

WATER AUTHORITY, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

June 3, 2024

Online via Teams

CONVENE: 9:17 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member (Out 11:17 a.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

STAFF:

Clarissa MacDonald Legislative Analyst
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary
Criselda Paranada, Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

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

Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson
Jared Agtunong, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Cook
Stacy Takahashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Cook
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Lei Kama-Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Nayleen Kamai, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Keomailani Hirata, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez

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Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez
Laura McDowell, Executive Assistant to Councilmember U'u-Hodgins

ADMIN.: Selina Pannell, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (All)
Naomi Crozier, Homeless Coordinator, Office of the Mayor (WASSP-1(19))
Lori Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns (All)
Chris Kish, Homeless Program Coordinator, Department of Housing and Human Concerns (WASSP-1(19))
Mike Crowe, Sergeant, Department of Police (WASSP-1(19))
Joy Medeiros, Captain, Department of Police (WASSP-1(19))
Jan Pontanilla, Sergeant, Department of Police (WASSP-1(19))
Martell Irish, Officer, Department of Police (WASSP-1(19))
Gavin Fujioka, Deputy Chief, Department of Fire & Public Safety (WASSP-1(19))

OTHERS: Echo Wyche, Director of Social Services, Project Vision Hawai'i (WASSP-1(17))
Bob Wardlaw, Director of Housing, Project Vision Hawai'i (WASSP-1(17))
Ryan Naka, Director of Philanthropy and Marketing, Project Vision Hawai'i (WASSP-1(17))
Mo'i Kawa'akoa, Po'ou, Holomua Outreach (WASSP-1(19))

Testifiers

Leslee Matthews (WASSP-1(17), -1(19))
Brian Hauser (WASSP-1(17), -1(18))
Gordon Jackson (WASSP-1(17))
Lisa Darcy (All)
Jason Medina (WASSP-1(17), -1(19))
Trinette Furtado (WASSP-1(19))
Jordan Hocker (WASSP-1(19))
Faith Chase (All)
Nāpua Hū'eu (All)
Zhanell Lindo (All)
Maya Marquez (WASSP-1(19))
Robin Knox (All)
Jasee Law (All)

(10+) additional attendees

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

CHAIR SINENCI: *... (gavel) ...* Hey. Aloha kakahiaka kākou, and shukran, everybody. Welcome to the Monday, June 3rd, 2024 WASSP Committee. I'm Shane Sinenci, your Committee Chair. It is now 9:17. Mahalo for you guys' patience. As a reminder for members of the public to please silence your cell phones or any noise-making devices. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you're not in the Council Chambers, please identify by name if anyone is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Also, please see the last page of the agenda for

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information on meeting connectivity. Joining us this morning, we have Committee Vice-Chair Gabe Johnson. Aloha and shukran.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. Shukran to everyone. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District office, and I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Next, joining us in the Chambers, we have Councilmember Tom Cook. Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair, and shukran.

CHAIR SINENCI: Shukran. I don't see Pro Tem Kama. Is she on? Or she'll join us in a little bit?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I believe Member Kama's office noted that she'll be joining us online today, but we don't see her on currently.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. She'll...she'll join us later. Also in the Chambers this morning, we have Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha kākou, and shukran. And looking forward to this very, very interesting agenda you have. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Also joining us in the Chambers we have Councilmember Tamara Paltin. Aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, and shukran kākou.

CHAIR SINENCI: Also in the Chambers this morning we have Ms. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. We have currently no testifiers at the Molokaʻi District office. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you for that. And then from Upcountry we have Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aloha. Good morning, everybody. Looking forward to a productive meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: And joining us from Pāʻia-Haʻikū District, Member Uʻu-Hodgins. Aloha, kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Good morning, Chair. Shukran, everyone.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Good morning. From Corporation Counsel, we have Ms. Selina Pannell. From the Office of the Mayor we have Ms. Naomi Crozier, the Homeless Coordinator. And we've invited the Director of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, Director Tshako, as well as Mr. Kish, the Homeless Division Coordinator. From the Department of the Police we have Captain Joy Medeiros, Sergeant Pontanilla, and Officer Irish. Also from the Department of Fire and Public Safety, we've invited Deputy Chief Fujioka. Our Committee Staff this morning is Ms. Maria Leon, Ms. Criselda Paranada, Ms. Clarissa MacDonald, Mr. Jarret Pascual, Ms. Carla Nakata, Ms. Lei Dinneen, and Ms. Jean Pokipala. Welcome, everybody. Members, on today's agenda we have three Rule 7(B) items. No legislative action will be taken today. WASSP-1(17) is an update on Pu'uhonua o Nēnē, the temporary shelter. Our second item, WASSP-1(18), the Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness. When we take up this item, Members, my plan will be to defer, as the Commission was unable to meet last week to discuss their annual report. We'll meet on this item once the Commission is able to meet again and...and discuss their report before coming before this Committee. The third item, WASSP-1(19), the Current Conditions for the Unsheltered on Holomua Road in Pā'ia Town. Members, I'm designating the following panel members as resource persons under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council because of their special expertise related to our agenda items. For WASSP-1(17), we have three staff members with us from Project Vision Hawai'i who is assisting the State Department of Human Services with Pu'uhonua o Nēnē...Ms. Echo Wyche, the Director of Social Services; Mr. Bob Wardlaw, Director of Housing; and Mr. Ryan Naka, Director of Philanthropy and Marketing. And for WASSP-1(18), we have Mo'i Kawa'akoa of the Maui Rapid Response, who is the Po'o for Holomua Outreach. Staff, do we have testifiers this morning?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. We currently have seven testifiers signed up.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. I'll go ahead and read the testimony. In accordance with the Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting, but cannot be limited until the start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, and as the item is called up on the agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should sign up in the Chamber, join the online meeting via the Teams link, or call in to the phone number noted on today's agenda. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. I guess our chat function is...is not working this morning, so for those calling in, please follow the prompts via phone; star-five to raise and lower your hand, and star-six to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then enable your microphone and video, and call the name you're logged on under or the last four digits of your phone number when it's your time to testify. Written testimony is encouraged, and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and will be accepted at the beginning of the meeting and prior to the Committee deliberation on each item on...on the agenda. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I'll kindly ask you to complete your testimony. We ask that you state your full name and organization, but if you prefer to testify anonymously, Staff will identify and refer to you as "Testifier" and assign you a number. Please also indicate the agenda

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item or items you are testifying on. Once you're done testifying, and if you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. The Chair will maintain decorum during the meeting. And we can now proceed. Staff, can you call the first person up, please?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you. Chair. The first testifier is Leslee Matthews on Teams, to be followed by Brian Hauser.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Matthews.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. MATTHEWS: Aloha. Good morning. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

MS. MATTHEWS: Good morning. I'm testifying on Committee Item 1(19) regarding Holomua Road. I would like for Bill 95 to be appropriately referred to Committee. I think it's shortsighted to decide this item in...at the Committee...at the Council level. This deserves ample communication on this issue. I am in full support of the Holomua Outreach team that goes out there to provide services to the community. They've been working with Naomi from the Mayor's Office. I've also had an opportunity to go and do outreach out there with other case managers. We've been able to provide meals, and we've gone out there for Christmas and other...other things. So, you know, I...I believe there were requests from other Councilmembers to have this issue referred to Committee, and I believe a Committee referral is appropriate. I have actively been trying to get people into shelter here on Maui. There...they are full. I called KHAKO, Ka Hale A Ke Ola, last week on behalf of a person with disabilities and a...another mom with her child. They still have not gotten access to shelter because our shelters are full. And we also lost a shelter in the Maui wildfires. And so, you know, a lot of our people want housing, and housing is just out of reach for so many. With the Direct Leasing [*sic*] Program and over 500 homes sitting empty, it is hard to find housing for people, but I don't believe it's appropriate to close off a road. I think that we should just call the bill what it is, it's an anti-homelessness bill. And it doesn't provide any resources, it doesn't provide for fire safety...it doesn't do those things. And so, if we could discuss this in Committee, I think it would be more appropriate so that we could have the service providers come out and discuss this issue. Mo'i is going to be providing information about this, and I think it would be appropriate. Just really quickly on...I think it's Item 17, I love the folks from Project Vision Hawai'i, and I'm really grateful for the work that they provide. Just as it pertains to the shelter, I would like for it to be accessible for persons with disabilities. I think that is so important to the...to...so that is...is accessible. The site is not accessible as it stands now, and that is kind of a hindrance for persons with disabilities as they seek services. So that is all my testimony. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Matthews. We have a question for you from Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Matthews. I just had two...two clarifying questions. I've been trying to nail down the number of Direct Lease units sitting vacant. I was wondering your source for the 500 Direct Lease sitting vacant. I...I get emails daily about Direct Leases sitting vacant here and there, but I was wondering, how did you get that source?

MS. MATTHEWS: I read it in a *Civil Beat* article. So if I find the article, I can share it with the Committee. But, you know, it's just really heartbreaking when you have people, fire survivors, that are seeking to be housed, and you can't get them in a house, and our dollars are going to empty places. And so, I got it from a *Civil Beat* article.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. And then my second clarifying question was my understanding, the Pu'uhonua o Nēnē also doesn't accept children. Is that how you feel it should be? Because right now, there are a number of people with children that are also not being able to access housing. Is that...

MS. MATTHEWS: It...the site does not accept children. My understanding in my communication with Brad Kieserman, what the Red Cross determine is...at...at its current state, when it started, it wasn't appropriate for people with children and those with disabilities. The...we have very limited places for people with children. I had a case...and I can't go into the details, but I had a case that was with Child Welfare Services where I represented the mom. And her kids were actually preyed upon by a predator...you know, human trafficking. And she tried desperately to get into shelter with her kids, and couldn't. So, we want...we care about...so, to answer your question, it does...the shelter does not open to people with children.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I...I know that. I...I was just asking, like, you know how you said it's also not open to ADA. Is that your sentiment for children too, that it should be, or it...it should continue not to be? Because I'm hearing of some folks, survivors, slipping through the cracks with children, and this is not an option for them. And...and they're on like Catholic Charities', their Family Life Center's list, but they don't have shelter. So, I just wanted to clarify, as you were asking, that it should be allowed for ADA, are you for or against it to be allowed to families with children as well?

MS. MATTHEWS: I think we...we can do better by our kids. They are tents...I'm not sure--and maybe Project Vision could answer--how long people are supposed to be living in these tents. So I...I don't personally feel like it's appropriate for children to be able to live there because I think we can do better by our kids and provide housing for our...our children. And I'm meeting...I have a meeting with the Governor's Office coming up about that for homeless youth and runaway youth. I think we can do better by our kids. They shouldn't have to live in a tent. We could...when they're seeking shelter, we can do better by our kids.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you for that clarification.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Matthews. We have another question from Committee

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Vice-Chair Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Ms. Matthews. Thank you for your testimony. Just to clarify your testimony, you said that presently the shelters are full. How many folks are out at Holomua when you did outreach? Do you...do you have a number?

MS. MATTHEWS: Oh, I believe--and I do have to get going, I'm sorry--there's a lot of people that were there when I was there. There were parents with kids. I mean, we had to see over 20 people that were living in cars. Yeah, there...there's over...over 20 cars that were there with people in them. I believe Mo'i will have a more accurate number as to the parent.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MATTHEWS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thank you for your testimony, Ms. Matthews. No...no more questions. Thank you, Chair.

MS. MATTHEWS: And I--I'm sorry I think there may be about 50 people that are residing there. My helpers sent me a message. So, I think there might be 50.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Matthews. Staff, can you call the next testifier, please?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Brian Hauser, to be followed...followed by Gordon Jackson.

MR. HAUSER: Aloha, good morning, Councilmembers. Good morning, Chair. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . you, right. My name is Brian Hauser. I'm an advocacy coordinator for Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i. I want to say that I'm dressed like the bird of the day I'm trying to channel, which is a dove from Galápagos Island. And I'm trying to adapt, and I think we should all adapt to the realities. I...I...I am an advocacy coordinator for people with disabilities. And the reason that I'm here is because according to the National Vehicle Registry *(phonetic)*, 80 percent or more of people living in vehicles identify as having a disability. I'm also the convener of the Maui Disability Taskforce. We wrote a two-page recommendation for Tent City. I...I...I call it Tent City because it is a cultural misappropriation to call it that name, and I've also checked with cultural practitioners about that. I just have to get that out of the way. It is not a pu'uhonua. And my second issue is that there seems to be this bouncing around between whether this is the County or the State. First of all, where is Mr. Mizuno? If this is a State issue, why isn't he here as a resource, or someone from the Governor's Office? These people are residents. We don't have...we don't...they're not aliens to...to

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this County. They don't exist in a bubble, but they do exist in a bubble. How would you like if, in your gated community, you call because there was a perpetrator, and your security guard decided to stop the police at the gate? I don't think you'd be very happy about that. That's how open Tent City is, that the police cannot investigate. There are fights constantly. There are drugs being sold. There...there are rapes, okay, without rape kits and...and investigations into that. It is not ADA-compliant. We reached out with a two-page document, like I said. It went to the ADA coordinator as well, who attends the Maui Disability Taskforce, which was built in response to the fires. I want to say that I personally--I put myself down, I checked both boxes--I want to talk personally. I only have a minute left, but I have lived experience of being homeless. I was homeless in my 20s in New York City. There was a rule of code of ethics, you know, there...of . . .(timer sounds). . . self-governance. And whenever something got out of control, the cops were certainly able to come in and handle the situation. There are a lot of solutions to these issues. I've had conversations with Ms. Crozier. I'm happy to continue to have those conversations with Councilmembers, or whoever would like to have those conversations. Lastly, I want to say that we're going to be seeing videos. I would like you to know that the Nazis also made videos of atroci--...of atrocities that killed my ancestry. So, let's be careful about the videos that we watch. Mahalo. Thank you so much for allowing me to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Hauser. Members...we have a question for you from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Hauser. Couple clarifying questions. So, the previous testifier wanted that Tent City to be ADA accessible. Is that something that you also want?

MR. HAUSER: Yes. We...we reached out in collaboration during the formation of Tent City. And we gave a two-page...recommendations from an ADA contractor that this Council raised to a resource, okay. These were very simple, straightforward recommendations. We reached out in collaboration. We got back two pages of things, including that cultural practitioners call this a pu'uhonua, and many other...many other things that were promised that certainly weren't delivered.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then on the other clarifying question, I guess, is do you have documentation of the dates that police were called and they weren't allowed entry? Like when and what --

MR. HAUSER: Sure. You could call them right now, they...they can't get in. Yeah, go ahead and call them. They're not...they're stopped at the gate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I was asking --

MR. HAUSER: No, you could come out and meet the cops, but they're not allowed in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I just was asking if you had documentation of those dates that occurred.

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MR. HAUSER: It's easy to get documentation, and it's available any day. I'm sorry, Councilmember, I mean, there...maybe there are other testifiers that have...can document dates that that happened. Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Another question for you from Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Mr. Hauser, do you have a copy of your recommendations and a copy of the response you received --

MR. HAUSER: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- to share with us?

MR. HAUSER: Yeah, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, great. Thank you.

MR. HAUSER: I can send that to you digitally.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. No more questions? Mahalo, Mr. Hauser, for your testimony this morning.

MR. HAUSER: All right.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Gordon Jackson, to be followed by Lisa Darcy.

MR. JACKSON: Good morning.

CHAIR SINENCI: Morning.

MR. JACKSON: My name is Gordon Jackson, I'm known on the street as Stitch (*phonetic*). I was actually one of the first residents at the Tent City, and I can confirm what the gentleman before me said about the police not being allowed in there. There was a young man that his life was threatened in the middle of the night. He called us over, and we went over to sit with him, and we convinced him to call the police. And the police showed up and said this is private property, there's nothing we can do about it. So, we took the young man back to our tent, and we sat with him for the rest of the night. In their defense, I didn't feel it was a good fit for me going there in the first place since I have a tendency to be agoraphobic, which means I don't like to be around a lot of people. I did manage to survive there for about three months, but it became so physically demanding on me that the last week I was there, four days I was unconscious

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on my bunk, and they never checked on me once. I woke up, and I was awake for about five hours and took care of some personal business, laid down again, and I was out for about another three days. When I recovered from that, and I just had enough, so I just left. I didn't tell anybody I was leaving or anything, I just...I just had to get out. And people who ask me what we can do about the homeless situation, well, I don't know that there is anything we can do about it because it's a business. We got to stop funding these organizations, like Project Vision, Family Life Center. Stop giving them money to help the homeless, give them money to actually get these people off the street. It's...I mean you're not doing them any good. It's not in their best interest for people to get out of Tent City. The State is probably giving them, I figure, anywhere between 3 and \$800 per person a month. At \$800 per person, if there's 120 people there, that's over \$1 million a year. I wouldn't want it to end either if I was getting that money. At \$300 per person, it's about \$400,000 a year at 120 people. So, I don't know. If you stop paying them to help people, and start paying them to actually find these people places to live, something might actually get done about it. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Jackson. We have a question for you from Member U'u-Hodgins.

MR. JACKSON: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Stitch, for being here with us. I appreciate you sharing your concerns. If you don't mind, can you describe what you meant by physically demanding at Project Vision when you were there?

MR. JACKSON: Well, they insist on what they call community meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. JACKSON: Now, I went to one or two of them, and it was at night, and they were outdoors. The weather was still kind of nice. They didn't have any lighting, so you couldn't see anything. So, they parked cars with the headlights flashing into the crowd. And I'm 65 years old, I've had cataracts in both eyes, you know, I was blinded. I got a headache out of that. And then I saw a couple of the administrators, and they said that there was going to be another meeting. And I said, well, I can't do that. And they said, oh, well, it's mandatory. So I showed up for this meeting thinking, well, maybe if...if it's outside, I'll be all right. Well, it started to rain. The tent is 20 feet by about 60 feet long, they tried to cram 90 of us in there, and I didn't last ten minutes. I was outside, literally, throwing up in the trash can. I didn't sleep at all that night. I had migraines for about two days. I could not...after about the first week or two living there, I couldn't eat anything there. I would just throw it up again. I would...I...I would get up in the morning, fold up my blankets, and leave my blankets on my bunk, and then I would just disappear for...I would only go back there to sleep.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. JACKSON: I didn't eat there. And like I said, I'm 65 years old, so I wake up quite frequently to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hmm.

MR. JACKSON: And most times you would spend about 20 to 40 minutes trying to find a bathroom that worked, or find a bathroom stall where there weren't people in there doing drugs.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh.

MR. JACKSON: And...yeah. So, I didn't get a lot of sleep. And so, now I...I feel much safer actually, living on the street than I did there.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. JACKSON: They have a sign out front that says a safe place of refuge. Well, that's true if you're a drug dealer or a drug addict.

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

MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: One more question, Stitch.

MR. JACKSON: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you for your testimony. I was just wondering, what will it take to help you?

MR. JACKSON: To help me?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. JACKSON: A place to live.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But besides a place to live. I mean, you want like the Ka Hale A Ke Ola type of place to live? What kind of place to live?

MR. JACKSON: Well, like I said, I'm a very solitary creature, I...a shelter is not going to work for me. I would rather live in a tent on the beach because being around a lot of people, it's just...I...I can't survive that way.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony this morning. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Lisa Darcy, to be followed by Jason Medina.

MS. DARCY: Good morning, everyone. My name is Lisa Darcy, and I am the founder of Share Your Mana. I don't believe I'm a Commissioner on Healing Solutions for Homelessness anymore, so I...I don't have to disclose that. I am here to testify on all three agenda items...WASSP-1(17), 1(18), and 1(19). I'm very sorry to be here today. The goal of Share Your Mana is to work on all of the needs of all three of these outside of here so they don't actually come here in the packages that they do. So, when I end up here, it's usually because I have tried every avenue, and explored every conversation I can have to make solutions and resolutions so that people have safety. So, I'm going to start with agenda item number one, the temporary shelter. I worked very closely with Brian Hauser with the Disability Alliance...or the Disability Taskforce since the day after the fires. We met every single day at 7:00 a.m. for multiple months. I had to find out that the shelter...the temporary shelter...that Tent City was going up through social media, and only a couple of days before. This was really striking in that there was somebody representing that...the...that program in our meetings, but yet they didn't even disclose that the...that this was happening. This...I don't even know how to...this is normalized in Maui County. It's normalized that people withhold information and don't share. For that reason, there...I have...I started a spreadsheet for the number of people that called me fearing for their life, saying...telling...discussing the conditions at this facility. And they would meet with me in private, nobody wanted to...nobody wants to come forward, they're terrified of retaliation. And...and, of course, they would call me and say, I got to tell you how bad this is, but don't say anything, Lisa. We...we don't want it...we don't want...we don't want you to shut it down, as if I have the power to shut something down. I said no, I don't have the power to do anything. I'm just going to share what I know. We've...I've had meetings with groups of people, and they're not comfortable coming before this Council. Which brings me to...the only solution that I have for this is, the finger-pointing has gotten to the point where again, I want to investigate the number of people that have died in or around the premises. I've worked in programs where people have died, and the entire thing has come to a halt, and you investigate everybody. We reflect on what's happened, where did something go wrong? This is just like...it's like it's okay. Oh, some...oh, uncle died, or this. And I'm like what--how has this been normalized? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I don't know that there's anything that I can share today, since we're all about proactive, and foundational from the get-go, getting things done. And without the collaboration of our team members, this has gone...and is so far unsalvageable, in my opinion, and it is a total shame. It...to me, it actually seems like a very bizarre experiment. There's nothing professional that I can say, that I...I understand what has happened, and why, the things that are happening there. Yeah. So, that's number one. And again, I'm so sorry to be sharing this because I want to come and...and...and be high-fiving people that...people...you know, say the things that are working. But when the things that aren't working are this severe, this is...this is really...it's devastating.

CHAIR SINENCI: Lisa, hold on. Any questions for the first item?

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MS. DARCY: Oh, yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: We have a question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. So, nice seeing you here --

MS. DARCY: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- this morning. So, are you saying that somebody died at Pu'uhonua, and nobody knew about it, or what...what is the implication of that analogy?

MS. DARCY: This is what I can tell you because I...again, there are no reports, nothing is shared. This isn't shared in the Maui Homeless Alliance. It's not shared on the Commission for Healing Solutions. And none of this information is...is readily shared. I can tell you that the group that I met with came up with seven names of people that died for whatever reasons. And...and I personally know this because somebody told me how beautiful they went to Baldwin Beach to do a celebration of life for somebody that died there...the group, they did an outing. I don't...I don't know. And, you know, I...like I said, I've worked with some very, very ill people in my...in my day. And if anybody died, we really...as a staff, you...there was...there was protocol, there was reflection on how you...and...and...and there were reports. Somebody had to answer to that. I don't know. And I can't be a part of the solution if we don't even know...I mean you heard a little bit from a previous employ...or employer...testifier. That's nothing compared to the spreadsheet that I've compiled of issues.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Any other questions? Seeing none. Do you want to go to your next item?

MS. DARCY: Mahalo, Chair, I shall. Okay. Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness, the annual report. Like I said, one of the...I think it's really important that this body also take a look at the functioning of this Commission. I was nominated to the very first...the original group to start this, and I think...one of the things that I have throughout all of these is leadership, and where do we have really strong leadership? And leadership means that we have to listen to some really hard issues, especially with this work. Because the...the...Maui County, the way I have work...engaged with it is, everybody knows the term, that's the way we do it. And of course, then I kind of sneak in and go, yeah, but is it working? I get that. It's not working. For...for me to not even get a recognition of...that I was a three-year, dedicated, probably had the highest attendance of the Commission...to not even get an acknowledgment whether I'm on it or not. I found out because somebody called and said, hey, you're not on the list anymore. And I go, oh, are they meeting? They go, yeah, you're meeting. I didn't even know. I was like okay. So, I guess I timed out, but I didn't even...usually I get flowers or something. I ain't got nothing. So, I have to say, that's a...that's a real indication on how people feel on that Commission. And if you don't even

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get a recognition, whether or not you're agreed with or not, that says a lot to...certainly to me. And I don't know about how the people who are on that. It...it...it was...it...it...it...I've got a lot of solutions on that, and I did voice some of them earlier, but I would like to take that out, and...and have a very serious dialog about making that a more effective Commission as well. Yes. Okay. So, I'll...I'll conclude in that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Any questions for Ms. Darcy? Okay. Seeing none.

MS. DARCY: All right. Number three, 1(19), Holomua Road. Years ago, I worked with many of the individuals who are living up on Holomua Road, and to know kind of the...the...the...the experience of that. They're...most people that were living up there years and years ago were people that had been swept so many other places and so many other times that that actually became a bit of a refuge. And it had its own culture, its own community. Every...every encampment that I've been at has its own culture and its own community, and people really do take care of themselves way more than...like, I love this. People say how do you do it? I'm like, how do you not do this? The...the...the camaraderie and the...the people are like...they're like scrapping for their life every single day. And you got to pull through for somebody. And then people have fights...of course, they have fights. They've got serious mental illness. They...a lot of people end up with addiction. If you didn't start out that way, you're going to kind of end up that way, most people. You have no supports, your County is going to take everything away from you, and people are going to drive by and...and...and think you're a piece of trash. I mean like you've got to huddle up and you got to cuddle up, and...and I see that. And the people that I work with are...I...I love the communities I work with. And somehow, I can't get that light to shine in here or with the agencies. Because the agencies...all the experience I have is the County and the agencies want to criminalize people. And you think, oh, by, you know, taking everything away, and giving people more tickets and, you know, feeding the criminal justice system...it's a hungry, hungry, hungry little beast there, and it's not going to stop. And yet, we have done nothing that is evidence-based practice during the--you know, the previous Administration as well--none of the CDC guidelines, none of the parameters for any of the larger national really successful models are listened to or brought into. And if you don't get outside of this "that's the way we do it," we are doomed to actually...this room even end up eating each other for breakfast. There's no way out of that. And so, that's why I just keep coming back here in hopes that someday, somebody will go yeah, we're going to have to do...it may feel radical to this body, but the work that I've done, it's not radical at all to...to change, completely change the way you do things. And criminalizing, again, the community up on Holomua--and they got a lot of problems, all right--they got a lot of problems because there's been no solutions. So, those problems just get bigger. And you're not trying anything new. And it's the same thing day after day, and...and we got to...we...we...and that...again, I...like I said, the theme that comes through all of this is leadership. And we need some significant leadership, and we don't have it. And the way I see it, it is not present in the current structure. So, yeah, I'm...I got no great solution to that because you've already heard it for all the years I talked about sweeps and encampment, kind of...the way that Maui County handles it. It's brutal. There's no way out.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Darcy.

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MS. DARCY: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Any other questions for Ms. Darcy? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony.

MS. DARCY: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Jason Medina, to be followed by Trinetta Furtado.

CHAIR SINENCI: My apologies, Mr. Medina. We're...we'll need to take a quick recess for technical issues. It's 9:58...five minutes? Ten minutes. Okay, ten minutes. We'll be back at 10:10. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 9:58 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:33 a.m.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha kākou, and welcome back to the WASSP meeting of Monday, June 3rd, 2024. It's 10:33, and mahalo, everyone, for your patience. So, it looks like we can...at this point we can continue with testimony for now until we can...we do have some connectivity issues with our phone testimony, but since we have our audio/visual, we can continue with the six testimonies...testifiers that we have for now. Okay. Our next testifier is Mr. Medina. Go ahead, Jason.

MR. MEDINA: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, Councilmembers . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Chair --

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. MEDINA: -- yeah, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha.

MR. MEDINA: I am here to testify on two of these items...agenda items. One of the agenda items, WASSP-1(17), Pu'uhonua, just briefly. If you had any questions about it, I was recently employed by them, and I no longer work for this company. But as far as the goal of Pu'uhonua is concerned, I have to agree with Mr. Brian Hauser, who just recently testified, that the place is not a pu'uhonua when it comes to cultural backing. So, it doesn't have a cohesive cultural practice to make it a pu'uhonua. So, in fact, it would be a Tent City, or just a shelter. And as far as them getting more funding for more endeavors, I would just recommend...I'd just strongly suggest that they pay their people out. The general contractor of this place that is doing the ADA...making it ADA compliant has not been paid since, I'd say, late March...but it's at least three months of...and I do have proof. No documents right now, but I do have Mr. Josh Almeida online on my phone, and he's discussed some of his grievances with me. Let's see, what else

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as far as that? That is about it as far as Pu'uhonua is concerned. I'd like to move on, if there's no questions from inside, or...

CHAIR SINENCI: From Member Paltin.

MR. MEDINA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Medina, for your testimony. I didn't catch the first part. You said you used to be employed for Pu'uhonua o Nēnē?

MR. MEDINA: Yes, I've been...I was employed for 18 months under Project Vision. I started as a driver for the Water Outreach Project, which is no longer. Then I was terminated, I believe wrongfully, but that was mid-May, so that was last month. It's very recent.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MEDINA: Yes.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you so much for being with us. Can you clarify what the Water Outreach Project is?

MR. MEDINA: The Water Outreach Project was...oh, our chair, he was the one who wrote the grant for that, and it's a...for outreach to all of Maui. So, Maya Marquez and myself, we were...I was the said driver for this project, and we bring a water buffalo inside of a strong truck, but a water buffalo all around the island. And we would focus on places like Holomua Road, down to Mākena, and definitely from Honokōwai, all the way to...let's see, all through Lahaina. So, the whole West Side...Cut Mountain, Olowalu, . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And where would you guys get your water from?

MR. MEDINA: Originally it was from a tap with a filtered hose out of Maya's place that was provided with a little meter. After that, we got...we used some of the grant money to hire Tropic Water, which was...they would provide about 600 gallons every two weeks.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you so much.

MR. MEDINA: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Seeing no more questions. Mahalo, Mr. Medina, for your testimony.

MR. MEDINA: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

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MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Trinette Furtado, to be followed by Brian Hauser.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh.

MR. MEDINA: Just a brief item.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, my apologies. Go ahead, please.

MR. MEDINA: Oh, on Item (1)19, which is what I originally came for, but I didn't know PVH would be here--so, like, oh, hey, guys--but Holomua Road is very important to outreach and the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . the...the most important part of that outreach is keeping it human with the community. So, I see like a...there's a great opportunity for the secular community to meet the community in need there, and just the County staying on its...its duties to like say, cut the grass...that's...that's really important. Because Mo'i, she was able to do a...organize a cleanup and move everybody to one side of the road for the...for the grass cutting, which is really important. But, yeah, County never showed that day. So, after all of that effort, it still created a fire hazard in the end. And so, this is about fire mitigation. And it seems it's...it's less about fire mitigation than sweeping the houseless, who already have no place to go, and that place has been a...it's been a very...it's...it's a cultural hub. It's got a great spot, out of the eyes of just being on the main drag of Pā'ia. And it's...yeah, it's got space. So, I highly suggest that collaborating with outreach groups because it'll create a line of care like...like the outreach with water, and outreach that Mo'i engages in is a...a main concern of mine. Yeah, that's about all.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you for saying that. I want to clarify, the moving everybody to the Ha'ikū side of the road was actually on my request --

MR. MEDINA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- and for Fire's request to use Holomua Road as an initial firebreak, considering all the amount of fires that was on that road. So, it would give Fire time --

MR. MEDINA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- to address the fire...the Fire Department, rather, time to address the fire --

MR. MEDINA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- before it hits Pā'ia town. So, that's why everybody was moved on one side of the road --

MR. MEDINA: Uh-huh.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- and to cut the firebreak.

MR. MEDINA: Understood.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. MEDINA: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you, Mr. Medina.

MR. MEDINA: Mahalo, guys.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Trinette Furtado, to be followed by Brian Hauser.

MS. FURTADO: Aloha mai kākou, Chair, and Members of this Committee. My name is Trinette Furtado, and I live in Ha‘ikū, and I’m testifying on WASSP-1(19). In the meeting details, it says no legislative action will be taken, and perhaps that may be the case for today's discussion. But what does today's discussion mean for the second and final reading of Bill 95 on Friday? Why wasn't Bill 95 discussed and deliberated at a Committee meeting, such as this, where you're only receiving a presentation about the folks on Holomua Road, presentations that conveniently back up the narrative of Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins' proposal? One-sided narratives from entities that have not and do not go out to that area to speak to folks there to truly assess the situation only serve to scapegoat our most indigent population with a myopic piece of legislation that claims to address fire mitigation and safety, but does nothing to address the rest of the fire-prone areas held by large landowners that aren't mandated to do anything, while engendering harmful public sentiment, generalization, and stereotypes about those whose stories we know nothing about. I look at this Committee, and I see those who fiercely whine about unintended consequences when denying good legislation, fiercely silent to the consequences of this one. And that brings me to Member U‘u-Hodgins' comment in the May 25th *Maui News* article about these folks that, quote, "their needs cannot take precedence and allow anything to basically take out an entire town," end quote...as if the vast swaths of dry, overgrown grasses in adjacent ag parcels are their fault, or that those parcels aren't an issue when it comes to brush fires, as if the needs of these folks have ever taken precedence. What could be the unintended consequences of pushing people from this area into another? If Member U‘u-Hodgins truly means what she says in that article, that quote, "we're not just going to push them and move them out. We understand that there needs to be help," the discussions that you have here today should reflect her well-thought-out and discussed plan created between the Departments speaking today, her office, and the Mayor's Office for assisting those folks. That's the "we" being referred to, right? That plan should be included in Bill 95 if Bill 95 truly is about fire mitigation and public safety. And Bill 95 should include some stringent requirements of absentee and lazy landowners in the area who

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do not mālama ‘āina, to ensure that any possibility of fire from those properties are minimized, if not eradicated. I just want to make one comment. When I heard, earlier, Member Lee respond to Stitch up there, and asking what he wanted. And when he said housing, you said besides that. Ka Hale A Ke Ola, other things, like a shelter is more appropriate for this gentleman . . .(timer sounds). . . than housing. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Furtado. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony.

MS. FURTADO: Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff, next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we'll return to Brian Hauser, he requested to testify on WASSP-1(18), to be followed by Jordan Hocker on Teams.

MR. HAUSER: Sorry about that. I thought you weren't taking testimony on that one today because of the report not being here, but mahalo...shukran. Thank you for...for allowing me to testify again. Do I need to state my name again, or I'm good? Good?

CHAIR SINENCI: You good.

MR. HAUSER: All right. So, we're talking about the Commission on Healing Solutions. I've attended some of their meetings, I've also viewed some of their meetings online. There's a short comment about that. I've watched Corporate [sic] Counsel ignore the fact that *Robert's Rules of Law...Rules of Order* was not followed, and I think that a supervisor should look into that. I mentioned that at a meeting. I also showed them at a meeting what not having rules of order look like. I'm sorry, I apologize for that. The Commission on Healing Solutions, you're talking about a resource list that they give out to people when they sweep. First of all, they're not there...nobody's there when they do the sweeps, except for Lisa Darcy is there, or Share Your Mana is there. That resource list has my phone number on it because I work for an independent living center...that's a nonresidential independent living center. I've made so many calls. But people call me, and I have to call them back, and they're so excited that I'm...somebody's calling them back only to tell them that I'm not a resource. Any Councilmember could have their Staff call all the numbers on the resource, and you tell me if any of come into Housing. Commission on Healing Solutions, the healing solution is to kick the can down the road, that's the...that's the game. Hold on. I live in Wailuku. I'm going to tell you, it's dangerous to drive. I was happier when people were on the harbor and not in the roadway. I don't enjoy seeing pregnant women dancing in the median of a roadway, nor people coming in and out of their cars. That's very dangerous for motorists, and for the individuals who are on the road. I don't think it looks any better for tourism that...the fact that we have people on the road. So, what I wanted to say about the Commission on Healing Solutions is that I'm very happy that this Council now has oversight on the Mayor's appointments, and I hope that you can...those...those positions are filled with competent people who are willing to work with other people in collaboration and finding healing solutions. Again, I'm available for consultation. . . .(laughing). . . Mahalo.

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Thank you so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Hauser. Any questions for the testimony? Seeing none. Thank you.

MR. HAUSER: All right. Thanks.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Jordan Hocker, to be followed by Faith Chase on Teams.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Hocker.

MS. HOCKER: Aloha. Aloha, Committee Members. My name is Jordan Hocker, and I'll be testifying on agenda item WASSP-1(19) regarding the closure of Holomua Road. For some background, I acted as a legal observer with the National Lawyers Guild at the closure of Amala Place in September 2021, which was also a homeless sweep. I agree that something must be done about Holomua Road, and it's primarily that the people who have been forced to shelter there due to a lack of resources and the intense economic pressure here on Maui. They need to be adequately taken care of. The issue with Bill 95 is the fallout for our most vulnerable peoples. In September 2021, despite the County's promises that everyone would have a place to go, that was not anywhere near the case. Shelters were full, the nonprofits mentioned barely showed their faces, and the trauma was evident. Lives were lost due to this action that was taken by the County, and all it took was a simple road closure. To be blunt, the forced closure of Holomua without a proper transition plan, one that actually shelters these people and does not box out advocates who know and serve them, is unconscionable. This body needs to see that houselessness is an output of our economic and social structure. There simply aren't places for people to go. And post-fires, with the high cost of rents and the lack of inventory, more of our people are rapidly becoming unsheltered. And I know I'm repeating myself for some of you because I remember sharing this similar sentiment in front of this governing body in 2021 during the pandemic. I...I do want to say, I understand the concern for fire in Pā'ia, which is absolutely merited. But the targeting of these people with a proposed closure seems a bit shortsighted. I don't understand why the encampment at Holomua is being framed as the biggest threat when the most obvious threat to Pā'ia are negligent landowners of large fallow lands encircling the town that are dominated by highly flammable, invasive grasses. These landowners, to name them so that you can get them on board to mitigate this fire risk, would be MP East B, LLC, which is a subsidiary of Mahi Pono; it's Ponichtera Properties, LLC; and Alexander & Baldwin. And the bright side here is that they're not off-island landowners, right? We can contact them. They're here. One of them is a Maui farming company. So, they should care about mitigating fire risk. And so with this, my question is why isn't Bill 95 about requiring these large landowners to maintain their parcels safely? The fires in Lahaina weren't started by unsheltered residents up at Cut Mountain, it was the large, negligent landowners who played a large role. The road closure to houseless sweep pipeline has to end, and here is an opportunity to stop using

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our least-resourced people as the eternal scapegoat for our problems. The landowners mentioned have far more resources to prevent fires than those seeking refuge at Holomua simply relocating. Further, the sweep at Amala Place had legal ramifications for the County of Maui. I ask that you all focus on the people who can actually do something about the fire risk instead of penalizing those who cannot. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Hocker. Any questions for the testifier? We have a question from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Hocker, for your testimony. Can you slowly repeat those names that you said?

MS. HOCKER: Yeah. So, I looked on GIS maps, and the owners of the parcels that are encircling Pā'ia are MP East B, LLC, which is an entity of Mahi Pono according to the EMI quarterly report from 2020; and then the other one is Ponichtera Properties, LLC, which is...has a registered agent, Mr. Ponichtera, in Wailuku; and then Alexander & Baldwin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Seeing none. Oh, we have one more question from Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I think one of my clarifying questions was, were you at the Pā'ia Town Hall where the issues...these issues were addressed? And one of the issues that I thought was the fire issue wasn't so much that the people who were staying there as people who were stealing cars, chopping them, and burning them. And so, I see this, and what I hear...and it's distressful because the houseless issue and the people who need shelter are being...because they're there, and also all of these other events, which...basically criminal activity, and vandalism, and burning stuff. And that, I believe, was the majority of the calls that the Fire Department had to go to. They don't have water resources. So, I hear you, and I hear everybody about the issue of shelter and the road closures.

MS. HOCKER: Yeah. I mean, to answer your question --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, please let me finish.

MS. HOCKER: -- I...I listened to the...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The...the issue of the road closure is a complicated one, and I think it's...it's overlapping. So, I just want to let...I just wanted to acknowledge that I hear you, and I hear other people regarding the...the unsheltered. And then also, I'd just like everybody to acknowledge that there's this other aspect that...that MPD, and the Fire Department, and everybody is trying to address. It is not blaming, to my knowledge, the unsheltered people who are living there. It might be a component, but that isn't the...that wasn't the main driver for closing the road. I may be mistaken, but that was

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my perspective. But thank you for your testimony.

MS. HOCKER: What...can I answer your question? I was not able to be at that meeting, but the mechanisms that you're talking about with crime were similar at Amala Place, where peoples would set up a chop shop once they moved everybody out of Kanahā Beach Park. And it...it is unfortunate that the crime goes along with these people seeking refuge. And I think that could be solved with more outreach and actually protecting them. But no, I was not able to go to that meeting, I did not have childcare.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for your testimony.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Cook. Okay. Seeing no other questions. Mahalo, Ms. Hocker, for your testimony.

MS. HOCKER: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Faith Chase, to be followed by Nāpua Hū'eu.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Chase.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Committee. I'd like to testify on all three of these items. First of all, I heard terrible things about what has been dubbed Tent City...absolutely terrible things. I...I...I don't know...even know how that got plopped into...I...I don't know how it intersects with your responsibilities as a County. It seems like it was a half-baked plan, and there is not enough cross-pollinating with...with regulations and safety. It's...it's really sad to hear the people who have chosen to take their life over there, for whatever reason, regardless if they had addiction issues before they got there, or if life just compounded...you know, we don't know, right, the...the reasons. But terrible that agencies that should support people that are, you know, struggling or vulnerable are not plugged in properly. I mean, I thought that's what the...I thought that was what a goal...that was a goal, to have all these wraparound services more available. You know, you can actually have a people count and, you know, sort of measure. Some of that's highly confidential, I get that. But anyway...first of all, I'm not sure who...what I've heard is that the...one of the...I guess, the...the staff, when they ask for meetings, they're in a tent when they have these meetings. And, I guess, this person is a cigarette smoker, and that there's cigarette smoking going on in this tent with all these people. So, I don't blame Stitch for getting the heck out of there. You know, I...anyway, that should stop immediately. This is, of course, just because when I have the chance to help people, I hear these stories, right. You know, they just did the sweep down at the harbor, and I tried to get ahead of that. I'm the one talking to Paul Sensano in DLNR and Harbors. And so when I circulate, then I hear all these stories,

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right. I ask people, I've gotten to know people since the stop of COVID. So, I just wanted to say that. I don't know if that's looking for more funding, or if that's going to morph into something else, but it's just all...all around bad. The Homeless Commission, I just want to say that, you know, I did my best when I was there to convey stories, and contribute, and...and try to, I don't know, sort of steer the...the organi--...you know, the...the group. But it is exactly, like, the Homeless Commission...the Homeless Alliance meeting. It's become that. It's...it's totally populated with all the agency representatives. It's not the people in the street or, you know, like on the ground, it...in the communities that are contributing to these...these conversations. And I said this, it's...you know, I've said this in testimony, that it...that it's not fair representation. And so anyway, I'm disappointed where that went. I...I know . . . (timer sounds). . . that that was an effort by many of you to...you know, to try to create the conversation...keep the conversation alive. And it...it didn't...it didn't work. It's not working. And maybe definitely, like Mr. Brian said about having *Robert's Rules of Orders* [sic], that would definitely help. So, maybe that could be some sort of a piece. If it's...if it's going to exist, that needs to be in some of the bylaws. I don't know that this...this Holomua Road thing...I...you know, I haven't been as active as I used to be in following your...your meetings and your Committees, but this is a scary, crazy, long way around the block to do a sweep. And it's really...I...I...I don't think it's very thought out. I just...I guess I should state the obvious about the Hawai'i State Supreme...Hawai'i State Supreme Court ruling, right, about sweeps, you know. I...I...I don't know how this got on the agenda so fast. I mean, I sympathize. I don't...I guess, I got to go back and watch the Committee meetings. But, you know, I understand the concern of fire. I understand it's elevated because, you know, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins' husband is a firefighter. He's my classmate. I care about him too. You know, I care about the fire issue, certainly, but this is not the right way to do it. Unless you're going to make sure that you have wraparound services and these people are relocated to someplace their...their needs are met. I...I...I'm baffled, actually, by it. So, wrapping up all these issues that are...definitely concern housing, I would say, you know, my...my recommendation to this body is that, again, you find 'āina. And you do it with not a faith...a faith-based agency, and you have consultation that comes from the people which, as Share Your Mana representative Lisa Darcy has said over and over and over again--her face is blue. You know, she...maybe there's a benefit, the fact that she didn't get funded for whatever reason, even though she's tried. Maybe there's a benefit of her not having any alliance or sort of like tie to the County right now. Because then when something sophisticated is really actually done, you can actually have her consult as a professional, you know, as an experienced-based person to help shape that. So, that's my recommendation. I just...I just...just want to remind you guys that, you know, it's...you can't...you're...it's the Hawai'i Supreme State Court said you can't sweep anybody. So, what do you do in the main...meantime? And forgive me if I'm missing something, you know, I have been absent from these meetings, but it's because I'm going to school, and I just need to tell...I just need to impress to this...this body that I'm using Maui County as my assignment, and it's really glaring. So, it's...it's painful for me to have to point to all the pukas in the system. This is a system. This is not a...this is not a well-operating machine. And so, in order for me to make that reach, and try to tell the story about the underserved communities, I'm just looking at my own County. And so, I...I don't know where you can sprinkle love and aloha, and find 'āina, and do...just...just do it. Just...just do something, and it will

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work, I promise you. I mean, I...I met with John Mizuno at the Department of Housing...
...*(timer sounds)*... homelessness or whatever, and it's \$16,000 is how...is the cost that they got their small...they were able to get their tiny homes going, right. That's doable. So, when you start crunching numbers, like one of the other testifiers said, that's actually doable. It's possible. So...yeah, what else?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Chase.

MS. CHASE: I have one more thing, but I can't recall right now.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any questions for Ms. Chase? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony this morning.

MS. CHASE: Good luck.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. I believe our next testifier is Ms. Hū'eu?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair.

MS. HŪ'EU: Aloha to the Council. I will be testifying on all three items I see on the agenda. My name is Nāpua Hū'eu, and I'm testifying from East Maui. These items on the agenda are all tied to the houseless issue, which reminds me a lot of the tourism issue. All items received hundreds of thousands of dollars in Government monies to address, and yet, Government officials perpetually fail to call upon and harness subject-matter experts in these fields. I'm tired of all the performative solutions. There is always so much waste of Government funding doing studies and research to find solutions, user...using Government funding to try out concepts under leaders that have no proven track record of efficacy, and no experience in these fields. I have concern for the excessive conflict of interest as it relates to Government funding. Why did all of the crisis actors from the Kanahā sweep at Amala Place end up with all the Government funds to address houselessness, and why were all of them hired to work at the Tent City, Pu'uhonua o Nēnē? It's odd to me that Mr. Medina had concerns now about cultural insensitivity when the conceptualization of the name, Pu'uhonua o Nēnē, on inception of this project was inappropriate to begin with. Pu'uhonua o Nēnē is absolute mockery, seeing the nēnē and the Hawaiian people share a lot in common. Both are displaced, and their habitats disappearing rapidly and being polluted daily. I wanted to note that I see immense conflict of interest as these nonprofits, in receipt of these Government funds to solve houselessness, are always hiring mother, daughters, boyfriends, girlfriends...these people have no experience of being homeless. Why are they deemed fit to fix these complex problems? Shouldn't the members of our houseless community be empowered through these job opportunities, since they know the issue best? Wouldn't this be the way to help the members of our houseless community come out of poverty? This reminds me of the Mālama Maui Hikina performative visitor management initiative. I served on the advisory committee, and explained that the most disenfranchised members of our community are actually the people who have contributed the most to the issue of visitor management prior to the funds coming forward. Once the funds land, there's no employment opportunity for the people in our

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community, who would actually solve the problems because they are most acquainted with the problems. I have reports of the Pu'uhonua o Nēnē Tent City being a refuge for houseless individuals, fresh off the plane, coming from both the mainland and neighboring islands, specifically O'ahu. My family member who had stayed there noted that there was maybe four local kama'āina people who were there at that time, and all the rest were straight off the plane. It seems we are preparing for a sweep of Holomua Road. As Ms. Hocker noted, lack of competent land management by Mahi Pono is the real threat of fire. I believe Mahi Pono is also causing displacement of our people by importing workforce from the mainland, paying for their flights, and putting them up in housing on Maui. Maybe this is why there is no housing on Maui, I don't know. I really hope that you guys stop chanting the narrative of trying to keep kama'āina here on Maui because a lot of the policies you have set in place lead to the displacement of our local people. Government's lack of holding accountable the largest landowners, like Mahi Pono, also isn't helping very much. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Hū'eu. Members, any questions for Ms. Hū'eu? Okay, seeing none. Thank you for your testimony this morning. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Donald Waipa, to be followed by Zhantell Lindo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Mr. Waipa.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I believe he's in the Chamber to testify today. Okay. Chair, the next testifier is Zhantell Lindo, to be followed by Maya Marquez.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Lindo.

MS. LINDO: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. Mahalo for this opportunity. I just want to acknowledge that I am the chair of the Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness, but I am testifying on my own time and not representing the organization. I just wanted to jump on, and I think it...I think it's necessary for me to advocate that there has been several meetings where testifiers who either have worked at or resided at Pu'uhonua o Nēnē have testified in front of our Commission, and made it very clear that the conditions were less than adequate, dangerous, and even feared for their life. In fact, there has been several meetings where testifiers who either (*audio interference*) --

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Try now. Zhan, are you still there?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, while we're waiting to get reconnected with Ms. Lindo, perhaps in the future for our Committee, it would be helpful to have the mute...the mic muted upon joining the meeting, and then that way, we don't have disruptions.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, I think that was one of the issues that we had, all of the settings were...were on. Yeah. Thank you for that though, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Oh, Zhan, are you back with us? Did we lose her? We can come back to her.

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MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh.

MR. PASCUAL: She's still connected to the meeting, but I'm not sure if she disconnected on her end. In the meantime, maybe we could go to Ms. Marquez for her testimony.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Okay. She's coming down now.

MS. MARQUEZ: Aloha, Councilmembers. Aloha, Chair. I am here on my own behalf regarding 1(19) closure of Holomua Road. As someone who has been doing outreach there for the past two years, I find that yes, this is criminalizing our homeless, our unsheltered, and it would be detrimental because there is nowhere for them to go. Where are we moving people? We just keep moving people as if they're going to disappear into thin air. These are human beings, not things. So, I really oppose this bill, and...yeah, that's what I'm here for.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Marquez. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for coming. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we'll go back to Zhantell Lindo to see if she's available to continue her testimony.

CHAIR SINENCI: Zhantell, are you able to continue your testimony?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, I think she's still trying to log back on. Like she was trying to log off and log back on.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Was there anyone else beside her?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Robin Knox.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Knox.

MS. KNOX: Aloha. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Committee. I want to testify on all three items. I would just say that with regard to Pu'uhonua o Nēnē, I do know people who have stayed there. I...I think that the (*audio interference*) is ill-conceived to start with. I don't know why people were put in these congregate shelter situations, with large groups of people being in a tent, including couples being in a tent with other people. And that was an issue for the people that I knew who stayed there. There were issues with people in those congregate tents taking other people's belongings, and things like that, that I'm sure are very difficult for the administrators to handle. But I...you know, I don't know why that...that option couldn't have included, you know, the option for individual tents, even if...if people provided them on their own. So, you know, I...I...I think it's an example of a repeated pattern of not thinking about the people that we're trying to serve, and not thinking about what their needs are--for instance, the fact that it's not disability

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accessible. So, you know, the whole houseless situation, especially after the fires, is...is just, you know, one of the biggest challenges our society has ever faced, but we need to be more creative and think outside the box. And the best way to do that is to talk to the people who are the recipients of the services, and ask for their input on what's needed. I mean that...that whole site is even difficult to access. I don't think the...that there's even a...that a County bus could even come there to pick people up because the road is so bad. So, that's all I had to say on that topic.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any questions for Ms. Knox for the first item? Okay, seeing none. You can go ahead to the second one.

MS. KNOX: Thank you. On the Healing Solutions for Homelessness, I'm sorry, I didn't know it was on the agenda today, so I haven't actually read the report. But I would just like to comment following up on what other testifiers have said that again, this Commission are...are...needs to have representatives from the community that it's serving. I am familiar with...I have friends and know of families that have been receiving services from some of those agencies, and it is nightmarish because of the psychological distress that these people are going under that is made worse by the mannerisms and the treatment that they receive from the agency employees. I know this is a challenge. I know that these are nonprofit agencies, publicly-funded, and so they, you know, maybe can't pay the highest salaries in the world, but I think there could be some performance standards that are based on interviews of their clients. That's what's done in private business, and it works really well. You know, there could also be training--trauma-informed training. I, myself, was a client of one of those services during COVID when I got rental assistance, and I can tell you, they were disdainful toward me. They treated me really in an ugly, almost abusive, way. And I have also tried to go into meetings with people who were receiving this kind of treatment, just to be support for them and to witness what happens, and the police were called on us because we wanted to accompany one of their clients into a meeting. So, this is not a place where there should be secrecy, this is a place where there should be transparency, reporting, and accountability. So, you know, I know there's a lot to be done with our houseless situation, and a lot of different parties involved, but I hope that the Council can remain aware, and to, you know, talk to the people who are impacted, and to listen to what these people who are coming forward are telling you. The actual people receiving the services are afraid to speak up, but they do talk to those of us in the community who are helping them. And this is, you know, public funds, and these are civil rights, so this is serious matters. And that's all I had to say on the Commission.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Knox. Any questions? Seeing none. You had a third item?

MS. KNOX: Yeah, the...the closing of the road. If you have to close the road, you need to do so in a way that accommodates the people who are living there. They're living there because they have nowhere else to go. If it's crime that's really the problem, as Councilmember Cook said, and not the homeless encampment, then you need to take care of the crime. I think everyone everywhere on the island knows that these criminals setting cars on fire are a huge fire hazard, not just on that road. And again, the

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landowners...a car by itself on fire is bad enough, but it's only when it catches that grass on fire and fuels a firestorm that it's a threat to, you know, buildings, and residences, and so forth in most cases. So, again, put the...put the burden of responsibility where it belongs--with the Police Department, with the landowners, and with the services that should be provided to the unsheltered folks that are living there. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Knox, for your testimony. Okay. No questions? Did...Staff, do we have Ms. Lindo on?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. She's reconnected to the meeting.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Zhan, can you hear us?

MS. LINDO: Yes. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes. You want to go ahead and continue?

MS. LINDO: Okay. So I was just saying that I am testifying on my own behalf. But I have witnessed, as the Chair of the Healing Solutions Commission, numerous times when people have come to complain and try to get their voice heard about dangerous and unhealthy conditions at Pu'uhonua o Pu'unēnē [sic], I...and so I just wanted to make that clear. I also wanted to acknowledge that the Commission had a TIG that consisted of four TIG members. And one of the recommendations on our TIG--that we haven't yet been able to give because we couldn't make quorum due to not being able to get new members and stuff--but was that the Mayor forced the State, in collaboration, to do a thorough investigation and audit of Pu'uhonua o Pu'unene [sic], to include solutions for immediate and long-term plans of the facility, and to ensure that they were meeting, you know, standards that we set that would be healthy for our community...not just in there, but adjacent to that property. So *(audio interference)* --

CHAIR SINENCI: Hold on.

MS. LINDO: -- let me go to my *(audio interference)* --

CHAIR SINENCI: Any questions for Zhan for her first item? Okay. You can go ahead and continue with your second item.

MS. LINDO: Okay. I...I'm not going to talk too much about this because I know we going be on one future agenda, but I just heard Commissioner Darcy earlier's [sic] testimony. So, for the record, I would personally like to acknowledge and thank Lisa Darcy for all of her hard work. I think it is kind of junk that our Commission doesn't have a certificate that acknowledges the work of the Commission. I've served on several commissions, and I think it's part of the Department's responsibility that they did in order to...and I don't know whether we got to add that in our rules or not, but I do agree with her that there should be some kind of acknowledgment. And so, until we do that, I guess the best that I can do right now is just say, for the record, that I appreciate Lisa Darcy for all the work she's done. Also Faith Chase, she was a former Commissioner. And I do

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appreciate what they bring to the table, and their efforts to help with the unsheltered. Also, I do agree with Mr. Hauser that the Commission can be more effective, that we are not present at too many of the County's efforts or the State's efforts, and...and that is because we're never invited. And so, when we get up to talk story with you and give our annual report, I hope we can have a more lengthy discussion on how that can be remedied as well.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo for that, Zhan. Oh, we have a question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you for the work that you do. One of the testifiers mentioned that the Commission meetings are not held with parliamentary procedure or Robert's Rules; is that correct?

MS. LINDO: Absolutely not.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. LINDO: And we do have a Corporation (*audio interference*) to it. And anyone who disagrees can review the online meeting minutes, as well as the video.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thought so. Thank you.

MS. LINDO: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo. Did you have...did you want to speak to the Holomua Road?

MS. LINDO: Yes, I did.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Go ahead.

MS. LINDO: Again, I...I just want to make clear that I testifying on my own behalf. Previously, before becoming the Chair of the Commission--and I been working with homelessness, and...and I want to correct the record that there are members of the Commission that do hold positions now, of authority, and in the agencies, and...and in administration--but I don't think everybody knows our story. I, personally, was homeless with three minor children on Moloka'i for three years of my life. And so, the person you see now does understand what it's like to be on the ground. And so, prior to becoming the...the Chair, I spent about a year with several of the other Commissioners before they became Commissioners, taking food and going on our own behalf with no acknowledgment to Holomua Road. And I, too, have seen the--and I don't come from there, but I was paying for my own trip to go there because I...I wanted to be part of the solution, and it is overwhelming. So, I just want to say this, my husband is also a firefighter. And there's a part of me that feel like it's easy for people to talk when it's not you or your family running into the fire while everybody running away, that's one. But all that personal stuff aside, it's really hard to figure out a solution for homelessness in this island community because we always only thinking of them as a

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continental problem. This is a island. We get different kinds of circumstances. We run out of space. We run out of natural resources. We need one collaborative think tank, or one workshop, or one seminar, or some kind of symposium, where we all get together and we talk specifically about uncharted waters of island-specific kinds of solutions. And part of that, like looking at Holomua Road, is what do...what do leaders do when you have a risk to...not just the people that are in the situation in Holomua Road, but everybody else around there? You know, I...I...I sometimes think about, as much as my heart is beating for...for all of those people, if it were your piece of property, and everybody just decided to pitch one tent, and put their cars, and do all that because they didn't have a place to live, would you be so willing to not come up with a solution to fix this? And I going to tell you what the major problem is, at the risk of being public enemy number one--it's ego, pride, and the inability to get off entitlement. That's why. It comes from people in the...on the ground, it comes from agencies, it comes from Administration, it comes from everybody. Even me, I give a little bit of that too because I feel like my Kānaka, I like take care of them. Where's OHA? Where's DHHL? So, what are we talking about Holomua Road is one specific place. We get this problem all over Maui County. And if we really like solve 'em, each of us got to take one independent look, and put away our pride, and our ego, and sit down at the table to come up with solutions because I'm so sick of attending meetings where everybody get something to say, but nobody shows up with reasonable solutions. It's easy for come up one solution when somebody else pays for it. But how about we come up with a solution where we all work together, and not point fingers, just coming up with something that works for everybody. And so, I don't know if shutting the road is good or bad. To be honest, the Commission and myself wasn't invited to that conversation...because I not from there, so I wasn't going maha'oi that...that area. But I do feel like if that's what the people in that area need, and that's what they think they need right now, then the rest of us, we either come up with better solutions, or we help support that this is going in the right direction. And I just want to thank this Council for . . .(timer sounds). . . your courage in taking up this issue because this is not one easy issue to talk about, so (audio interference).

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Lindo. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Again, thank you for your testimony this morning. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the last individual currently signed up is Mo'i Kawa'akoa.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Kawa'akoa.

MS. KAWA'AKOA: Aloha mai kākou. Let me get set up real fast. I have a PowerPoint presentation, if Jarret could help me with that.

MR. PASCUAL: Oh, Chair, I apologize. We're actually in testimony right now. I don't think we're at that item yet.

CHAIR SINENCI: We have you set up for later, but --

MS. KAWA'AKOA: Okay.

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CHAIR SINENCI: -- we just wanted to...or if you want to --

MS. KAWA'AKOA: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- just testify for three minutes.

MS. KAWA'AKOA: Okay. So, I am here...oh. My name is Mo'i Kawa'akoa. I am born and raised from Ha'ikū, Rice Camp. I...in 2019, I answered the kāhea of Aunty Pualani Case. What...look around your lāhui and see what your kāhea is. And for me, it was homelessness. So, I hooked up with some awesome people, but I also got to pay the bills and take care of the 'ohana, so that kind of took precedent [sic]. In 2023, I was given opportunity to connect and do outreach again, help with the homelessness. November 2023, I started Holomua Outreach as a proud Kānaka from Ha'ikū. I have 'ohana that live on Holomua Road--oh, yeah, I'm here for WASSP-1(19), kala mai. I've been providing basic needs care every week since November. We take food--e kala mai, I get one sore throat--food, wai, hygiene kit...supplies, first aid supplies...any type of support. Somebody was dealing with suicidal thoughts, I go down there, I mālama. The stolen vehicles, the brushfires, the articles...all those things put me into action. I go down there, I see what's going on. I collaborate with Naomi and Officer Kalama (*phonetic*) in getting the place cleaned, organized a cleanup with some awesome community volunteers. We're organizing another one for...in a couple of weeks to take care of the rest of it. It's hard to clean up a mess--quote, "a mess"--when you...you know, the cars, the ōpala, the crime--when many of these people have been living the street life for long time, okay. And they don't...they veer away from help by departments because there's no follow through. The only thing they see is being pushed into another area. Many of these people were there...moved there from Pā'ia from that brushfire. Where are they supposed to go after they have to leave Holomua Road? Because eventually, closing the road does lead to them being swept off of that road. The only other option is finding another remote private property to be on, or off of Hana Highway, or all the beaches on North Shore. All of the fires . . . (*timer sounds*) . . . that were there have been known by other people. I go and I talk stories. It's not from anybody living there, but it is a public road. You cannot...you cannot regulate who goes in and out, you know. So, that is my testimony for today. I oppose Bill 95. I know that's not on the agenda today, but that's why I'm here. Any questions?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Kawa'akoa. Any questions? We've asked her to...oh. We have a question from Member Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh. Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Ms. Kawa'akoa. It's nice to see you kind of, sort of in...in person. I know we had some chat over the phone.

MS. KAWA'AKOA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Can...can you give us a point in time on the numbers of folks? Does it change, does it fluctuate?

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MS. KAWA'AKOA: So, the...the mission statement for Holomua Outreach is to mālama anybody in the Hāmākua ahupua'a. No matter where you're unsheltered within the ahupua'a, even if you coming from Wailuku, Lahaina. If you need something, come over there because we do have a hub set up within the homeless community that I take food, wai, all of these things to, and everybody can come there on their own time versus us going over there at 9:00 on Thursday and nobody there because they're doing other kuleana. So, about 30 to 60 people, maybe 70 because some of these people have keiki.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Any other questions for Ms. Kawa'akoa at this time? Okay. We've asked her to stay on as a resource for the third item.

MS. KAWA'AKOA: Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Thank you. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that's currently all the individuals signed up to testify. But I do note one individual in the Chamber who looks like he would like to testify.

MR. LAW: Jasee Law, Kula Uka, Waiakoa ahupua'a . Hey, thank you, Mr. Shane, for taking the...the Monday morning spot. I kind of see what you guys have got planned here, you and Keani. The...all the bad stuff goes in the morning, and then all the good stuff comes later on. So, everybody on *Akakū*, hang in there for the second half this afternoon. The Hawaiian word for the day is *lāhui*, with the line above the A, that means nation. Went to the...the Tent City place, I call it M*A*S*H, and went there several times, and I...I tried several ways to try to get in. I even went around it. It's kind of like a prison camp, you can't even get in there. And I asked them if I could go in there, they said you come back later, come back later, come back...finally, I said can I volunteer here? They said no. I said can I get work, clean up trash, get a shower and something to eat? They said no. So, that's about as far as I got on that one, so I can understand what people are talking about on that. Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness...got to come up with a different name for that Committee. And the Holomua Road, that really was...I was...I was at the...I listened to the Council meeting, it caught my ear when Mr. Johnson had some reservations on that, he...and then he kind of got bulldozed over because the rest of the Council was going...going ahead with it. And I can understand because my friend from Pā'ia is...is such a nice person, and she's under such pressure from all those...the rich people that live in that town. And I don't know...I wasn't at the community meeting, but I know it's like those guys vote, and these guys at the...at...that are unsheltered don't vote and they don't pay taxes, so I...I'm kind of at a bad spot with her, and I don't want to make her mad by saying that I don't think that they should kick the people out of there either. Because there's a nice girl that...named Amanda (*phonetic*) that lives in a van, or used to, and she actually gave me a bicycle for free. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Law. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Staff?

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MR. PASCUAL: Chair, could Staff request a ten-minute recess? We're awaiting a response from the Office of Information Practices on how to best proceed with the rest of today's agenda.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, is Mr. Waipa here?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, looks like he canceled signing up for testimony.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Staff. Members, because the phone testimony is not working, but the audio/visual testimony via Teams is working, we're checking...we're currently checking with the OIP on whether we can continue our meeting without phone testimony with the agenda as posted. OIP has been consulted, and is meeting to discuss the issue right now, and so...which appears to be without precedence. So, we'll take a quick ten-minute break, and hopefully we can receive their response. With that, we will reconvene at 11:43. We're in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 11:33 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:47 a.m.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. . . .(gavel). . . Mahalo, everybody, and welcome back to the WASSP Committee meeting of Monday, June 3rd. it's 11:47 a.m. And so, Members, we're just going to go ahead and do a last call for testimony before adjourning. Mr. Pascual?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's currently no individuals signed up to testify. If there's anyone in the Chamber or on Teams that would like to testify, please come up to the mic and begin your testimony, or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams and Staff will unmute you. And I will give a brief countdown...three, two, one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any objections to closing this public testimony?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . END PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Members. Okay. Members, because we did not have access to phone testimony, and we realized that there was a lot of people that wanted to jump on the meeting, including some of our houseless population that does not have access to Teams and who also wanted to...to share their mana'ō this morning. So, at this point, we wanted to apologize, one, to our presenters...I know Project Vision has agreed to come back for our next WASSP meeting on Tuesday, June 18th, at 1:30. And so, we could...and I realize that the Members have a lot of questions that they would gladly answer. And we can check with Ms. Kawa'akoa if that date is...is also available for her, that invitation is...is also extended to...to you as well. But with that, Members...oh, and

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Director Tsuhako. So...and so, mahalo for...for you guys' attendance this morning, but, at this point we're going to adjourn, and then take up the items again on June 18th.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, yeah, just...sorry to interrupt. Just wanted to comment that, yes, we're having audio/visual issues throughout the meeting, so...oh. Sorry, one second.

CHAIR SINENCI: We have Ms. Nakata.

MS. NAKATA: Sorry, Chair. We just wanted to clarify that we did have audio/visual testimony connectivity throughout the meeting, it's just the phone connectivity that was down. So, we did consult with the Office of Information Practices, but we have no guidance at this time, and that's why we're recommending the adjournment. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Nakata. Okay. With that, Members, this WASSP meeting of Monday, June 3rd, is now adjourned. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

ACTION: DEFER all items, no discussion.

ADJOURN: 11:51 a.m.

APPROVED:



SHANE M. SINENCI, Chair
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks
Committee

wassp:min:240603min:mll:th

Transcribed by: Tricia Higa

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CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 34 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 1st day of July 2024, in Mililani, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tricia Higa", is written above a horizontal line.

Tricia Higa