hāna Farmers Market or HFU, and Hāna MEO was there to help support with supplies. They donated a lot of their own supplies for a lot of the community members that lost things. I would also like to recognize on the side Hāna Canoe Club and Kīpahulu 'Ohana. That might be a personal thing, but it's organizations that I feel that are deeply rooting and serving our keiki and uplifting our lāhui, our 'ohana. But the...but those values are kind of what helped me shape who I am today and just being able to be in this position. And the last, I really would like support for MISC, Hāna Police Station, and Hāna Fire Department as well. Investing in these roles, I feel, directly impacts how quickly and effectively our communities receive support here in East Maui. And I'd also like to respectfully highlight the importance of supporting frontline positions in East Maui, including all those Hāna Police Station and Hāna Fire, even the Emergency Management Staff. In rural and isolated communities like ours, recruitment and retention for these roles can be especially challenging. And it could directly impact how quickly and effectively those communities receive support. So, thank you very much for your support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Congratulations on your position.

MS. A. LIND: Thank you.

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

MR. HURDLE: Okay. Sorry, Chair. Our last two testifiers are Mary Brook, to be followed by Laua'e Lind.

MS. BROOK: Aloha, everyone. My name is Mary Kauai Kala-Brook, and I...my family is from Hāna, from Kaupō, all the way to Ke'anae is where our family roots. I am the President of our nonprofit called Hāna Dragon Football Booster. And for the record, our booster is rated good standing. And I want you guys to note that because 100 percent of our

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proceeds goes directly to the students. Now, I was here a year ago when Councilwoman Tasha Kama was here, and I spoke to you folks the importance of our athletic traveling for our keikis from Hāna to our different locations. And we were blessed to receive not only 20,000, but 40,000 from your Council. And thank you because our athletics needs that for our kids. Because one thing about the athletics here in Hāna is that it helps the kids not only to have good sportsmanship, but it also helps them to be good citizens, has good grades, and it goes on and on to be a respectable citizen. Now, I know that we received it, but I'm asking if there is a way that you guys can follow up because I don't know where the funds went. And...and the reason why I'm asking that is that recently we've had buses that transported our girls flag football to a game, and the buses broke down. And I know MEO, they've always been there. They're always helping us out. So, I want you guys to continue to support them because they're always...they're lifesavers to us. So, thank you, MEO, on it. But I just feel that when those funds were allocated out, it was supposed to go to a nonprofit. Now, my nonprofit here, Hāna Football...Dragon Football Booster, was supposed to receive those funds, but we didn't. It went to somewhere else. And the thing that I am here is that I want to follow up where this money went. Why is it not being used currently? Because I know Shane's office, they've been so good helping us and getting that with Auntie Mavis and...and the team. They're so good about that and keeping us. But somehow, from when it was disbursed, I'm not too sure where it went. But bottom line is, I'm asking you guys for the support of our athletics and students here for safety-wise. Can you please find out where this money went? Because it's supposed to be used for that, period, nothing else, according to what Tasha Kama gave to us when I stood here, when she was here and I asked for money to help . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . support us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done?

MS. BROOK: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done? Okay. Thank you.

MS. BROOK: I am done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, did you receive a letter from someone from the County saying that you have been awarded this for your Hāna Dragon --

MS. BROOK: Dragon Football Booster.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Football Booster?

MS. BROOK: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MS. BROOK: There was paperwork that the principal and I both filled out that went along with this, you know, monies. And I know that we received it, but right now I haven't had no response from the principal on it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. BROOK: So, it's alarming to me. And it's alarming to see a bus broke down and kids are in the rain, you know, trying to get there.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thanks, Kauai. We did --

MS. BROOK: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- we did speak with Chris at the school, and he said that his application was denied. So, we called the...the Department to let them know that it was for student travel. I do see under the Mayor's department 20,000 for Hāna student travel.

MS. BROOK: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But there is --

MS. BROOK: That's awesome.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- 20,000 in there --

MS. BROOK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- under the Mayor's Office.

MS. BROOK: Yes. Okay. Then will you help assist us to get those funds so they could use it? Because we need it right away.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I'll follow up.

MS. BROOK: Okay? All right. Thank you so much. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MS. BROOK: Have a blessed day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No other questions.

MS. BROOK: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member --

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MS. BROOK: You have a question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Paltin has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just double checking, that is MIL --

MS. BROOK: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the Dragons?

MS. BROOK: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. It says that there's 30,000, must be used for Maui Interscholastic League travel to neighbor island special events or tournaments. So, the principal is part of the MIL and he applied for it under your nonprofit?

MS. BROOK: It was supposed to be there, but...and we did the paperwork together. But however, I'm not too sure where it went.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. BROOK: But I just want to make sure that we get that money.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. BROOK: Yeah. Oh, okay. Thank you. I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci will assist you.

MS. BROOK: Have a blessed night, everyone. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Wait one moment, Kauai.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just...just so it's clear.

MS. BROOK: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know you...mahalo for your testimony tonight. I know you keep asking where the money is. In the future, if you are awarded that, it is a reimbursement.

MS. BROOK: Oh, okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, money isn't just given to an organization. The money is first --

MS. BROOK: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- fronted by the organization, and then you get --

MS. BROOK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- reimbursed by the County.

MS. BROOK: And we get reimbursed for that. Okay. Thank you --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. BROOK: -- for that. I can go ahead and get that taken care of on that, too. Okay. Anyone else?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Seeing none. You're fine? Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. BROOK: Okay. Thank you. Have a blessed night, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. HURDLE: Chair, currently our last testifier is Laua'e Lind.

MS. L. LIND: Aloha nui, everybody. Thank you for coming. My name is Laua'e Lind, and I'm 25 years old, and I'm a lineal descendant of the Hāna, Kīpahulu, and Kaupō Moku. My grandfather was born at Papahawahawa in the Mū'olea Ahupua'a, and my grandmother was born and raised in Kīpahulu. I'm proud to serve on the board of a nonprofit organization called Nā Mamo o Mū'olea, especially because my grandfather, Bruce Lind, was the first and founding president of Nā Mamo o Mū'olea in 2006. I'm here to ask for funding to support our nonprofit so we can continue our restoration efforts to strengthen the biodiversity and cultural vitality of our 'āina. We are requesting funding that will directly advance Nā Mamo's stewardship through restoration of native species, revitalizing terrestrial and coastal ecosystems through the reintroduction of native plants, removal of invasive species, and sustainable habitat stewardship. I'm also seeking funding for experiential...experiential learning workshops that provide hands-on cultural and ecological mālama 'āina education for community members and youth to strengthen generational knowledge and stewardship practices. We also aim to offer our staff and board of directors opportunities to participate in workshops, conferences focused on cultural stewardships around the State, marine resource management, and leadership. Mahalo.

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

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MR. HURDLE: I believe we had Sam Akoi.

MR. AKOI: Aloha mai kākou. ‘O Kamuela ko‘u inoa. ‘O wau, from Kaupō to Ke‘anae to Lahaina, to all the Hawaiian islands. Royalty of Hāna. Anyway, thank you guys for coming. I’m in support with all the nonprofits and every individual that spoke tonight for funds. We should support, you know, the lāhui. I serve on Ke Ao Hāli‘i as an executive board member. I’m in full support in the land acquisition, the 3 million that is asked by our members. I support the Nā Mamo o Mū‘olea. The...the Ka‘ahumanu organization, you know, for our Queen Ka‘ahumanu, you know, supporting that. But yeah, I just ask you guys, you know, to...to help us help ourselves, work together, and create our lāhui so we can love and cherish each other and support each other and...and mālama our ‘āina. So, thank you.

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

MR. HURDLE: Chair, that’s all the individuals signed up to testify.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you everybody for spending your evening with us.

AUDIENCE: *(Applause)*

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Before we close the evening, I wanted to just announce our South Maui District meeting, these residency area meetings, was supposed to be Wednesday, but we’re changing it to the 14th next week, Tuesday, in anticipation of the weather. That will start at 6:00. And on the West Maui meeting is going to be on the 17th, and that was supposed to be this Thursday. We’re moving it to the 17th next week, Friday, at 6:00, in case anybody was planning to travel to those community meetings. So, thank you very much for letting us be here. We have taken notes. Please submit anything that you had in writing to us so we have it exactly as you would like us to know. We appreciate seeing the Police Department here. I’ll send pictures of you to the Chief. He’ll be happy to see you working. And be safe, everybody. We will drive safely as we go home.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: AL)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: But this meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 8:15 p.m.

bfed:min:260406-East Maui:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 43 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 1st day of May 2026, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck