

# **BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 22, 2025**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE: 9:08 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (arrived at 9:18 a.m.)  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

**STAFF:** Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney  
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services  
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office  
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office  
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office  
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office  
Clyde “Buddy” Almeida, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

**ADMIN.:** Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor  
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Kristie Wigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Maria Zielinski, Deputy Director, Department of Finance

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**OTHERS:** Jason Economou, Maui United Way  
Jeff Ueoka, Kilohana Makai  
Lesley Milner, Budget Director  
Jeeyun Lee  
Kai Nishiki  
Tylor Tanaka  
John Starmer  
Sara Sugidono  
Amy Hodges  
Stacy Crivello, Offices of Tylor Tanaka  
Eva Tanuntilo  
Tiare Lawrence  
Robin Garrison  
Jasee Law  
Tom Croly  
Debbie Cabebe  
Cecile Powell, Recycling Specialist, Department of Environmental Management  
Michael Kehano, Solid Waste Division Chief, Department of Environmental  
Management  
Others (7)

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Today, we are on...are on Day Two of decisions, and it is now 9:08 a.m. Thank you, everybody, for joining us. And my name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of this Committee. And we are here in accordance with the Sunshine Law, and as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Chambers, please identify by name if anyone is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today, and minors do not need to be identified. Good morning, Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and selamat pagi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Selamat. This must be...Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, and if you're going to Malaysia, that's where they say...they greet you with selamat pagi. Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Selamat pagi.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Selamat pagi, aloha kakahiaka kākou.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Member Rawlins-Fernandez. She'll be joining us. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Chair, and selamat...selamat pagi. Here at my home office, I'm here by myself, and there are no testifiers at Hāna, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, Chair. I'm here in the Chambers, and there is no one in the Kihei Regional Office to testify at the moment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good morning. Member Uʻu-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everyone. Selamat pagi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. All right. So, I am looking forward to a productive meeting. Thank you very much from the Office of the Mayor, Lesley Milner, Budget Director; Department of Corporation Counsel, I saw Kristina Toshikiyo in the Chambers this morning, but I guess she's back in her office; Kristie Wrigglesworth, Dep...Deputy Corporation Counsel. And Committee Staff, from Office of Council Services, Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary; Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; Jarret Pascual and Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analysts; and Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney; Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director of Council Services; and Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity.

**ITEM 1:                    PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
                                 OF MAUI**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting, and we have one item on the agenda which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year '26 Budget for the County of Maui. As I said today, we are on the second day of decisions and important steps forward, and I have asked OCS to make available, so that all of you can see what we did yesterday, on Exhibit 1. Are we ready? Yeah? Okay. So, Kirsten, James.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, I have a question.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Yesterday, you said we have a new deadline of today?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, because--oh, you want me to talk about it already? I was going to talk about it after we did the Exhibit 1.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, because I want to make sure I submitted, you know, on time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, with the changes...with the changes of the residency area funds, that that deadline to submit to Staff was 8:00 this morning, but I guess it's too hard. So, can you all submit it by 4:30 --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- or sooner?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then those of you that had duplicates with other Members as we went through the editions --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's why. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that's another one, so it would be for myself, Tasha Kama, and Gabe Johnson. Those were the three for the...the conditions that you had duplicates. So, those are also due--if you want to replace it, and due at 4:30 to OCS Staff.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Tamara Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I don't have your name here.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Humane Society, that's why.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, everything went to Tom.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. There's two of you that duplicated portions of his, so all of it went to Tom.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, they . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, I think that's it. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry. I...I couldn't hear anybody on the floor. I'm not sure if their mics are...are on or off.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. I just said we're not playing by the rules, and let's just move on because we got a lot of work to do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. What are the rules?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How come if everyone else withdrew their thing, they get an extra priority and you're not recognizing that I withdrew my thing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Staff, what was the determination on that?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, our interpretation was that it...it was as if Tom...Councilmember--apologies, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Paltin, and Council Chair Lee were combining their priority into one as it relates to the Humane Society, but apologies if that wasn't the case.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, please then do submit if that's your interpretation. I don't want you guys to think that we're doing something we shouldn't be doing. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My understanding was that my ask got consolidated and closed but it should not have displaced theirs, it freed up both of theirs. So, I'm glad that that's the ruling.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Are you guys fine? Are you fine, Chair Lee? Are you fine, Tamara? Okay. We got to work together, and every single moment counts because we are trying to make up what--we got a budget that was 7,000--oh, \$7 million overstated, and then the things that we added yesterday, we...we...we need to cut this budget unless we're going to be overspending. So, whatever we can do to work together is important, so please do submit that. So, we're going to hear from exhibit...about Exhibit 1, which Staff worked on last night after we...you know, we were done, and then we'll take testimony. And then after that, I wonder if Member Kama, as well as Chair Lee, can talk about your residency area meeting that you had last week after testimony, right? So if you could do that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: For both?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll do that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then...and then, you know, we'll start talking about the...we'll hear from the departments. All right. Any more questions before we--Chair Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. You mentioned that Staff is putting together essentially a summary of what we did yesterday --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And you talked about cutting...now we have to cut, but we only actually added, what...from...from the district, yeah...the district ones, the OED ones?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're talking about that?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We added...actually added a lot --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, that one --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- through --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- we added only 60,000, yeah?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Times nine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Times nine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's...that's the residency area one, which is --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So...but the other one then, you're going to...the Staff is going to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- add it all up and give it to us when did you say?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's what we're trying to get to right now.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're trying to--we will be talking about Exhibit 1, which is a summary of all the work that was done yesterday. And as you'll...as you'll notice, that we added conditions to the departments that, you know, was relevant, and so we have increased

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our budget. And I'm just saying that if we are going to keep towards trying to reduce the budget, then we have a lot of work ahead of us. So, Staff, can you talk...can you show Exhibit 1?

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you, Chair. So, we're screen sharing the Exhibit 1 right now, and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, hard to see.

MR. KRUEGER: Yeah. Oh, here. I can zoom in a bit more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're getting hard copies for everybody?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll --

MR. KRUEGER: And...and we'll also upload it to Granicus as...as a document there as well for the Members' review. So, yeah. So, we've compiled the Exhibit 1 just...just for the departments that the Committee discussed yesterday, and to show the changes that's been made. So, we'd just like to ask the Members to take a look, make sure that we've captured things correctly. If...if you feel that we haven't, please let us know, and we can make corrections based on that. The Exhibit 1 shows changes that the Committee approved. It does also show, you know, motions that were made, but ultimately did not prevail, so you should be able to see that as well. As you can see, we're still going through Department of Agriculture right now. The Committee's...the other departments that have changes is Water Authority, as well as Emergency Management, I...actually, I believe is just right up here. Yes. And then we do have Finance included. That's just because of the fringe that's been affected because of the salary cuts and additions that occurred yesterday. Let's see...oh, apologies. I think we might have included some things that might be from old...from...might...when we compile the sheet, sometimes we incorporate things that are in the priorities already. Apologies, we...we didn't take all of those out, so...but, you know, they haven't passed yet, so we're aware of that. And then we also included the Mayor's Office to reflect the changes that you all made to the Economic Development, Environmental, and Cultural Programs, as well as to show the transfer of the feral animal control line items that...that are also in the Mayor's program. That's it for the Exhibit 1. It's not reflected here because we're only showing the departments right now, but we do use a couple of other spreadsheets to track what's happening with the budget balance and everything that the Committee is doing right now. According to our calculations right now, using the certified RPT amount--not...not the one currently in the budget, but the one that's in the Finance's certification--right now, the...the budget is approximately 12 million over. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What was the certified number you're using?

MR. KRUEGER: So...so, that's the \$643 million amount that...that's included in the certification.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, I'm saying what was...this...our budget right now is overstated by how much in comparison to the certification that was --

MR. KRUEGER: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- presented yesterday?

MR. KRUEGER: That would be approximately 12 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: With the conditions?

MR. KRUEGER: Right, right. With...with what the Committee did yesterday, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I guess what I'm asking you, if you can start with the real property tax, the presentation, and from--if that can be the starting point, in the Mayor's proposed budget, what was the amount that we were then over by? I think it was \$7 million --

MR. KRUEGER: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- not we were, but this budget is overstated by 7 million --

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- \$100 or something, whatever it is, and then we add it on the conditions from yesterday, which takes us up to 12 million?

MR. KRUEGER: That's correct, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any questions? Okay. Chair Lee, what?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good job.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Very good. So, today, we're going to continue with deliberations on Fiscal Year '26 Budget. We'll start our discussion with the Department of Environmental Management, and then move to Finance excluding Countywide, then to Fire, Public Safety, Human Concerns, Liquor, and then with Housing...ending with Housing. So, there's lots for us to do today. I would like to take a lunch break at 12:00 and come back if--at 1:30, if that's reasonable to you all. And so, at this time, I--we have testifiers, I see, in the Chamber, so can you...we do, right?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm here.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Oh, there you are. Okay. Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I am at the Moloka'i District Office, alone on my side of the office, and there are currently no testifiers here. Apologies for my lateness. I had a flat tire --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- but I was online listening.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I hope you had AAA to help you fix that tire. Okay. Very good. So, public testimony. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up with Staff, join the online meeting via Teams link, or call in to the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the departments scheduled for today. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link as [maui...at mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas) as well. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button, or if you're calling in, please follow the prompts via phone; star-5 to raise your hand and lower your hand, star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the Testifiers list in the order...order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand. Once your hand is added, Staff will then call the name you've logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At that time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer on the...as the name you prefer to be referred as, even if it's anonymous. If you wish to testify anonymously or in-person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and if you're still not done, I'll give you another 30 seconds and--to complete your testimony. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. Staff, please call the first...first testifier.

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier is Jason Economou, to be followed by Jeff Ueoka.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you, Mr. Economou.

MR. ECONOMOU: Good to see you. Good morning, Committee Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. ECONOMOU: Good morning, Committee Members. My name is Jason Economou, and I am the President and CEO of Maui United Way. Maui United Way has been serving the Maui community for 80 years, and our mission is to advance and nurture the well-being of our Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i communities through impactful, equitable, and sustainable initiatives. In furtherance of that mission, I am here to speak in support of Councilmember Johnson's proposal to add a new appropriation entitled Maui United Way Countywide ALICE Initiative Kama'āina Credit in the amount of \$15 million to be used for a grant to Maui United Way to provide assistance to asset-limited, income-constrained employed households or individuals throughout the County. With these funds, we intend to leverage our existing network of nonprofit partners and our long-standing expertise in nonprofit program administration to provide support to ALICE individuals and households, and subsidize necessities, to possibly include food, utilities, rent, gas, dental, medical, vehicle registration, school supplies, and the like. Maui United Way and our network will conduct ongoing needs assessments to determine the most impactful subsidies we can provide, while also focusing on directing these subsidies towards local vendors and providers as means of providing stimulus to the local economy, while also serving those in need. The program we envision is largely based on the MEO HELP program, and one of the hallmarks of that program was the high local spend and economic stimulus effect that it had. In addition to providing economic support to individuals and families in need, and providing stimulus to the local economy, we also plan on tracking and studying the impacts of this program to determine how we can pull individuals and families out of the ALICE population, and into a position to thrive in this community. The share of ALICE households in Maui County has increased 9 percentage points since 2022, and many in our community are struggling to afford basic necessities. In our County, 43 percent of households would fall into the ALICE category while another 10 percent fall below the poverty line. That means a majority of households in Maui Nui are struggling to survive financially, which puts us in the worst position in the State. The time for bold action and supporting our community is now. Our Maui community needs help, and Maui United Way is well positioned to facilitate that assistance. I urge you all to partner with us, and to help the people of Maui Nui get the help that they need. We've had good relationships with the Department for years, both personally and professionally. We've worked with them. We have worked with nearly every nonprofit in Maui County. Our processes are tried and true, and our ability to vet those in need and ensure that there is no double-dipping has been demonstrated over and over again. We have the technical knowledge and expertise to administer a program like this as evidenced by the . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . over \$8 million in direct financial assistance we provided immediately after the fires. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Nice seeing you. So, when you say you worked with the Department, you're talking about what department?

MR. ECONOMOU: The Department of...me personally, Department of Housing and Human Concerns, prior to the bifurcation. Our team has worked with the Department of Human Concerns though, even since the bifurcation.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, any other questions for Mr. Economou? Did you raise your hand? Okay. Member Johnson, then Paltin, then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Economou, for your testimony. It's full of useful information for this program, and I...I really hope the Members are hearing it. I got a question in regards to your first...your statement...the handout that everyone has here on the desk is...is really informative, and I'm just going to read a sentence and ask you if you can clarify it. While all other counties have seen a decrease in the share of households below the ALICE threshold, Maui County experienced an increase. A majority of households in Maui County are currently below the ALICE threshold. Why do you think that is, first off?

MR. ECONOMOU: The most obvious reason is the fires. The...the economic impact that the fires had on everybody was devastating. I think it's upwards of 70 percent of households throughout the entire County have stated that they were directly financially-impacted by the effects of the fire.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. ECONOMOU: So, that...that is the most obvious reason. Beyond that, it...it's just kind of had this...this trickle-down effect of...of horrible. Between the housing market, the fire, the uncertainty in the economy, the high cost of shipping goods from anywhere, it all just compounds on itself, and puts us in the worst position in the State.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is there any evidence that COVID has remnant effects, or...

MR. ECONOMOU: Absolutely. Yeah. I...I think if...if you talked to...to most of the nonprofits, they saw need increase drastically after COVID, and it never really stopped. You know, I...I was the chair of the Food Bank board for...for a good long while there, and we saw that...that after COVID, the need went way up, and it never really went down, it just plateaued until the fires, and then the need went up again. So, yeah, COVID is still lingering.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Those are my questions for now, Mr. Economou, and I saw other Councilmembers had questions. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin, then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Economou, for your testimony. Do you have any data or insight of how much of that 43 percent ALICE category are County workers?

MR. ECONOMOU: Not off the top of my head, but I...I can see if we can go through the data that we do have, and...and get details on that for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that would be awesome. Thank you.

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MR. ECONOMOU: Excellent.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So, did you prepare this for us?

MR. ECONOMOU: That was prepared by Aloha United Way --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay.

MR. ECONOMOU: -- on our behalf.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Very good. But I was going to ask you--I don't even know if you know the answer, but it says...on the very bottom of the page, it says, those who live in larger households, particularly if they contain children, were more likely to be impacted by having their residence destroyed, loss of job, and health issues. Do you know what that means?

MR. ECONOMOU: You know, a lot of that data, you know, includes the...the fire-impacted population, the directly fire-impacted population. And one of the things that...that we've seen from looking at that housing data that came out of Lāhainā, over 80 percent of those who...who lost their housing were renters, and a large majority of those households were large families, multigenerational households and immigrants. So...so, those who were truly directly impacted by the fires oftentimes were in the worst position to recover, and...and in the worst position to have their needs even heard by the community.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, with that being said, if 80 percent of the people who were...who lost their homes in the fire were renters, and they were immigrants, and those on the lower economic scale, that those are the ones that we're trying to help right now today?

MR. ECONOMOU: They're definitely included in the ALICE population, and in that 10 percent that fall below the poverty line. Yes, there's...there's a huge overlap between fire-impacted and ALICE population.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just another request, if...in compiling the County worker one, if you could also see if there's any data on how many are essential workers, you know, like teacher, police, fire households and things like that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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MR. ECONOMOU: I'll...I'll see what I can do. I can't make any promises because...because I don't have the data myself, but...but yeah, we'll...we'll see what we can do as far as essential workers and County workers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. ECONOMOU: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook, then U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, sir. You...you've dealt with real estate for many years and we're doing the budget real property taxes. Do you have any --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- perception on --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's not a clarifying question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's not relevant.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Clarifying question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But he didn't talk about real...we're not talking about real property tax.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Clarifying question about how to pay for this.

MR. ECONOMOU: How to pay for it? You know, I...I...what I would say--and...and you've heard me talk about this out...outside of this place--I don't think corporations should own residential properties and make money off of them. I think that's feudalism. So, if...if I had a magic wand, I would say you should create a separate tax classification for corporate-owned properties that are residential in nature. I would say that you should tax them very highly. Similarly, when it comes to real property taxes, I know a lot of families are...are struggling because the appraisals that the County uses for property taxes lag behind. However, I don't know if those who own extravagant luxury properties, who have had low property taxes historically for many years, necessarily are going to suffer as bad, and this body created the...the tax brackets for a reason. So, I...I think there is a way to...to work within the property tax guidelines to determine those households that will be less impacted by a tax increase, and those who can better absorb a tax increase.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir.

MR. ECONOMOU: Thank you.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Nice to see you. You look like you haven't shaved in a while. It's been a while since I've seen you like this.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: That's not my clarifying question.

MR. ECONOMOU: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: So, on the second...on the second page, what I found really interesting, this graph. So, with \$15 million, you...are you proposing to help with housing expenses, healthcare, food, fresh food? I know Member Johnson mentioned gas before. Where are you thinking the...this money can make the most impactful difference?

MR. ECONOMOU: So, it really will ultimately depend on the full amount, and...and the broader landscape of who else is providing aid. The problem with...with \$15 million is it sounds like a lot of money for one organization, but the needs of the community, that's...that's just a drop in the bucket. You know, if we got, you know, let's just say \$500 million between all of the nonprofits in Maui County immediately after the fires, that money, based on the needs of the community today, I could spend that in a month-and-a-half.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Don't give Member Johnson any ideas with \$500 million.

MR. ECONOMOU: . . .*(laughing)*. . . So...so, the \$15 million, it's...it's going to depend on if we actually get \$15 million, and who else that we're working with in our network also has money.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. ECONOMOU: We...we like to say united is the way because we have a very collaborative approach to philanthropy. We want to talk to the other organizations that are in the same space as us providing aid, and see how we can kind of divvy up the support that we're providing. You know, one of the things that...that people wouldn't necessarily think is...is gas cards --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. ECONOMOU: -- and we've seen a huge need for gas cards --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. ECONOMOU: -- so we'll probably augment that program. But, you know, school supplies --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

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MR. ECONOMOU: -- medical bills, dental, these are all things that...that people need assistance for. So, you know, we...we don't have the...the program fully fleshed out yet because we don't want to put the cart before the horse, or count all of our eggs before they hatch, or whatever --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. ECONOMOU: -- other sort of...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: But you have some pretty strong ideas of where it should go?

MR. ECONOMOU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Because you could spend this much money, hopefully, pretty quickly.

MR. ECONOMOU: \$8 million went out the door in...in about a month-and-a-half after the fires --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. ECONOMOU: -- and...and that didn't solve problems, but it made people's lives a lot easier in one of the...the worst moments of their existence. So...so, yeah, I'm --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. ECONOMOU: -- confident that we can find ways to...to make an impactful difference in the community with this money.

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

MR. ECONOMOU: Okay. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Mr. Economou, have you considered trying to leverage some of these dollars that you will receive, whatever that might be, with other entities? I mean, I know you're talking about going to visit nonprofits, but I was thinking about people like the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. I always bring them up because they have such a huge corpus, and I'm not seeing any of that in terms of what I would actually like to see done with that.

MR. ECONOMOU: Can you clarify the question, please?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I was asking you if you would consider leveraging whatever you're going to be receiving with this with other entities, such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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MR. ECONOMOU: Absolutely. You know, as I said, united is the way. We...we really believe in that. So...so, our goal is to work with other entities, no matter what amount is received. We will not do it alone.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Okay. Good. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm going to hold you to that because I'm going to call...I'm going to tell them --

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. ECONOMOU: Tell...tell them to call.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. ECONOMOU: That's great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, before you leave, the...what Maui United Way has done, like I--what I saw you do after the wildfires is reach out to the individuals, and you utilized your nonprofit network. So, how did that help? How--what...what were the nonprofits saying?

MR. ECONOMOU: Oh, well, you know, we...we share a lot of data. Being a grant-making organization to a lot of nonprofits, we have agreements in place where they have to share their data with us. But even beyond that, with the relationships that we've built over 80 years, and that focus on helping the community, we willingly share a lot of data. So...so, that is...is sort of step number one as far as the needs assessment. And also, determining who is actually in need. Our practices as far as being to vet...being able to vet if somebody really is a fire survivor go beyond just our systems. We work with groups, like Hawai'i Community Foundation and CNHA, who have been working with fire survivors from the start. So, that's given us the ability to...to safeguard the funds that were intended for the groups they were intended for.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I just want to say, as we always talk about wildfires, don't forget Upcountry.

MR. ECONOMOU: Absolutely.

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

MR. ECONOMOU: All right. Thank you very much.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Jeff Ueoka, to be followed by Lesley Milner.

MR. UEOKA: Oh, good morning, Councilmembers, Council Chair...Committee Chair. Here...Jeff Ueoka here on behalf of Kilohana Makai. Howie Kihune normally represents, he's in a meeting right now, so he's sorry he can't make it. He sent me, so you got the B team. We noticed in the Members' priorities--thank you very much, Councilmember Cook--he put in...I guess it was a proviso into the Affordable Housing Fund for up to 500,000, must be used for water development fees for the Kilohana Makai workforce housing project. We understand that this project's...it's a 28-unit, 100-percent residential workforce housing project. It's in Kihei, right across the street from the beach, wonderful location. And, you know, it started...he started before that obviously, but in 2020, the Change in Zoning was approved. Didn't get his SMA until 2023. So, as you guys are all aware, the world changed tremendously from 2018, '19, until where we are today. Costs are...I don't know, I...I like to say they're at an all-time--or at the all-time high, but who knows where it's going to go from here. So, one of the things we are asking for today, in addition to the--I think there's another appropriation in the Department of Housing--but this money to cover the cost of water meters. This project's going to take 30 five-eighths-inch water meters, and it comes out to a cost at around 400,000. And . . . *(laughing)*. . . the appropriations, we talked to Councilmember Cook, and he made it five because it's up to 500 for the water--because we don't know what's going to happen between now and when we actually pay the fee so we just want a little bit of cushion there so we wouldn't have to come back again. But, you know, cost of construction increased; interest rates are very high, including for the developer's loans; the construction loans are at all-very-high interest rates, so everything is just expensive right now. Talking to Howie, he said this may be the last 100-percent affordable housing, you know, for-sale project he can do for a while. It's just hard, he said. But he's going to keep trying. He loves doing it, but he says that it's hard, and he keeps having to come back and ask for subsidies from the County. So, thank you. I know you guys are busy. You have a lot to do. Don't miss budget at all, so --

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

MR. UEOKA: -- good luck, guys. . . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, before we ask you questions, we miss sitting--you were always sitting right there when we did budget all the years that you were in Corp. Counsel. So, nice seeing you. Anybody have questions? Your hand was up? Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Hi, Jeff. So, if 400 is going to cover the meters itself, what about the installation and all the work to install the meters?

MR. UEOKA: The--that part, we should be okay as of right now, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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MR. UEOKA: -- that's why there was the extra cushion, just in case.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. UEOKA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify if you've spoken with the Housing Department, and they support this request?

MR. UEOKA: I'm not sure if Mr. Kihune reached out directly to Housing, as this was a lead--it...it kind of--I know it's water meters, but it sprung up on us, and...other costs, I should say, sprung up, and this was one of the ideas. So, it was kind of a quick ask to Councilmember Cook to include as a priority. So, I don't believe there's been deep discussions with the Department of Housing. I believe Mr. Kihune has spoken with the Mayor, though. That's my understanding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and to clarify, this is a 20-year deed restriction, correct?

MR. UEOKA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. That would be the only reason I support this. Thank you.

MR. UEOKA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other--Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Mr. Ueoka, if these units are all for-sale --

MR. UEOKA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- how many --

MR. UEOKA: Twenty-eight.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- units are there?

MR. UEOKA: Two-eight.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Twenty-eight. And this is, what, workforce or affordable--all under...is it under affordable, or what?

MR. UEOKA: It's 100-percent residential workforce housing, compliant with 2.96.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. UEOKA: The two extra meters are irrigation meters that are required for like the landscaping in the subdivision.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Very good. Well, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. No other questions. We'll see you again.

MR. UEOKA: Thank you. Good luck.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Lesley Mil...Milner, to be followed by Jeeyun Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director --

MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MS. MILNER: I just wanted to speak on two things today. First, for the Department of Fire and Public Safety. The \$250,000 transfer to the Fire Hazard Removal Revolving Fund was included, but we inadvertently neglected to include the earmark language in the ordinance, so we would ask for the Committee's consideration of adding that. No funds are needed, we just need to add the language about the transfer to the Fire Hazard Removal Revolving Fund. Second, animal management rates and fees on Appendix B are in Human Concerns. We'd like to move those over to the Department of Agriculture, if you would consider it. And I'd also like to briefly talk about the General Budget provisions, Section 21. Mr. Hanano was correct, our current practice is to submit, taking into consideration all previously-passed budget amendments. But currently, if amendments are taken up in a different order, if amendments passed in the intervening weeks before that amendment is passed, OCS, my staff, and Corporation Counsel need to go in to revise the numbers. So, the suggestion was that rather than doing that bill by bill by bill, that we do a quarterly report to show the current balance. So, that was the purpose of Section 21. I just wanted to clarify that, and that is all, and I will see you later. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Before you disappear, we have questions from Member Johnson, Member Paltin, and Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Director Milner. I know you're super busy. Quick question. That Section 21, does that re...are you saying that requires a budget amendment, or are you doing it so it doesn't require a budget amendment?

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. So, currently, when we submit budget amendments, we have to change them after they pass out of Committee to reflect any numbers for bills that have passed out of Council in the intervening weeks. So, that's why we were hoping to include that, to just sort of take out that step.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook. No? Who had their hand up--oh, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director Milner. I was wondering if you could clarify the animal management. I didn't see it in Human Concerns.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's in...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I will double-check those rates and fees. I just got a message from my staff that they needed to move, so I added it to my testimony. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, the rates and fees.

MS. MILNER: -- if I can follow up with you during recess, I will get right back to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I thought...I didn't know you...I didn't hear the rates and fees part, so that probably still is. And then are you giving this testimony in writing too, or somebody has --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, I can send an email.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Yeah, I was going to ask you the same thing about Fire. So, yeah, if you could just send it to everybody, I appreciate it. Any other questions for Director? Seeing none. Thank you very much. See you soon.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Jeeyun Lee, to be followed by Kai Nishiki.

MS. LEE: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair and Councilmembers. Mahalo for your service. My name is Jeeyun Lee, I'm the Director of Impact at Maui United Way, and I'm here in support of Councilmember Johnson's ALICE Initiative and Countywide Kama'āina Credit line

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item that Marcy--oh, Jason Economou shared out about. I was boots on the ground. I'm actually a West Maui resident. I live in Kahana, so I was lucky enough to be over on that side to serve throughout the community, and I've been boots on the ground since the beginning of August 8th, you know, paying attention to the food, transportation, housing, shelter, healthcare, and other circumstances that our community...you know, my neighbors and...and family had to experience, and have been in close communication and have been working for many years now with MEO, Maui Nonprofit Directors Association, MEDB, Hawai'i Community Foundation philanthropy, Department of Human Concerns and DHHC when it existed, CNHA, Long-Term Recovery Group, Disaster Case Management Program, Saint Vincent de Paul, DHS, Roots Reborn, Kaibigan ng Lāhainā to name a few, to really ensure that all of our community members are being served throughout the work that the Maui United Way is doing, not just from fire-impacted, which is very critical, but throughout the community at large. Because many of these pre-existing...these issues were pre-existing prior to the fires, as we all know, and have just been exacerbated since. The infrastructure that Maui United Way has, and the relationships that we as an organization have built, and the team that we have put together right now, is absolutely prepared to support the work that needs to get done to support our community, especially in lieu of the Federal cuts that have been impacting, you know, many of our larger nonprofit organizations, and our smaller grassroots funds from Catholic Charities Hawai'i, all the way down to Maui Rapid Response, and MEO, and so many more. Our ALICE population within our community, which really, my neighbors--actually, me at one point--were struggling, and are struggling. And so, to be able to work with this population, and help lift them up into a space where they can really maintain their own...their own socioeconomic independence, and create more circular economies with the funding that would be provided would be immeasurably beneficial to our County as a whole. And I just wanted to call in to support in making...making a request for...from you all. Mahalo for your time, and I think Mr. Economou shared most of the other parts, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Any questions? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Ms. Lee, and thank you for all the hard work you do for the community. You know, I'm going to ask a question that I have a feeling that some Members might have on their mind, but how...how--do you guys--can you speak on your experience on working with the Department before the bifurcation after the bifurcation? You've worked with Director Tsuhako in the past, and...and moving forward after they switched up gears, and now they're their own department. You have a good relationship with them? You think you can ma...move this forward expeditiously?

MS. LEE: Yes. Jason and I both have...have worked with Director Tsuhako, and I used to do grants administration to support many of the nonprofits, including Hale Makua, and I was the Executive Director for Hawaiian Nature Center where we had DHHC grants previously. So, working with the team, Curtis Jameson and others, to implement and execute, you know, impactful work with the funds that the County provided to organizations is something that I...I feel confident in being able to do. And finding the

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right ways to do that--to take the funds and--I mean, I took this position, quite frankly, because this work--it doesn't matter how much money comes into our community and through our County if we don't use it meaningfully and really intentionally. And that is really important to me personally and professionally, and is the space that I want to use my gifts to support our community. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Lee. It sounds....both...yourself and Mr. Economou's testimony was really emphasizing relationships and relationship-buildings. You gave a long list of all the nonprofits you work with, you mentioned that you have good relationships with the Department, and I think that is a big plus for your organization, and I appreciate what you do. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You are really amazing.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I've worked with you too. Oh, who...who...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Mr. Sinenci.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Mister...Member Sinenci. I'm sorry, I didn't see you. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And yeah, mahalo, Ms. Lee, for your...for your testimony this afternoon. I've been trying to get...from my Committee, get out more rental assistance in anticipation of the Governor's eviction moratorium and stuff. So, my question was, are you guys able to spend down that...the...the funds in a year? And also, you know, each of the departments have...have stringent criteria for...for certain--you know, do you have the capacity to check on their...their AMIs, you know, their household incomes, those types of things that I'm getting from the housing--we don't have the capacity to do these things, so just make...try to make sure that you...you and the staff at United Way have all these things to...to quickly administer the grant funding.

MS. LEE: Well, as Mr. Economou had shared previously, we...we have worked closely with other organizations. I'm really a fan of utilizing existing systems and investing in the systems that already exist to make them better. So, for instance, when we did the gas card initiative, we didn't have to check a lot of those things because they were already connected in through case management services. So, we're going to go ahead and, you know, depending on the amount of funds provided and the specific focus that, you know, we see, you know, as the funds are...are encumbered and released, take a look and see what organizations are already poised to do that, and how we can leverage existing to...existing systems to decrease barriers as well for our community, while ensuring that

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all the funds get...get spent down. So, again, you know, within just a few months, we were able to push out, you know, 6 to \$8 million in individual emergency assistance right after the fires. And that's probably what we're most known for, I still hear about it all the time in the community, and we'd love to partner with the County to be able to provide that and...and show the collaboration that's necessary to...to support our community as they deserve. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it. It sounds like you guys have stood [sic] up all of your--what you need to do, so thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I have a question for you then, with your 8 million experience and looking at, you know, the other services that you provide. Were you able to take--or provide data that actually, the people that were providing...you are providing rental assistance, that they eventually were weaned off and did not need it, or did you have some kind of time frame for the assistance, and after that, they needed to find other resources? Do you have that kind of information --

MS. LEE: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to provide?

MS. LEE: Sure, Chair. So, the...the assistance that we provided was the emergency assistance right after the fire, so we did not--it was a one-time \$1,000 investment for each of the individuals that...that applied...that qualified. So, we did not take that kind of data, but what we do on a regular basis is...is gather data, and we're working really closely with some data specialists, like Majkowski and others, that we have contracted to support gathering the data. And we're really, really, intentionally gathering data now. So, I'm really excited to be sharing that out really shortly, and I will definitely share it with all of you Councilmembers, utilizing two-on-one unmet needs data, as well as the data of the individuals that we're helping. And then the case management side, that's why it's so critical. So, for instance, the gas card initiative, we did it for six months, but we inte...we could have refilled the cards, but we intentionally provided new cards every time because each of those touch points creates and builds pilina with the case managers and the care navigators, and allows for them to have more discussions with the families about what their needs are. Because as we well know, our community is very independent, and they don't want to naturally ask for help. So, we have to create those relationships, and almost, you know, force the hand of...of...of our...of our neighbors and our friends to say, hey, you know, can I do this, can we do that, right? And it...and it creates those opportunities to do that through these investments that we're able to make.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Member Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. If there's any way that you could get data on the households that are being supported, if they're County workers or essential workers, that would be helpful as well. Because...especially those populations at that...at this time, we need that kind of public service jobs especially.

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MS. LEE: I will go ahead, especially with the gas card initiative, and see how many of those are essential or County workers, and do the best I can to try and figure that out, Councilmember. And I did hear about the...the other aspects of the ALICE Initiative ones with...with Mr. Economou, and will do my best to follow-up on that too with you directly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions?

MS. LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seeing none. All right. Thank you very much for the work you do. Next testifier.

MS. LEE: Mahalo. Likewise. A hui hou.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Kai Nishiki, to be followed by Tylor Tanaka.

MS. NISHIKI: Kala mai. Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers. Kai Nishiki, testifying on behalf of the Maui Nui Resiliency Hui. So, I understand you folks are going to be looking at DEM, and we have a FY '26 budget request for our continued work of Maui Nui Resiliency Hui regarding Ka Puali Cut Mountain area in West Maui. And this is to collect and dispose of remaining trash and debris, including metals, tires, batteries, household trash, appliances, and abandoned vehicles along the shoreline, to secure the area from degradation and coordinate brush abatement for fire prevention. The purpose is to support the implementation of coastal realignment due to loss and impending loss of beach parks in the West Maui area, and shoreline management restoration work. In 2024, Maui Nui Resiliency Hui, along with many partners, initiated Phase I of clearing debris and trash from the parcel. However, due to the large volume of trash and debris, and limited initial funding for the project, we paused the project to secure additional funding, leaving large piles of trash and debris ready for collection, and a need for further efforts to secure the area from additional degradation. During the four-day project, over 17 tons of trash were removed and disposed of at the landfill, as well as separation and organization of piles: 7.8 tons of metal, 10 tons of tires, almost 4 tons of hazardous waste, 4 tons of appliances, numerous cars tagged for remit...removal. Thirteen acres were secured with the installation of boulders, and this is County property under the Parks Department to prevent vehicular access to the parcel. Since that work was completed, the area has been vandalized, and boulders have been moved to clear a path for additional vehicular access, and so there's continued dumping has commenced, as well as numerous fires. This area also averages 300-plus incident calls to MPD and MFD, really underscoring the need to further secure the area, and protect this public space from mismanagement and serious safety and liability concerns. Through this grant, an estimated additional 500 tons of waste and recyclables are proposed for sorting, hauling, and disposal after the space has been vacated and secured by the County. We do understand the need for providing options for the



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unsheltered population in the area, and have been actively working in the last year on a number of solutions for safe parking and housing resources, some of which are in other budget proposals. Just wanted to add a thought. You know, for...for our work, we have to get permits, rights-of-entry from the County, there's insurance requirements...so definitely would like there to be equity in...in all the grants . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . with proper use and activities that align with the County zoning and laws. And in addition, I've also provided some information and proposed conditions for the proposed Mā'alaea Regional Wastewater System, and thank Councilmember U'u-Hodgins for bringing up the cesspool issue and the inequality in providing a wastewater treatment facility for, you know, probably around \$30 million . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . of public funding without there being some conditions in place that would protect that investment. And I'm here to answer any questions. I heard the bell. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, that's pretty amazing, the work that you've been doing. We've heard about Cut Mountain from Member Paltin for, I don't know, probably as long as she's been in that seat. But you're helping to clean it up?

MS. NISHIKI: We're...we're trying to assist the County. We understand that the County departments can...very often are understaffed, and that the County receives, you know, a number of requests for things to be done within the community, so it's nice that the County can support via funding, and nonprofits, and other folks in the community can help lift up the heavy load.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's a, what, \$700,000 request for --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Revolving Fund.

MS. NISHIKI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Revolving Fund, from the Revolving Fund?

MS. NISHIKI: Yeah, from...from the SMA Revolving Fund, which does have a balance of 1.5, approximately. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And I'll turn it over to the other Members to ask, but I hope it's not you and Sara doing the cleanup. It's kind of heavy-duty work.

MS. NISHIKI: No, we actually have a number of fire survivors, and we are very committed to supporting, you know, those who have businesses and really want to join the community in making their...their community clean, and safe, and enjoyable for all. And so, yeah, we have a lot of community partners, like I said, who are fire survivors, have businesses, and are assisting with all of this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Any other Members have questions? Oh, Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Nishiki. I just wanted to clarify when you said how many police calls, and...and, you know, if there is illegalities happening there, is...what is the reason they can't address the illegal ongoing, if you know?

MS. NISHIKI: Yes. I think that when I've been in...in communication with the various responders, first responders, they said that they really need the County Administration, the Park...the Parks Department, to authorize and work with them to be able to address those situations. And so, it really is dependent on...on the Parks Department to say yes, we...we want you to enforce the laws on our property. And so, I...I really think that it is a huge liability issue for the County to allow activities on their...on their property that are illegal. And also, you know, at any time...like if someone was injured or assaulted on the County property, they...they could go after the County for...for allowing these things to...to occur, and not providing safe public health and...public health and safety issues not being addressed. So, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then just to clarify, you're...are you coordinating with EP&S and Mālama Maui Nui, who is actively cleaning up 13.5 area so that we just don't have rubbish floating back and forth between the two sites.

MS. NISHIKI: Yes, I have reached--or yes, we are in...in coordination, and we have been in discussion that it...what is most important is that these areas, one, be vacated; then two, secured so there's not further degradation...and then also, if then there's community involvement after that, like after the parcels are cleared of all of the hazardous and...and public safety issues, then the community can really go in and mālama these places, you know, plant trees and make them more suitable for...for folks to safely access these areas. So, the...there is...like beyond the initial cleanup, there are long-term plans in that area to implement the Pali to Puamana Parkway, the West Maui Greenway, but, you know, first...first we have to address what's going on right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hey, Kai. Thank you so much for coming out. I just want to clarify for the other Members that Member Paltin, in one of her questions, did ask Planning if they were okay with using some of this money. So, you guys have been in communication with Planning, as well as Member Paltin and this body, and talking to Administration to kind of get this all moving. So, I just wanted you to speak on that so that the Members know that you guys are pretty much ready to go pretty soon.

MS. NISHIKI: Yes. Yes, we did consult with Planning, and they were supportive of utilizing the fund for this purpose. They also clarified, you know, that the SMA fund really is available for...for Councilmembers as well to propose use of the fund, and so ultimately it would be a you-folks decision. But yes, we have been coordinating with

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Parks Department, the Administration, Cynthia Lallo on this, Corporation Counsel, Maui Fire Department. Like EP&S, they --

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

MS. NISHIKI: -- they agreed to manage the grant for...for us, and then obviously, all of the other agencies--well, primarily EP&S because of all of the...all of the recyclables and...and hazardous stuff, and, you know, providing dumpsters for each of those items, appliances, so that we can also--you know, we want to practice waste diversion. We don't want all of this to go into the landfill. So, yes, a lot of coordination, and a lot of work, and that includes a lot of community...other community partners as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook, then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much, Ms. Nishiki, for this. It sounds like a lot of heavy lifting. What kind of equipment--I mean, who...who's doing this? Because like cars, and appliances, and piles of trash.

MS. NISHIKI: So...so, I alluded to a lot of our community partners. So, Goodfellow Bros. has been a really wonderful partner, and they're always down to help our community. So, really want to shout out to them. And then we have Lazo's Hauling, which...like I said before, you know, his family lost...lost their house in the fire, and he has a waste, and hauling, and trucking company, and he employs largely all Lāhainā fire survivors as well. And then of course, County EP&S, and...and Mālama Maui...Mālama Maui Nui. All of those folks also can help provide the dumpsters for the waste diversion. And then of course, you know, we have great partners from like Leoda's and stuff, who like help...help feed everybody, and so it really is a group effort. And then, of course, we work with Naomi Crozier and...and all...and all those who are helping with the unsheltered solutions as well.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much for coloring in the lines --

MS. NISHIKI: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and thank you for the work.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair. Good morning, Ms. Nishiki. Appreciate all the work you do for the community. You mentioned some of the folks that are there now are...are moving out of there. Do you know where they're going to?

MS. NISHIKI: So, there is a consistent effort for outreach in...in all of the areas where we have issues like this. And we have been working closely with...with most of the service providers--KHAKO, Family Life Center, Naomi Crozier--and as...as well as other folks who provide things on their own or just, you know, other people that...that we network with. And what we have consistently seen is that--for instance, KHAKO will say we have

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this number of spaces available, and primarily, what the challenge has been is that there are spaces available in a number of all kinds of facilities--mental health, drug addiction, houseless solutions--however, you know, like...like in...like for all of us, there's...there's rules when you live in community, and for a majority of folks, they are not wanting to abide by the rules. And so, you know, they'll come in for a day or two, and then they will, on their own, you know, decide that--you know, cannot force anyone. And so, that really has been, I think, the...the number one challenge, is that folks in whatever their life choices are, whatever their decisions are, they're the ones who are making the choice that they don't want to follow the rules. And so, they choose to live in...in the conditions that...that they...that they are in, whether it's because...yeah, there's...there's just a lot of...a lot of issues around the following of rules. And hey, I don't always want to follow the rules, you know? Like I want to be able to like drive wherever and I want to be able to like push the boundaries all over the place. But like it's...I...I can't. And because...like, I want to make sure that I have a roof over my head or whatever, you know, like I got to...I got to make sure I have everything in line, I got to make sure my car is legal, I don't want to get pulled over by the police, you know? I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. NISHIKI: Yeah. I...there's...there's probably a few crimes that I'd like to commit, but I --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. NISHIKI: -- but I can't, you know? . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay.

MS. NISHIKI: I...I don't know. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I think the overall thing is --

MS. NISHIKI: Park wherever I like, you know?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- the system is...is hard for some of these folks. You know, some places don't allow pets, some people are...you know, you--there's...there's...there's a lot of stories behind why they...they're...they're out there. So, I appreciate all the hard work you do, Ms. Nishiki.

MS. NISHIKI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for that.

MS. NISHIKI: Yeah, I definitely understand the pet issue. I have...I have a whole list of animals, and I...I understand the...the challenges that...that are there. But I...I will...I

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will tell you that we are committed to working on a number of solutions for the unsheltered. Safe parking programs, we have been working for over a year with a number of organizations to make sure that...that that is an option for folks. But even with safe parking...like there's going to be rules for that, you know? Like we --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. NISHIKI: -- the...the County is going to require you to have, you know, a car that's in...in safe working order. You have to have your driver's license if you're going to be driving. Like, you know, just these...these things that are just like the baseline. So, yeah, I understand the challenges, but we're committed to working on...on solutions, and...and lifting them up, and helping the County, and helping everyone here. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sorry...sorry to keep you so long. I know you'd rather --

MS. NISHIKI: No. No, it's fine. I'm...I'm...I'm here to serve, and...and happy to help, and, you know, I'll be running down to Maui Planning Commission after this because there's shoreline stuff going on down there. So, happy to be here. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. No, thank you. So, in...in regards to Member Johnson's question about where do you move them, and your response was, some of them don't want to move. They'll go somewhere, but they'll end up, at some point, coming back...if not to that space, another space, and creating another encampment that you'll probably have to go and do the same thing over and over and over and over again. Because that's what I have seen has been happening over time. You clean out one, you get truckloads of stuff that has to get removed, and you clean out all of the...the...the rivers and the...the streams and whatnot...but then later on, you go back and they've resurfaced all over the place. So, in a situation like that, that to me, I--almost seemed like it's so repetitive, that --

MS. NISHIKI: Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- where is the answer? What is the answer? Because, you...you know, you can't institutionalize them, right? That was done away with in the '60s and '70s, but we definitely know we have to help them. But if they don't know they...that they need help, how do we help them? So, you don't have to answer that today. In the work that you are doing, I think you're going to come across those kinds of things, and you might end up with the solution. One bright day, it's going to hit you. When it does, come back and tell us.

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MS. NISHIKI: Oh...oh...oh no, I...I...I have something to say on that. I...I think, you know, sometimes as--and I think this experience comes from being a parent. There's something that's called tough love. You know, you either...you either get in line and do the right thing or not, you know? So, like, at some point, we're going to have to practice tough love. And if we secure...if...if the County and the State take on their kuleana, and secure their parcels from further degradation, that...that is...that helps, but also, in making sure that policies and actions that...that we take don't have these unintended consequences. For...for instance, for all of our unsheltered solutions, you know, we--I think that we really need to make sure that we are protecting and prioritizing those--the...the services that we're providing for...for our local folks. Like in...in housing, we are...we're saying, you know, priority by length of residency. That should also apply for unsheltered solutions. Because when we met with KHAKEO recently, they said there's been a huge uptick in fresh-off-the-plane folks calling them, and asking for services. And they're like, hey, you know, like, we're...we're...we're already drowning. We...we...we really cannot...we....we need to make sure that we are not providing incentive for folks to fly over here because they see that like, oh, our doors are open. We're just...we're here to help everybody. But at some point, like, we need to prioritize kānaka, we need to prioritize our long-time local families. And especially, you know, what we really saw was a lot of women and...and children. Like, I think almost 40 percent of those who are...are in...who are seeking services have...have keiki. So, I think it's really important for us to prioritize, you know, those local kids and...and our kānaka population. And if we...if there's not guardrails or safeguards in regards to prioritizing the services for...for...for folks by length of residency, then we're...then I hope that folks are understanding that there's going to be additional problems. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. NISHIKI: And impacts.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. We should have you as a lunch speaker.

MS. NISHIKI: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Talking about your passions.

MS. NISHIKI: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time though, I want to continue on with the budget. Thank you for sharing with us the knowledge that you have gained, and thank you for doing this amazing work.

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MS. NISHIKI: Yes. Ma...thank you. Thank you so much for the support, and we look forward to partnering and helping in any way we can...in any way that we can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

MS. NISHIKI: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One day, we can even ask--you slipped in your thought about the--and we have DEM today--about the Mā'alaea request. So, two sentences though, because we got to move on.

MS. NISHIKI: Okay. Okay. So, for...for Mā'alaea, I...I did propose conditions on the funding. You know, primarily, it's because there are...there's no...there's not even any guarantee that the vacation-rental condominiums would...would have to tie in, and because there's costs associated with decommissioning injection wells, and their septic systems, and the transmission lines, that is...that's something that needs to be protected. And then...and then also, they are...these vacation-rental condos are prioritizing their funding to seek sea walls, sea wall fixes. And like, you know, a number of them are...just paid like \$3 million for a sea wall fix. There's another permit in for a whole football-field-length revetment. These are millions of dollars that they're prioritizing to destroy our beaches while they're asking the County to clean up their doodoo, and spend taxpayer money on cleaning up the doodoo while they're spending money destroying the beaches. So, if they're responsible for contributing to destroying our reef and our beaches, like why are we bailing them out? Like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. NISHIKI: -- if they got money --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got it.

MS. NISHIKI: -- tell them pay for it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got it.

MS. NISHIKI: Sorry, that was --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You submitted --

MS. NISHIKI: -- more than two sentences.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. NISHIKI: Kala mai. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But you submitted --

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MS. NISHIKI: My mouth. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You said you submitted condition language?

MS. NISHIKI: I...I did, but if...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you send it?

MS. NISHIKI: Maybe I should clarify what email I should send it to so you folks have it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, what --

MS. NISHIKI: I'll...I'll get that off...offline though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

MS. NISHIKI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. All right. Thank you very much for --

MS. NISHIKI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Tylor Tanaka, to be followed by John Starmer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. TANAKA: Aloha, County Council, Chair Yukimura [*sic*]. My name is Tylor Tanaka, here on the Island of Moloka'i in my office in Kaunakakai, Hawai'i. Today, I would like to ask the Council to consider--I wanted to advocate for the reallocation of the Kohala Coast Urgent Care line item in the budget to create a Moloka'i Health Care line item. This will transform it into a competitive grant. This reallocation will ensure the resources are directed to where they are most needed, and promote innovation in healthcare initiatives. By implementing a competitive grant process, we can encourage applicants to submit strong proposals, ensure that the funds are awarded to the most effective and impactful projects. Additionally, the careful review process associated with competitive grants assures that the...only the best and the most sustainable healthcare solutions are receiving funds. This approach can significantly enhance the quality of healthcare service available to the Moloka'i community. By advocating for this reallocation of funding from Kohala Coast Urgent Care to a competitive grant for Moloka'i healthcare, we can optimize the use of resources and improve healthcare for outcomes for our residents. Thank you for considering this important proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, nice to see you. Anybody have questions for Buji (*phonetic*)? No? Okay.



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MR. TANAKA: I also had one more person that needs to testify that's on another device in my office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did they sign up?

MR. TANAKA: It's under Offices of Tylor Tanaka.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did they --

MR. TANAKA: She raised her hand, but I don't know if she got added in there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. Please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's on the list.

MR. TANAKA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is John Starmer on Teams, to be followed by Sara Sugidono.

MR. STARMER: Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers. My name is John Starmer. I'm the Science Director at the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, and I'm here today to testify in strong support of your increased funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. MNMRC is a highly-respected community-based organization here on Maui that plays an important role in protecting our ocean resources. What truly sets us apart is not just what we do, but how we do it. One of our cofounders, Robin Newbold, has always approached problems with the mindset of how can we help rather than assuming that she had the answers. That spirit of collaboration lives on in every project we undertake, bringing together scientists, volunteers, cultural practitioners, community members, and decisionmake...makers like you to work together to solve problems. Through programs like the Hui O Ka Wai Ola, we fill what would otherwise be a significant gap in public-health data by consist...conducting consistent science-based beach water quality testing along the South and West Maui coastline. This partnership isn't just academic, it directly informs how we protect public health, where we focus efforts to reduce land-based pollution, and how we respond to environmental change. Our coral-reef monitoring efforts are now filling gaps in knowledge in South Maui that inform our work, but also support management efforts of other groups involved in resource management, such as DAR. Combined data from the Hui, nutrient data from limu testing--another MNMRC community-driven project--and in-water coral reef surveys both help us understand the current state of our coral reef resources and give us clues about what we can do to improve them. Understanding the health of our reefs now, and how they respond to changes on land, is essential to allow informed resource management and mitigation decisions. MNMRC is making that possible with both science and community involvement. A powerful example of how this is happening right now is in Mā'alaea. With the impending creation of a new wastewater treatment plant

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which will reuse all of its effluent, this will also end the use of coastal injection wells in the area. Here, we have a real opportunity to demonstrate the positive impact of environmental mitigation. With the community...with the County's support, MNMRC is now monitoring water quality, limu condition, and reef health in the area, so we will be able to clearly show the difference between the infrastructure changes and the condition of the environment before and after the switch from injection wells to proper sewage treatment. MNMRC is building bridges between knowledge and action, between data and community, and supporting the Marine Resource Council is not just supporting a single nonprofit, it's supporting a proven model for environmental recovery, resilience, and responsible stewardship. Please continue your gracious funding of MNMRC, and please meet the increase we are asking for. Your funding is vital to our work. The future of our reefs, our fish, our waters, and our community's continued access to these resources depends on it. Mahalo.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Starmer. I just was wondering if the data that you are collecting at Mā'alaea, if the oyster project is still ongoing, and if the data has shown any improvement.

MR. STARMER: The oyster project was a pilot, which is now finished. . . .(echoing). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. STARMER: AV stuff better?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Now we're better.

MR. STARMER: Okay. Awesome. Yeah, So, it was a pilot to see whether it would have an impact. The data really showed that sort of the seasonal drivers were probably affecting water quality more than the oysters. And the main reason that we didn't continue that on was the oysters were not really surviving well in the harbor. We're not sure whether that was because of the silt--because too much silt will actually cause them to...to stop feeding, which is not good long-term--so we've...we've moved on to sort of other...other efforts. That...that did not really pan out. But again, that was a pilot project.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shucks. Okay. Thanks. I was hoping that would be an economic driver --

MR. STARMER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and we could have another Pearl Harbor.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean --

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MR. STARMER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- different kind of --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not --

MR. STARMER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not Pearl Harbor. Sorry. . . . *(echoing)*. . . Thank you.

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

MR. STARMER: Thank you.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Sara Sugidono, to be followed by Amy Hodges.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hi, Sara.

MS. SUGIDONO: Hi. Good morning. Good morning. Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for listening to me one more time. Nice to see you all again. I am here this morning to share my support, like John, my coworker, of increased funding for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. And one thing that we all share, I--we can all agree probably, is just--our love for our island and the places we live in, and the places that we all come from. Our community deserves to have an island...a clean and healthy island home, and MNMRC has been working since 2007 to take care of our reefs and our oceans so that we can all enjoy them, both today and tomorrow. One of the previous testifiers, Jee, she said something that really resonated with me about, you know, using money meaningfully, and I think that, you know, for a small organization of our size, we do really take that to heart, and make a pretty big impact with what we have. And I won't go into all of it because John covered a lot of it, but we do research, we do...we do restoration work, land-based initiatives to protect the reefs and strengthen community ties to both land and sea. John briefly touched on Hui O Ka Wai Ola, or The Hui we that we like to call it for short, and, you know, this employs volunteers that sample water quality conditions at 41 sites across Maui, and we're also--hopefully...hopefully it'll work out, but I--we were just informed that, you know, a Molo...an expansion to also Moloka'i to test water there is also possibly in the works. Obviously pending how all of this goes, but that's, you know, another exciting data set to be able to enter in for our State. And we also do education for both residents and visitors. We...we're big on citizen science, like John mentioned, so through the Hui, that's we that's one opportunity. We also host volunteer opportunities. So, like last Monday, we hosted a group of volunteers to go sample limu at sites across North Maui, which will be sent for testing of nitrogen. We also reach our visitors through ads at the airport, our partnership with Pacific Media Group. We run social media ads throughout the year that reach, you know, hundreds of thousands of people every month, talking about, you know, reef etiquette and water

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quality in Maui. We also host a quarterly speaker series to just give different points of view, see what's going on in the world of science and conservation. But we also build meaningful relationships. And again, you know, going back to our volunteers, this started out as a volunteer organization with an actual council, much like yourselves, convening, and since then, we've expanded to partner with the Department of Health; Nature Conservancy; Division of Aquatic Resources, DAR, with our reef restoration that we just completed in South Maui. And this Saturday, we will be working with Kahoma Village out in Lāhainā to use--they...they came to us asking to use reef-friendly landscaping to help revitalize some of the areas that were affected by the wildfire. And so many testimonies today share the amazing work that will support our families and friends like this, but please don't forget that the quality of life in Maui is also impacted by the environment that we live in. What would our home be without our beautiful beaches, our shorelines, and all of--everything that exists upland? We're working to take care of what makes Maui home, and we would truly appreciate your help to make all of that possible. So, mahalo for letting me be here today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Anyone have questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I was...wanted to clarify about your marketing on...directed at tourism about reef stuff. Have you ever applied for the competitive--not you, but like your organization--ever applied for the competitive grant on tourism management marketing?

MS. SUGIDONO: Is that--I...not that I'm...not that I'm aware of. I'm also somewhat new, so we may have done it in the past, and I just haven't...I wasn't here to be a part of that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. SUGIDONO: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to put it on your radar, that there's --

MS. SUGIDONO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 450 there. Maybe there will be like a transfer of something, and it might go down a little bit or whatever, but I think there would be money in there as well on a competitive basis.

MS. SUGIDONO: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- are you related to Doug and Chris?

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

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MS. SUGIDONO: Yep, 76 on Lahainaluna Road. That's my father-in-law. Chris is my husband. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, he does house visits now to my house to do our vehicles.

MS. SUGIDONO: Yeah. He couldn't not be a business owner, so once, you know, they sold and everything kind of happened, he--if you see an electric blue truck with Doug's Tires 76, that's my father-in-law, yes. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I like it better when he comes to our house to do oil filter --

MS. SUGIDONO: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- lube than--except for when there's little oil spills, but other than that...

MS. SUGIDONO: I'll let him know. . . .*(laughing)*. . . He's happy to come. He loves it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, we'll call him also. He can --

MS. SUGIDONO: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- come to our house in Kula. All right.

MS. SUGIDONO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- else have questions?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member...Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you for being here, Sara. So, you mentioned in --

MS. SUGIDONO: Hi.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- your...your comments that--I didn't catch that though, that you folks are doing a limu study, or no?

MS. SUGIDONO: Yeah. So, yes. Well, it's not a single study. There's been an effort --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh.

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MS. SUGIDONO: -- to take samples, as much as...as much as our manpower allows, to sample limu from specific sites around the island. So, for example, in February, we hit 12 sites in South Maui. And we take all of those, we--our volunteers help us to collect them, and we send it off to UH Mānoa to test for nitrogen, which can be an indicator of pollution, and also help us to determine...or at least start to determine, you know, where could that pollution be coming from. So, there's...there's been efforts over the years, but because we're so small, you know, we...we haven't been able to get to as many sites as we would like, but we're definitely making strides this year.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, in...in that--so, those are like randoms, you just...if you have the money, you choose a spot, and you just go ahead and do the research? And more --

MS. SUGIDONO: So, some of these spots --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Go ahead.

MS. SUGIDONO: Sorry. Some of these spots, to my understanding, has...have been sampled previously.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MS. SUGIDONO: So, typically, what you would like to see is not just a one-time sample, you would like to see three data sets. So, you know, maybe, you know, one time in Q1, and then another time, you know, later on. And once you have those three data sets, that gives you a...you have a better chance of seeing what could be a trend, or what could be a pattern. So, there has been efforts by us, but also by other people in the past, but nothing so recently. So, you know, we wanted to try and make that effort to go back to places that either we've...we have done recently within the last year or two years or so, and then, you know, also try to expand that to, like, for instance, North Kihei...North Maui, sorry --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. SUGIDONO: -- which we did last week.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Well, thank you. I'll have more discussions with you later. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Any other questions for Ms. Sugidono? If not, thank you very much for your testimony. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Amy Hodges on Teams, to be followed by the Offices of Tylor...Tylor Tanaka.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Amy Hodges?

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MR. PASCUAL: Amy Hodges is unmuted on our end. She would just have to unmute on her end. And the unmute option is in the top-right corner of Teams.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Amy Hodges? Oh, your hand is up. Shall we...are you having a hard--oh, there. Can you speak?

MS. HODGES: Hello, can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now we can hear you.

MS. HODGES: Oh, you can. Oh my gosh, it could not push the button. I don't know why, it wouldn't let me. I'm so sorry. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...we can't see you, but we can hear you. This is fine.

MS. HODGES: Oh, I...I don't know. Both of them are like grayed out. I don't know how to get my camera on. Shoot. I'm so sorry. Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. Apparently, technical issues today. I'm glad you can hear me. My name's Amy Hodges, testifying in support of what I think is Item 201 on the Environmental Protection Budget for EP&S. Speaking today in strong support of continued and increased funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. I'm following my colleagues that you just heard from, John Starmer and Sara Sugidono, who are much more eloquent than me, so thank you for sparing a few more moments for us. I'll try not to repeat too much here. MNMRC--that's our name--is a trusted community-rooted organization with a proven track record of protecting Maui's coastal waters and reefs through science, collaboration, and action. From long-term water quality monitoring through Hui O Ka Wai Ola to watershed restoration, reef assessments, we do it all. Our programs fill critical gaps in government capacity, and ensure that management decisions are based on real, timely data. These efforts not only protect our environment, but safeguard our economy, cultural heritage, and public health. At a time when climate change, wildfires, and development are putting pressure on our ecosystems, MNMRC is a vital partner in resiliency and recovery. Our water quality monitoring program continues to expand. So, right now, today, we're at 41 sites. Last time we talked to you, we were in the 30s, so we continue to add critical sites. And as Sara mentioned, we have been in talks about a hopeful and...and very likely pending budget expansion to the south shore of Moloka'i for next year, which would be wonderful. Perfect timing with ad capacity of DAR's presence there, where in partnership, they've agreed to likely take on both the labor part of that monitoring for the program. So, really, a cost-sharing effort there and partnership. And it's through, you know, extension of partnerships and in-kind support with volunteers and State agencies that we're able to do this work. We've recently implemented two co-op community-based coral restoration areas in South Maui, and wish to bring that program to West Maui. So, that's physically coral restoration in the water, and again, that's through partnerships that we're able to do that. We're also now a member of the new Hawai'i Emergency Reef Restoration Network, which is...allows for like rapid assessment and recovery, like post-hurricane, or post-large swell, or...or boat strike event. All of that requires us to maintain like a readiness level of our dive program and reef surveys. As Sara mentioned, we do the limu testing to see, you know, where our

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sources of excess nitrogen and nutrient's coming from. Is it wastewater, is it agriculture, is it fertilizer, is it natural fish poop? How do we know if we don't test? I would just wrap up by saying that your funding is critical to support matching funds for what we have from other sources. We've just completed a grant application to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and that included a lot of funds for ungulate fencing Upcountry, which matches with, you know, in-the-water reef monitoring efforts in North Kihei, trying to prevent and avoid future brown-water events in that area. We receive funding from Hawai'i Community Foundation. We have site sponsors from Wailea Community Association . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Nāpili Bay and Beach Foundation, Kā'anapali Ocean Resort Foundation, a lot of lovely private donors. But again, we couldn't do it without the County's support, and you've just been a wonderful partner through the years, and we hope that will continue. Urge you to support MNMRC's budget request so we can continue this essential work for the people and place of Maui Nui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank --

MS. HODGES: All right. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. You have a question from Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

MS. HODGES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning, Ms. Hodges. And I appreciate all the work you do. As you know, we're going to--you're one of my priorities for this year's budget, and of course, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura had...had the Hui as one of her priorities. So, we're...we really...I...I think you guys came out in force, and you explained your...your mission very well. But I have a clarifying question. Of course, you know, we're all concerned about the Federal funding cuts, and how it affects especially environmental groups like--such as yourself. You said...you mentioned you got NFWF money, which is wonderful. I think...I'm...I was concerned about them getting cut. So, maybe you can speak a little bit about have you received any Federal funding cuts?

MS. HODGES: Oh, sure. Yeah. Thank you. And we...we have...we do typically--I mean, I don't want to jinx us, but we typically have been successful in receiving this NFWF Coral Reef Stewardship Fund. We have just put in an application. We'll hear back for...for FY '26 through '27 on it, and that is partially--of course, their funds are always partially through Federal funding.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MS. HODGES: So, you know, will that even exist come time for awards? We don't know. At the moment, MNMRC does have the Ka'ulunani grant, which is administered through the USDA, and those funds come from the Inflation Reduction Act, which of course, is under fire right now.



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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, boy.

MS. HODGES: Yeah. So, that...the funds from the IRA support both Arbor Day and Ka'ulunani programs. Those were the two arms of it. What we have heard from our...our lovely partners at the...at the State who are administering the Federal funds is that the Arbor Day branch of those funds, those grants have been closed with a 30-day notice. And we have been put on notice --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wow.

MS. HODGES: -- for the Ka'ulunani grant, saying that--you know, any day. . . .*(laughing)*. . . It could happen, but as of right now, you know, it's green light go, or maybe yellow light go. So, right now, we're operating under the 30-day...we're acting like it's a 30-day grant, you know? . . .*(laughing)*. . . We're like, okay, what can we get done in the next 30 days --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. HODGES: -- and then we hit the reset on the clock. So --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I can only imagine --

MS. HODGES: -- as --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, sorry.

MS. HODGES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I can only --

MS. HODGES: No, I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I can only imagine how --

MS. HODGES: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- hard it is to administer something like that with so many moving parts. So, I think the County's funding really helps --

MS. HODGES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- with that. So, your --

MS. HODGES: Absolutely.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: My last question is--and I'll be quick, Chair --

MS. HODGES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- is you--some of the money--you have 79,000 in for staffing programs.

MS. HODGES: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you guys ever hire AmeriCorps? Because I saw that was in the...in the...in the paper, about them cutting AmeriCorps. Do you guys ever work with AmeriCorps?

MS. HODGES: Oh, you know, we have not worked with AmeriCorps, though it has been on our radar from time to time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MS. HODGES: Similarly, of course, like the Kupu fellowship program provides, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. HODGES: -- some support. You still end up paying for them. But we haven't.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. HODGES: No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, that's good. Yeah, I...I...I just wanted to clarify that. So, thank you so much for your response, Ms. Hodges, and you thank you all...for all the work you do. Thank you, Chair. No further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. HODGES: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha. Mahalo for your testimony today. I'm excited to open up two...at least two sites on Moloka'i. Not having any data on water quality has prevented Moloka'i from being considered one of the Level 1 or 2 priority that's required for our residents on the shoreline to apply for the cesspool conversion grant under the Department of Health, so this is really important to get some data. So, I...I think you said you didn't need any additional funding because of partnerships. I just wanted to clarify because this is decisions week, so if additional

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funding is needed for Moloka‘i, then please let me know so that I can include that in my priorities.

MS. HODGES: Yes. Thank you so much, Councilmember. We were so grateful that you brought that to our attention with the State integrated report and the lack of Moloka‘i's representation in it. Specifically it's great timing with DAR being able to support. So, that's correct. The 525 that we're requesting does not--would...would include the Moloka‘i sites. There would be no additional request on top of that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification, and I look forward to working with you further on this. Mahalo, Chair.

MS. HODGES: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much for all that you do. Next testifier.

MS. HODGES: Oh, ma...

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is signed under the Offices of Tylor Tanaka on Teams, to be followed by Tiare Lawrence.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. CRIVELLO: Aloha. Aloha, Budget Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura, our Moloka‘i Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, aloha, and as well as Councilmembers. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the proposed budget for the Department of Human Concerns --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can speak louder?

MS. CRIVELLO: -- specifically...oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. CRIVELLO: Okay. So, actually, I'm here to give testimony regarding the proposed budget for the Department of Human Concerns, specifically under the grants category. I respectfully bring to your attention a proviso that allocates 300,000 to Kohala Coast Urgent Care on the Island of Moloka‘i. While this support has been greatly appreciated, I would like to request a revision that would allow for more equitable access to these County funds by the broader Moloka‘i healthcare community, especially with possible Federal cutbacks that many are, I guess, unhappily anticipating. So, while continued investment in local healthcare is critical, we believe that revising this proviso would help ensure that other qualified providers on Moloka‘i also have a fair opportunity to apply for and benefit from these essential resources. We respectfully request that the proviso be changed to read, Moloka‘i healthcare, instead of naming a specific provider. This simple adjustment would allow all of Moloka‘i healthcare providers to have equal

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access to grant opportunities under the Department of Human Concerns. This change will strengthen the overall healthcare infrastructure on Moloka‘i, and provide flexibility in addressing the diverse medical needs of our island community. Mahalo for your time, consideration, and for your continued support for equitable healthcare funding across our islands. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, former Councilmember Stacy Crivello. Nice seeing you.

MS. CRIVELLO: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for test...aloha. Anybody has questions for her? Seeing none. Thank you.

MS. CRIVELLO: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Anybody else? Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Tiare Lawrence, to be followed by Robin Garrison.

MS. LAWRENCE: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers. I have...I just want to say for the record before I get started that I have a lot of respect for you guys. Budget is no joke. You guys have been working really hard, so plenty aloha to you guys. I wanted to come here today in full support of Ka Ipu Kukui. I, myself, was a graduate, amazing program. Strong supportive of funding to clean up Cut Mountain. I am friends with several first responders who have...constantly have to respond to fires and criminal activity, and it's time we clean up that place. I was here years ago advocating for the County to purchase that land to create a park. And during COVID, it was so nice when that road had closed. We were enjoying Cut Mountain, and it was beautiful--setting up our pop-up tents, and taking our kids to go catch the shore break there during the summer. And now, you can't even go there. It's scary. It's unsafe. Let's clean her up. Implement Park Maui. Park Maui has the opportunity to make us a lot of money, and I think Pā‘ia would be a great place to start that program. Department of Transportation needs some money to kick-start that program. Please support it. Let's get her going. Let's make extra money. And then I wanted to take this time to say that I strongly oppose the County funds to bail out vacation rental owners, and let me explain why. As a homeowner Upcountry, I am required to upgrade my cesspool to a septic system by 2055 at a personal cost of around \$35,000. That...that's what I was quoted. No one is offering to cover that for me, or the 7000 other Upcountry homeowner...homeowners in the same situation. I want to build an ADU. I want to build generational wealth for my family. I feel like I should have priority over vacation-rental owners. It's...it's so challenging. Why should the County cover costs for vacation-rental operators, many of whom profit significantly from tourism, while local families are left to fend for themselves? That's not fair. For the record, I do support the development of a wastewater facility, but not with taxpayer money. The responsible path forward is to create a CFD in areas like Mā‘alaea and Upcountry. A CFD builds the cost of improvements into each property, adding a fee to the real property tax bill, and allowing owners to pay over time, like a mortgage. I also welcome the use of R-1 recycled water for agriculture. I work at Mahi Pono. We would

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gladly take that water. I just am not comfortable using taxpayer money to bailout vacation-rental owners when they make a shit load more money than I do. You know, \$35,000, that's what I was quoted to build an ADU. I just want to build a one-bedroom cottage so that I can offer affordable rental unit to family members, or to other local residents, but I have to pay \$35,000 in order to do so. I want to help the community, but let...but can the County like help us too at the same time? Thank you so much for your time. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you here.

MS. LAWRENCE: Nice to see you, too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Anybody have--oh, here. Me...wait just a second. Member Cook, and I see Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Ms. Lawrence. So, would you be...my clarifying question is, you're supportive of a CFD for Upcountry to do sewer?

MS. LAWRENCE: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MS. LAWRENCE: Absolutely. I think that's the right path forward. To put that burden on people like ourselves that are barely surviving is...is...it's...it's a...it's a huge ask. But if it was like--if I paid a little bit in my property taxes over time, and know that like when the time comes that I could access that money, it'll just take so much pressure off of my already debt that I carry.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. All right.

MS. LAWRENCE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much.

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So, at the time that you were quoted the \$35,000 for...to replace your cesspool, when was that?

MS. LAWRENCE: Two years ago. So, I tried to go in. I wanted to demolish my garage and turn it into an ADU. I was quoted \$35,000. Actually, I had a quote for \$42,000, but the cheaper of them all was \$35,000. It's just the way my house is situated to get--I would have to remove things and --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. LAWRENCE: -- yeah.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thanks for coming out today. I'm in the same situation as you, so if we wanted a septic tank that you can never drive over, it's like 30, and then if you want one that has like cement over, it's like 45. But to clarify, in order for you to build your ADU, you would have to do your cesspool conversion. So, not only are we talking about 40, 35,000, that's before you even begin the price and the costing...the cost of your ADU?

MS. LAWRENCE: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LAWRENCE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Because that's what most people have to do, they have to do that part first.

MS. LAWRENCE: And just to let you know, a lot of Upcountry, our lots are on the bigger side. We could build more affordable rental units if the County stepped up and help us. And I want to apply for the ADU grant, but then I still have to come up with the \$35,000, and so that's what's holding me back. I just want to help our people, but I think you guys should help us first before helping them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you. Okay. I just want to say --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

MS. LAWRENCE: Thank you, guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I just want to say keep on planting. You make Upcountry look so wonderful with your work with Mahi Pono.

MS. LAWRENCE: Thank you. We love what we do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. LAWRENCE: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, my goodness.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez had her hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Ms. Lawrence.

MS. LAWRENCE: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your...for your testimony. So, I just wanted to clarify two things. One, I appreciate Member U'u-Hodgins' clarifying your earlier testimony, the point of what's triggering it is the construction of the ADU. And that's before 2030 because the Cesspool Conversion Working Group called for cesspools to be converted to septic by 2030 for those that are in Level 1...and for those that are in Level 2 priority, 2035. So, only if you're going to do any improvements to your property would the cesspool conversion be triggered earlier than 2030. But as the State has it right now, everyone in Level 1 priority zone is supposed to convert. So, it's not only going to affect people who are wanting to do improvements to their property, but everyone. And so, to...to...to clarify, your testimony is asking for equity for all of our residents, and not just those that are in this area that happened to have resources?

MS. LAWRENCE: Yes. They have a lot more resources --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. LAWRENCE: -- than us. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Lawrence.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any further questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much for taking the time off to testify. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the last testifier signed up is Robin G. Robin is unmuted on our end. She would just have to unmute on her end through Teams.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Robin?

MS. GARRISON: Aloha. Can you hear me? Am I unmuted?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, now we can hear you.

MS. GARRISON: Okay. Aloha. Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you for having me. I'm speaking today on the behalf of Project Vision Hawai'i. I'm a 26-year Maui resident.

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I've been of service to the community since I stepped foot on the soil. I've worked for Women Helping Women, Mālama Family Recovery. Fast forward to four years ago where I started to do street medicine. I wanted to thank the Councilmembers for giving your continued support to try to get the last two years of funding contracted so that we can continue our street medicine. I can talk about myself, but I'm just going to read a letter. This is from Dr. Kate Kearns. She's Head of Adult Medicine and Street Medicine at Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center. I wanted to reach out and let you know how much I've enjoyed collaborating with Robin over the past six months in street medicine. Robin has provided vital service for some of our patients at Mālama. For example, our patient who was in respite after hospital discharge needed frequent wound care. We were not able to see the patient while he was in respite due to limitations in our scope of practice, so Robin was able to do that. After he left respite, we were able to help with wound care, but our street medicine team only has a capacity to meet our patients only once a week. Thankfully, Robin kept to caring for this patient, who needed time three times a week. He also...she also helped coordinate care by texting me and the team news about the patient's location and current needs. I also observed the importance of Robin's work with Project Vision in general since she can care for patients regardless of their insurance, PCP assignment, whereas Mālama team is only permitted to care for patients who are assigned to our clinic. Thus, if Robin weren't out there doing outreach in the street, many more unsheltered patients who do not have the means to ask...seek care inside of clinics, would go on to--without access to care. Robin is very caring, professional in her work, and is a great asset to the community...asset to the community of unsheltered folks. And as I was listening to Councilmember [sic] Lawrence talk about Cut Mountain, I received a call yesterday from someone at Cut Mountain who had an infection in their mouth. And so, basically, I just try to keep people out of the emergency room. So, I was able to call her in a prescription, and after I get off this call, I'm going to drive from Pukalani to Cut Mountain to see this client, to see how I can help her out and keep her out of the hospital. I work with the emergency room. I work with case management. Basically, everybody knows what I do, knows where I am. So, I just answer the calls, and I go anywhere that anywhere is require...any...that any services are required. Whether it's in the woods, whether it's in the tent, whether it's in Ha'ikū or Kaupō, I just serve the island. And because Project Vision is a nonprofit, I don't bill for all the hours that I work. So, if they had more...if they were more funded, then I would be able to continue to do what I do and serve the community because it's really crucial.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you for the work that you do. We have some questions.  
Member Paltin --

MS. GARRISON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Garrison, for your work and service.

MS. GARRISON: You're welcome.



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We...we heard earlier from other testifiers that their relationship with the Director of Human Concerns allows funding to flow through to their organizations. Have you experienced monies that Councilmember appropriate flow through to Project Vision?

MS. GARRISON: That would have to go to our Executive Director, Darrah Kauhane. I'm actually like the worker bee. I have my head down. I'm just cutting toenails and, you know, dressing wounds. So, that part of it, I cannot answer, but I will defer to her. I'm sorry. I apologize.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No problem. Yeah, it's unfortunate that certain people do get the money to flow through and certain other organizations are...are blocked. Because all we can do is appropriate the money, and if the Director won't release it, I don't know what else we can do.

MS. GARRISON: Yeah. I know, it is very unfortunate. Yeah. Thank you though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other que...oh, Mem...Member Sinenci. Sorry about that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Nurse Robin, for your testimony and your continued work with the houseless community. You mentioned they're still waiting for their grant funding from the last two years?

MS. GARRISON: That's what I was told, yeah. Two years' grant funding was contracted, but it wasn't received, apparently.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Because I...I know in the current budget, Project Vision is listed in some of the grant funding, so I can follow-up with you, and get back to Ms. Kauhane. Thank you.

MS. GARRISON: Yes. Yes, please. Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

MS. GARRISON: Thank you, all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, just to follow-up on that by Councilmember Shane Sinenci, I...I too want to support you...all your guys' work, and let's make sure that money gets to you as best we can. We'll make some phone calls. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MS. GARRISON: Yes. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any other questions, Members? Seeing none. All right. Thank you. Next testifier. Was that the last testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that is--yeah, that's all the individuals signed up to testify, but I do see one individual approaching the podium.

MR. LAW: Thank you, Jarret. Thank you for working for the County. O wau Jasee Law. I stay on Haleakalā, Kula Uka, Waiakoa Ahupua'a. I've been to quite a few, maybe like at least ten budget sessions, and I...I see the difficulties of this one that you guys are going through, so I'm here to try to make suggestions. And I'll try to follow the rules as much as I can, but I...I like coloring outside the lines sometimes. Sometimes you learn stuff by doing abstract art. Art, yeah, we'll talk about that when they...when the other people come up, but this...I realize this is about--I'm going to stick on the agenda, budget, taxes, and I heard that Solid Waste Management is coming up. So, Mr. Agawa, thank you for working for the County. The churches' dumpsters were full up there in...in our town this...this week, and I...I haven't checked it out yet, but I seen some cardboard in there, and I'm pretty sure there's other stuff that could be diverted. So, yeah, stay inside the lines. That's private. Com...the company--hopefully Cecile Powell can work with the trash companies, and try to get them to put the...the word out. The big-ticket item is on the waste-to-energy factory that Shane Sinenci brought to his Committee meeting a long time ago. November 5th, 2019, I believe it was. I learned about downdraft gasification. The question is, where? And that's the hard part for you guy--that I was talking about because once I get to thinking about it, if you ask me, if you said if we have the money, where do you want to build it? It's so hard because Lāhainā, Lāna'i--everybody has their favorites--Moloka'i, and then, of course, we--the...the practical one would be in...in...right there in Pu'unēnē where we already have stuff going on. A small-kine suggestion would be a trash inspector. Some mu...some municipalities have that, and they...they actually have the authority to go in the...the residential cans only to look for stuff. And then they put a sticker on there, and they...the trash truck doesn't pick up their trash, so then the people actually have to deal with it instead of just trying to ignore it, and make you guys handle their trash problems for them. And Keani, I used to be a tire man, so if you want me to come over there and help you fix your tire, then I'll help you. And I have a horse to sell you too, if you want it, but he's used.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . Any questions? Seeing none. All right. Last call.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. This is the last call for oral testimony. Please come up to the podium or raise your hand on Teams if you would like to testify. The countdown is three, two, one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, with your permission, I would like to close public testimony, and we'll continue to receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I'm going to take a break. It's 11:07, and we'll take a short--what, ten-minute break?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that legal?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we got to start discussion. Okay. We can start discussion. All right. So, we will start on Environmental Management, and then we'll ask Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sorry to interrupt you. I thought maybe this might be a good time for Member Kama and Chair Lee to give us --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- an update on their --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want--yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- on our --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you want the --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- community meeting last week Thursday, and then we can go into recess and come back and start DEM?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you want to do the presentation now or take a break?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, I can do the presentation now, or as long my bladder will hold out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I know.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, this is Fiscal Year 2026 budget from the Council public hearing, April 18th, 2025. At 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber and on Teams. This is the residency area meeting for Kahului and Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapū. At Friday night's public hearing on the Fiscal Year '26 budget, the Council received oral testimony from 57 people --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wow.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- in support of funding for the variety of organizations, programs, and projects. Twelve people testified in support of MEDB Inc. and STEMworks Hawai'i; one of them also testified in support of improvements to Coach Spencer Shiraishi Memorial Pool; 12 people testified in support of environmental, cultural, and historic preservation; 6 people testified in support of programs to train youth on automotive mechanics; 6 people testified in support of the BEST program; 5 other people testified in support of other MEO programs; 5 people testified in support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui;

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6 people testified in support of other youth and family programs; and 4 people testified in support of housing initiatives. And so, I have a list here of all the 57 people who showed up to testify and their names of which I will not leave, except to say Tom Croly was the last just to say thank you to all of us for our hard work. That is my report, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, you have anything to add?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No. Say no.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. She did an excellent job.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: For you wasn't here. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Obviously. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That was...that was a very good public meeting. And all right. So, I'm going to start on Environmental Management, and then I'm dying to take a ten-minute break. So...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Department of Environmental Management. So, this has three special funds. Environmental Protection and Sustainability, Solid Waste, both received supplemental transfers from the General Fund this year, so any cuts related to these funds could be moved back to the General Fund. On the Administrative General Program, which is in Bill 41, page 5, anybody want to say anything about Category A? And then I'm going to take a break.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I have...I have something to say.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, we need to look into Category A.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. Okay. So, Members, I am going to . . .*(laughing)*. . . take a break. Member Paltin beat me. Is...is ten minutes okay? 10:20 [sic], come back? You're good? I'm sorry, 11:00...11:20?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

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

**RECESS:            11:10 a.m.**  
**RECONVENE:      11:30 a.m.**

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...*(gavel)*... Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. All right. Here we go with going into our departments. It was very interesting, all the testifiers. And I must say Cut Mountain, it sounds like you're finally getting that resolved, huh, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: With some assistance from Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Teamwork makes the dream work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Teamwork makes the dream work. It's so true. All right. So, we are going to start with--on Bill...Bill 41, page 5. Are there any amendments to Category A, Salaries for Administration Program? Members? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have some amendments. Sorry, I'm just...my...my notes are...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Coming up?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Okay. I got them. Okay. I move to cut, under the B program, number 5, small a, paren 1, big A, Salaries, \$51,176, plus a fringe of \$38,085.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sec...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if I get a second --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for my --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. What did you say the category was and where?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: B5a(1), Salaries.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, my discussion is the Information and Education Specialist position has not yet...yet been posted for open recruitment, despite being authorized in Fiscal Year '25, although unfunded. There are other vacancies that could cover if the position ever gets created and posted for recruitment, so providing eight months of funding in Fiscal Year '26. I'm also defunding the Department Personnel Clerk position. Based on the track record of creating...being able to create a position and post it in the allotted time, I do not have confidence that this can be done in one-year time. So, I'm...I'm defunding the expansion positions that have not yet been created, but they can move forward with the creation of it, and if they have vacancy money in other categories, they can fund it.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, do you have a dollar amount for that, for the personnel?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: \$51,176, plus a fringe of \$38,085.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay. So, two items. That's your motion. And Chair Lee...okay. So, motion made. Members, do you have any comments before we vote? Seeing none. Okay. All in favor, raise your hand. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have my hand up. I have my hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, everyone, for seeing my hand up. If you could just please pay attention a little bit more. My question is for our Deputy, OCS Deputy Director Kawasaki, to see if--I'm supportive of the motion, but since we're talking about salaries, Deputy Director Kawasaki was going to look into whether we...we would be adding the salaries, the increase, to Account A. So, I wanted to find out if there was a response yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I see Ms. Toshikiyo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Hi. Thank you. Yes, and actually, I can defer to Deputy Director, but we did have a chance to confer this morning, and kind of discuss options for the Council. Sorry, Richelle, did you want to answer, or do you want me to answer? . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. KAWASAKI: Any way is fine. You're already on there. Feel free.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Sorry. Okay. So, what the Budget Director had explained was that the...the funding for the Salary Commission raises, as well as a cushion for any of the attorneys, is currently in Countywide. And there is a provision in the...what is it called?...the General Budget provisions. It's in Section 20, about movement of funding from Countywide to the departments, and I believe that that's already been the practice. So, for instance, if the department or even within the Legislative Branch, in their Category A, if the salaries are running low on the funds, then they can make a request to Finance to do that transfer from the Countywide directly to the Category A budget for each of the respective departments. So, that is one option. That's possible. The other option is to do what has been discussed, which is to, at this point in time, move the...the increase into each departmental budget so that the transfer doesn't have to happen at the later point. But yeah. So, I...I think that's for the Council to decide. We did talk about if that were going to happen, where you chose to move and increase the...the budgets for each department at this point, you know, how--would be like the fastest and easiest way for the Council to do it without having to go department by department. So, that's something that we would kind of need to flesh out.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mem...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Toshikiyo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I wasn't finished.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're not done? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo for the explanation. I...I would prefer that it be moved out of Countywide to Account A for each department. I...and I understand that administratively, it would be easier for us to just leave it in Countywide, but Countywide is kind of like a black hole for the public. The--you know, I, you know, will always support more transparency, even if it means a little more work on our end because that's important for the public to see where the money is going, and for it to stay in Countywide doesn't give the public that full opportunity to know. So, I appreciate the options on the table, and I don't know when...when the timing would be to get the details to move the funding for the salary itself out of Countywide into Account A for each office and department, and then leaving, of course, the fringe benefits under Countywide. Mahalo, Ms. Toshikiyo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm done now. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I can--oh, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I agree. In addition, as we have started to use a tool of looking backwards as to individual departments' Carryover/Savings of salary, that would give us more accurate information if we're going to continue to use that...utilize that tool. It is more of work, but, you know, we just are slave drivers. We stay here until 2:00 in the morning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and we don't give breaks and stuff like that, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you for your commitment to staying until 2:00 in the morning without breaks, and we have a lot of word ahead...work ahead, that's why. Let's hope that it really doesn't happen. But...okay. Two minutes for these discussions. I guess Staff is asking so that we don't drag on and be here until 2:00 in the morning.

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I will...I would like to--before Member Kama, if I could, I do like the idea of putting it back in the A Account and out of the Countywide, just so that we can see the accuracy of it. I also like to...today, this afternoon, we're going to receive actual information from the Budget Office of A Account, what the totals are right now, and I would like us to ask OCS to complete your worksheet and, you know, use the numbers that we're expecting today, and complete it so that we can have actual data to possibly look at also cuts to the A Account based upon--it would be historical knowledge from '23 to '24 and now '25 of what's actually in there. And I hate to keep on talking about it, but we did see how there's fat in the A Account, with the police having their \$3 million being used at this last minute, right? So, there's money out there, and if we can be stricter, I guess, you know, so that we have an understanding of really, what's going on. But I...I appreciate the work that OCS has done. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I was just going to agree with both Member Rawlins-Fernandez and Member Paltin, and now you, that I...I like that idea. So, let's move on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I have a motion to make.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . . *(laughing)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we have Member Paltin's motion on the floor, which are the--you know, and then you can do yours. So, your motion first, Member Paltin, for the Personnel Clerk. And the other one was for what position?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Info and Education Specialist.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, these two. Any other discussion, Members? We're going to be deleting this. Okay. All in--Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I just wanted to clarify for the record that the departments did support us reducing Account A, and not the positions. And so--but what I understand the motion to be is reduction of that amount in Salaries, Account A, with the rationale that it was for these, you know, two positions, but not necessarily reducing those specific positions, or is it for --



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can clarify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Please clarify.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I'm completely reducing the Department Personnel Clerk, which is an expansion position for Fiscal Year '26. And I'm reducing the Info and Education Specialist from a full-year of funding to eight months of funding because we're like approximately nine, ten months into this budget, and it hasn't yet been posted for recruitment. And just getting to the posting for a recruitment staves doesn't necessarily mean like people are chomping at the bit to fill out an application, get tested, get interviewed, get onboarded. So, there's that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...so, but that...that's the rationale behind reducing Salaries, Account A, or are we targeting those positions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, no. Yeah, it can be...they can use the...the money --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: General?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- anywhere they see fit, but that's how I came to the amount.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification. I think that was important to state for the record so that the departments understand how to proceed after we adopt the budget. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, we're deleting a position and we're having funding --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Unfunding. Unfunding some money --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, money.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that they can choose where they want to allocate any excess money they have. We're not defunding a position.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's not what we said, Chair. We...we said we're just reducing Salaries, Account A, not taking away the money from that specific position, and that's why we're clarifying this right now. Because what you said is the opposite of what we just clarified.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, any other discussion? No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Does Staff understand --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: A favor.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that? I just want to clarify. Because like Chair, I...I know --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, they're fine.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I don't...I don't --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They're fine.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I'm not confident that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They're fine.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you do. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They're fine. They're fine. They're fine. They're fine. All right. All in favor, Members, say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's nine "ayes." And motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Now, we are then going to talk about how to handle the Director and Deputy, the Salary Commission actions, and doing...doing this department by department.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, are we done with Environmental Management?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, we're not. Okay. Let's just talk about other...A Account, right? We're talking about Personnel. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. After we do Personnel, we'll do other aspects of --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- Environmental Management?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The conditions will come later. So, we're doing A Account now, and then we'll go to B, and then the different accounts. All right. Who had another...Member Kama. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I move--I don't--well, now you got to tell me...*(echoing)* Okay. Now...oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your computer's on maybe?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm fine. My computer's off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Off? Okay. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I move to reduce the budget for expansion positions to four months from eight months. That's my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Expansion positions from four months to eight months?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: To eight months.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'll second for discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama, and second by Member U'u-Hodgins. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, my...my sense is that it takes so long for them...for the...for these positions to get filled that we used to give them eight months of...of their positions, and

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now...and so now, I think eight months is too much. So, I think we should cut it to four months so that if they ever do get people who they're ready to hire, they'll probably be able to do it in four and come back for the rest of the salary, should they actually employ someone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. I think this impacts what we just did. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, that's why I wanted to...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There...there needs to be a little bit of clarity of, you know, if we're working off of Bill 41, like what--because there's Sewer Fund, and I have...I have a proposal for Sewer Fund. There's Solid Waste Fund, there's General Fund. In the admin of DEM, I just totally defunded the expansion position, so I'm not sure --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the proposal that you're making, where...like where in Bill 41 is that proposal? And...and the Sewer Fund and the...the...I don't have any proposal for the Solid Waste Fund, but I'm not clear at what the motion...where...I just am not clear.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I'm planning--oh, let's talk about this. Then what I was planning on doing is taking up Bill 41 as it appears in Bill 41, right, which is...which the...the programs are all separate, so it would be Administration Program, Wastewater Admin Program, Solid Waste Program, EP&S, right? So, in that order, as it appears in Bill 41. So, what you're talking about is for the entire department, and I think what Member Kama is talking about is for the entire department, right? Yeah? So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In...in that case, I wouldn't support it because I have specific proposals. Because I mean, if...if we...I mean, my...my proposal for the Sewer Fund is to reduce the increase in sewer rates. The Solid Waste Fund is...I mean, I don't know how to explain it, but it's not that simple.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I was planning on taking it up...okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. So, I did second for discussion because I wanted some clarity, and I didn't think we were going to get it in the motion. But if we right now are on the Wastewater Administration Program, and we haven't moved on to the Sewer Fund operations and Solid Waste, let's say. But Member Paltin, the only two expansion positions I think are the Department Clerk and the Info and Education Specialist, which is what we covered in the last motion. And then as we move on, are we going to discuss each E/P in every section of this department? Because--is that your plan? Is that the plan?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I was hoping not to discuss every E/P ...*(timer sounds)*...  
...*(inaudible)*... the program. I thought we'd just do it across the board.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: But the salaries are a little bit different across the board because some gets funded with the Sewer Fund --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Certain funds.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- and some--yeah, with General --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- Fund. So, we might need some specifics. Because the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- Salary A is not all one big chunk in this department.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes. Oh.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: So, maybe the other departments, that might be okay, but this one, with all the different funding mechanisms, might be difficult.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: That's all I have. Thanks, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Department--okay. Member Paltin, let me know if you have any other ideas, but I'm taking up Admin Program and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So, I already defunded the whole eight months for the Fiscal Year '26 thing --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- so this motion doesn't...I don't know --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- redundant. Redundant.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Kama --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- are you interested in removing your motion as we go piece-by-piece?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: We can go piece-by-piece if it's better for everybody, and more clarity as we continue on. And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- if it means we're going to...I don't want to say what Member Paltin said, but I don't want to be here until 2:00, but we might. Okay. I'm fine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, if we went back to your original plan, to go program-by-program, then we can...we can continue on --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- with the same idea, it's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- just by program?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's what I was planning on doing. Because each program has --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- all these accounts, right...A, B, and whatever. Okay. So, Member Paltin --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, in...in addition to what Chair Lee is saying is, in the self-funded divisions, if adjustments are going to be made to the expenses, then adjustments need to also be made to the revenue side, so the rates. So, did Member Kama withdraw her motion? Is that where we are?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because it's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- no longer clear, like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She just withdrew --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- her motion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Mahalo, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I'll withdraw my second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And withdraw her second, Member U‘u-Hodgins, thank you. Okay. So, before we move out of Admin Program, this is where we would have that discussion regarding the Directors and Deputies. Member Paltin, did you have a thought on this, or do you need more time to put this together?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My thought on this was that we would lean on Staff to make a...give us a sweeping motion for all of that. I mean, we can just agree amongst ourselves that they would give us notes on each Director and Deputy Director, and we could make a sweeping motion at some time if we are all in agreement that's what we want, and make that motion one time, and give an exception to the consensus of each department that we're going to clean that up at one time when Staff gives us the notes on what to say.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's good. We also need--if I could add to that is that we have the March 28th letter that we got from the Office of the Mayor regarding the Salary Commission's discussion and decision at that point, but I think this has then been revised. I don't know when that last meeting was that they had, right? They

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corrected the Mayor, Managing Director--or they adjusted--and Managing Director, as well as East Maui Water Authority, and the Director of Ag and Deputy. So, we need--I don't have that updated document. And Staff, can you see if--or ask Ms. Milner for whatever so we can get the updated Salary Commission letter so we have accurate? And then the other request--is that okay, Members, if we ask then Staff to work on what the verbiage would be? For every department, we're going to add in what that salary amount would be, and in Category A, for that...the actions of the Salary Commission, and then withdraw that amount then from Countywide so that it'll be a balanced--right? And the fringe would be left in Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't have any more adjustments to the Admin Program, so all the--I'm...I'm ready to move on to Wastewater, but I wanted to just say if anyone else has some --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- proposals for the Admin side before I move on to the Wastewater proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I do have one. All right. So, I have one that is in...oh, it's...I guess it's part of--well, B...A or B operations. I think it's more operations. But...so, Members, we heard this morning kind of strong testimony. Here is where the Mā'alaia Village Association, 1.25 million is. And we heard kind of strong testimony about why not. I wonder if we could...if you want to leave a small portion of this in here, or delete this and then send this to discussion for further dis...I mean, send this to Committee for further discussion. Because for me, not as long as I've been sitting in this seat, but maybe for the last four years or so, this...this project has come up back and forth. At one point, they were going to build. They had all new experts who came and testified about their--you know, whatever they were going to do. That's great. And then why, we heard why. And then at...then, after that, it was going to be part of the Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility. I thought, oh, good, right? That's wonderful. But now, they don't want it again. So, I...I just want to get the numbers. This...this is...I cannot make the motion. Somebody has to make the motion. But I really would like to send this to Committee from Budget to get a deeper understanding. And then if the Administration wants to propose this kind of money, which they said is 1.25 today, and next year, another 8 million, right? And we just need to understand that before we take action. And I...I could...I am open to somebody else making the motion, or let's talk about it. Me...oh, Chair Lee. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I move to send this matter to Committee, BFED.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I think it would be --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Are you talking about --



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- is it Member Cook's Committee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. To the WAI Committee. Whichever is the relevant Committee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Does the motion include removing the funding?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Delete.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Just --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I--we can talk about that, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- you know, if we can defer the funding or...or just eliminate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Until we get more information.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But it's not--is it cash?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. My question was going to be the same that Member U‘u-Hodgins asked, which is, does the motion include removing the funding? It's...it's part of the Operating Budget, I believe, so I don't think we can touch it after we--like, there's no like deferring it, and then like putting it back in later because if it's...if it's out of General Fund, then General Fund is, you know, primarily property taxes, and that's when we set the General Fund amount for...for funding this...these kinds of larger-ticket items. So, either we're going to put it in, or we not put it in, and...but if they wanted to bond fund it later, they could consider--the Admin, I guess, could consider that. Oh, go ahead --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I'll revise the motion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You...you wanted to answer my question?

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I can revise the motion. The motion is to refer the matter, the item, to the WAI Committee, and to remove the funding from the budget.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, and second by Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then Staff asked me to take a little break to talk about this for a couple minutes, and I got to find my phone. My own Staff, I think I left it in the office. Yeah. So, we'll come back then at noon, okay? At noon? You want to break for lunch? This--why don't we deal with this. Can we deal with this? Oh, okay. So, 11:58. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 11:58 a.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 12:01 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Thanks for the break. So, I'd like to then call on Chair Lee --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I'd like to withdraw my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'll withdraw the second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second? Okay. Motion --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- is withdrawn.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And offer a new motion. And the motion is, I move to delete 5a(2). So, 5a(2) is the Department of Environmental Management Administration Program, General Fund, disbursement for salaries and premium pay, 8.0 equivalent personnel.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no, no. Sorry. One below...below that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, they...they said a...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, it's b.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, a(2).

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: a(2).

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- somebody kept saying 5a(2) to me, and that is wrong, for the fourth time. I will withdraw my motion and not delete 5a(2). Okay. Under DEM Administration Program, delete up to 1.250 million for the Mā‘alaea Village Association for design work and site preparation related to the construction and operation of the Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, motion made by Chair Lee, second by Member Kama. And it is 5a(2), what you just read, so thank you, DEM. It's the correct one.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I...I did also have concerns about the Department's capacity to carry out this project, given the money that we gave them last year for a CFD study for the Wailea-Mākena expansion. However, you know, the...the idea of who the people that were helping wasn't what play into my decision, it's more about, you know, the environment that we all utilize--the ocean, the marine creatures--and addressing the issue. I...I do have serious concerns about the...the cesspool-to-septic conversion given that many of the main players are in jail that passed that law for, you know, corruption and racketeering. I think that decision should be revisited with...with people that aren't on Milton Choy's take, although he passed away. So, my...I support the project. I have concerns that the Department has the capacity to fulfill it. And...and I also support the people that are required to convert, taking another look at that law, and who were the main players, and that they've been convicted in the whole Stewart Stant scandal, you know, that I think another look should be taken at that, but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We're...we're off subject.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, that's totally on subject. Because the testifier was saying why aren't we helping the Upcountry people who are affected by that bill? That bill was

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passed by corrupt politicians that have since been convicted and are in jail. So, that needs to be taken a look at. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, I will not support this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I...I do appreciate where the Council's coming from. We do have to find cuts, and I get it, but at the end of the day, I take the ferry in and out of Mā'alaea quite often, and I...and I see it, and I...and we've been hearing it for many years. And in the bigger scope of things, our Feds are opening up fishing grounds. Our...our...our oceans are now, more than ever, under immense pressure from our...from humankind, so I would like to try to help protect. Even though it's just a small space, it's still very important. So, I...I would hope we could find cuts other where...other...other places, but I understand where the body's coming from, so I won't be supporting it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I am supporting the motion for you, on your behalf, is because we can always take this up at another time when we're not so much in a rush...when we have more information on the capacity to actually implement this project, which is highly doubtful under the circumstances right now, considering that entire department will be almost 100-percent focused on the landfill project, and removing all the debris from Olowalu to Central Maui, and fixing up Central Maui. So, it...it doesn't seem realistic to think that that same department can tackle a project of this size at this time. That's all. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And then after me, Member Rawlins-Fernandez does have her hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'm going to be supporting this motion. I'm not against the project. I don't love the way it's being funded right now. During discussions with the Department, I am concerned about the precedent that it's setting. And as we heard from Tiare Lawrence, our district is full of cesspools as well. And if we're going to do this, then we, as a body and as a government, need to be prepared to help all of those people Upcountry as well, and everybody else who has cesspool...cesspool-to-septic tank conversion responsibilities. I don't disagree, Member Paltin, that we probably do need to take a good look at it, and ensure that we're doing it for the right reasons, and not because somebody maybe was benefiting from this decision. Nonetheless, when they have to go in for an SMA, and they have to do all those things, if that body comes in front of us again, I'm happy to support them. I do think that they need to take some accountability for what they're doing to the ocean as well. I understand that the County and the State said it was okay. That was a long time ago. You know, we used to put

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coke in our Coke and my grandpa used to put rum and whiskey on my teeth, and we don't do that anymore --

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

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- but we do need accountability for the decisions we made. And I hope that they hui up, and I...I'm glad that they have, and we can hopefully find a better way to fund this project.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And I'll support the project, but not necessarily the funding at this moment. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, anybody else before I make my--Member Kama. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, my God.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member U‘u-Hodgins like said in the beginning of her comments that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I had my hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we apologize. We apologize.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member U‘u-Hodgins, we're not supposed to put whiskey on the...the teeth anymore? That's...okay. So, just kidding. Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I...I support the motion. I was going to make this motion myself, so I--you know, I'm supportive. I...I don't think there's any denying that the cleanup must happen, and destruction has been occurring by all that sewage coming from those units, and--so, I don't think...I think we're all in agreement about their...the impact that those units have had on the bay. I don't think anyone disagrees on that. The...the...the disagreement is how it'll be paid. And when I asked one of the, you know, representatives who's volunteering on this--I think he's a resident there, he said that a serious conversation on a CFD hasn't happened. And I would like to see a CFD, you know, be what funds this project, and I would be supportive of...of that route. But I'm...I'm not...I'm not supportive of this 1.25 million, and then, you know, what was said is next year, it's going to be over \$8 million. So, 1...1...1 million is just this year, and then, you know, over 8 million is going to be next year. So, if we, you know, approve the 1 million, then, you know, are...are we committing ourselves to that 8 million-plus next year? So, CFD. I'm supportive. I'm supportive of this motion. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Well said, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So, in the state, we have 88,000 cesspools. That means we have 88,000 households that probably have maybe three, maybe four people living in them, and these are all our residents. These are our long-time kama'aina families. So, somebody said this morning we have to prioritize things. So, I thought, yeah, we should prioritize things. These are one of the things I want to prioritize, helping our local people. And I thought it was a 2050 deadline.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It is.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: For some, it's a 2030 deadline. I mean, this is 2025 already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think it's 20 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Five years is a short amount of time if you've been working on this five years ago. But--so, my sense is when I first came, we talked about a Community Facilities District. And at that time, I wasn't even sure what that meant and what that was until...I think it was Jeff Ueoka who explained it to me. I said, I think that's a great idea, you know, to let people within a certain community or geographical location take care of those kinds of things, and that was the issue --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- buildings falling into the ocean. And that would be a great way for them to be able to help themselves, and to get themselves out of the bind that they're in. I still think that's a great idea. I think it's...I think that the serious conversation now became serious today, I think, for Mā'alaea Village. So, that is my...my two cents, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies to interject. Staff just wanted to ask a clarification for the motion on the floor. It's...right now, we have down the removal of the condition, the 1.25 million, but does the motion also include the corresponding reduction in Category B?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: James?

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MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Does it include--what did you say in Category B?

MR. KRUEGER: Just also like cutting --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Funding.

MR. KRUEGER: -- 1.25 million from Category B for the Administration Program as well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I would imagine yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. When the--if I could. When Mā‘alaea came before us and was talking about this, I think they mentioned that then DEM would take over the management of this site. And I could be mistaken, but that's another thing. I think they should connect to the Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility. We're building it. It's available. And I don't know now, since they withdrew their interest, maybe they don't have a space in it again, where this deserves more discussion. All right. Members, I think we all got to say what we want. All in favor, raise your hand, say...oh. Roll call.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. Proceeding with roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MR. PASCUAL: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

MR. PASCUAL: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MR. PASCUAL: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MR. PASCUAL: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

MR. PASCUAL: Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aye.

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MR. PASCUAL: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MR. PASCUAL: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. PASCUAL: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, you have five "ayes," four "noes." Motion passes.

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES: Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Paltin, and Sinenci.**

**ABSTAIN:**           **None.**

**ABSENT:**           **None.**

**EXC.:** **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION: APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Members. All right. Thank you very much, Chair Lee, for making that motion for me, and clarifying --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You're welcome, and I'll never do it again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . You had to do it like five times. Okay. Thanks, yeah? All right. So, now, we're going to go to lunch. Okay? It is now 12:00, what...you want to come back at 1:30 or 1:45?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: 1:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1:30?



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 1:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. This meeting is now in recess until 1:30.  
. . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 12:15 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 1:36 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:36, and we are continuing with Department of Environmental Management. And so, Members, we were still on page 5 of Bill 41, and does anybody have any A column, which is personnel, adjustments? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I have...I have some adjustments. It's not...shoot, I had my caps lock on. Sorry. Okay. Oh, it's B column. Are we not on B column yet?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes. We can do B column. Sorry. Admin, B column.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I move to cut B5a(1), B category, by \$15,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: B5a.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is for the additional costs related to the expansion position furniture. I...I don't think it's realistic the second position would be created and hired within the fiscal year necessitating the furniture, which 15,000 for one piece of furniture...for one staff's furniture seems a bit high anyway.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion, Members? Seeing none. Okay. Ready to vote? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

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COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, there--this is nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:        None.**

**ABSTAIN:     None.**

**ABSENT:      None.**

**EXC.:        None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, we have Member Sinenci here. Thank you for coming in-person. Thank you. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez is online, but if anybody sees her making...let me know. Sorry if I miss you. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For me, I'm...I'm ready to move on to the Sewer Fund, but if anyone else is not ready...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else has any amendments to Admin? Seeing none. Okay. Let's go to the Sewer Fund. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I move to cut B5b(1)(i), Category A, by \$200,000, and fringe \$148,840.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm cutting approximately 42 percent of the Fiscal Year '24 Carryover/Savings in this category, with the overall goal to lower proposed sewer rate...rate increases. \$200,000 with a fringe of 148,840. And I didn't break out the fringes because I don't have the formula that they utilize for that. It's not straight like how you would think because I did the math, and it didn't add up.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Staff, you got that? All right. Members, you got that? You're ready to vote? Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That is nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:     None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next cut--oh, shoot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have any with B? Anything with Category B? Operations?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It--my next cut is B5b, Category B. I move to cut \$998,750.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm cutting approximately 32 percent of Carryover/Savings in this category from Fiscal Year '24 to lower sewer rate increases...proposed sewer rate increases.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good reason. Okay. Members, any questions? Any discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci? Oh, raising--okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that's in...that is the Wastewater Admin Program, Sewer Fund. And...and anything for Operations, B Account?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was B Account. So, if anyone else has before I move on to small c.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry. That was B Account. Okay. Anybody else? Okay. Go ahead, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Have we moved on to Solid Waste?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not yet. Oh, you're waiting for that? Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move, in Category B5c(1), Category A, to cut \$300,000, plus a fringe of \$223,260.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This would cut approximately 31 percent of Carryover/Savings in this category to lower the proposed sewer rate increases.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion, Members? If not, all in favor, please vote.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Raise your hand. Member Sinenci is...okay. Everybody...that's nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:        None.**

**ABSTAIN:     None.**

**ABSENT:      None.**

**EXC.:        None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next cut, I move to cut B5c(1), Category B, \$1 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, and we'll give the second to Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Cutting a small percentage of Carryover/Savings in this category to lower the sewer rate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, all in favor? Discussion? See none. Raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then when we get to rates and fees, I have my new proposed increase, but I don't know if you want to go there now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, let's finish.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then we'll go there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, now we're on Solid Waste, Member Cook.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook. Member Cook. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you. I have from Solid Waste, 6e...anyway, Solid Waste Operation Program, cut \$345,000 for item...it's eliminating rentals for expansion of addition funding for refuse collection operations, County highways, base yards, and it's 919521B on sheet 744.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's in the Details, yeah, you're referencing?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Pardon?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In the Details, you're referencing? Did you get that?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So, in the budget bill, we'd reflect that as a \$345,000 reduction from Category B for the Solid Waste Operations Program.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I'll second for discussion, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Motion made by Member Cook, second by Member U'u-Hodgins. So, that's on page 6 of Bill 41. About the middle. Thanks. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Basically, just looking at the...the fact that they can...I believe they can wait on that as far as the rental space...availability of rental space, it's--they're in the process of moving. We're also in the process of building other areas out. So, I think it's an area that can be cut back without hurting anything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can yield to the seconder, if she had...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I was just wondering if you want to cut the whole thing if in case they do need some money as we wait to build things, or did you...or did you talk to them, and we can remove all 345?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I believe that they have funding in other areas that they can compensate for it if they need it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, then is the goal to reduce the supplemental transfer to the Solid Waste Fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's to cut it. I believe that's General Funds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Solid...Solid Wa...the Solid Waste Fund. Oh, so you'd like to lower the cost that we pay at the \$5 or the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: \$4.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- no?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: This, I believe I just want to eliminate that line item for rentals.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for seeing me, Chair. Mahalo, Member Cook, for the proposal. What Member Paltin was asking is, since you're going to be reducing the expense, you have to reduce the revenue side too. So, what would be your corresponding amendment on the revenue side? Is it to reduce the General Fund supplemental transfer to Solid Waste?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Anything else, Members? Ready to vote? All in favor, raise your hand, say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next. Anybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next ones are for the next program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're going to EP&S?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I move to cut from B5f(1), Category A, \$38,864, plus \$28,922 of fringe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is a complete cut of expansion funding, but not the position. So, if they have monies with a vacancy, and are able to create the position, they can hire. I think that's a bit ambitious, knowing that Ms. McLinden left, Ms. Herman left, and they are not able to hire a supervisor yet. I...I did speak with Director Agawa this morning. Their top candidate said even with the supplemental, it wasn't enough, and that even if they had tried to pay him what he wanted, it would be in line with what Mr. Nakagawa and Mr. Kehano makes, which doesn't seem right because they supervise, you know, hundreds of employees. Their second-top candidate took another job already. And so, they have a lot of vacancies to fill without adding more positions. But if they can create the position, and fill some of the vacancies possibly next year, I would be supportive of funding it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Members, anybody else have any thoughts? Member Rawlins-Fernandez, no? Okay. All in favor, Members, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Nine "ayes?" Motion carries. Thank you.

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.</b>
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<b>NOES:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>EXC.:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next cut is in the same section, but Category B of 10,000 corresponding to the furniture from the expansion position. It's actually 7,700 probably, but I feel like Carryover can make up the difference, and our minimum cut is 10 grand anyway.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's right. Okay. So, you want that motion?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, yeah. Sorry. That's what I move.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. Mot--you want to say anything?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I skipped a step and went with the discussion prior to getting the second and being recognized.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, motion, and Chair Lee made the second. Okay. That's it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No further discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No further discussion. All right. Members, any questions? Seeing none. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What are we saying "aye" to?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: A \$10,000 cut from B5f paren --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I thought we voted on that already. Oh, okay. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Are we going to go through our priorities too?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eventually. We're getting there.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because that's...where she is, is where mine is...close to it, anyway.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you record the vote on that last vote?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I voted "aye."

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Yeah.

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I have one more cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to cut B5f(2), 400,000. And if I get a second, I'll explain.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. 400,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, there are at least three key vacancies in EP&S. And I forgot for a little while, when we transferred the OED grants over to EP&S last fiscal year, we gave them two additional positions to handle the disbursement of those grants. Now, we know that two of their key people have left, and they are not going to hire a manager anytime soon. So, it's not my support of the program, the concern is the capacity to get these monies out in the allotted fiscal year with the addition of all the line-item Councilmember priorities. So, I...I did see a lot of the Councilmembers are putting in their priorities of who exactly they want to go to. And with the reduction...known reduction in staff and vacancies, my feeling is that that's where the focus of the limited staff should be, is getting that money out that Councilmember put as their priorities, rather than vetting additional new applicants. It's not a 100-percent cut, it's like a reduction, so there is also money for new ideas that pop up. It's not that I'm not supportive, my concern is capacity.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have anything to add to that? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. That was to MISC? Which line item was that?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Number 2.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Number 2. Oh, okay. You said 400,000?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes. That I believe --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the clarification.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- increase that I read. Let me try find it. It's on Budget Details, page 7-17, 919730B6317. In the continuation, it's an additional 400,000 in that column. So, I'm...I'm not expanding that continuation because capacity is my concern. And in terms of environmental protection grants, in looking over the Members' priorities, I think we make up for that amount. So, it's kind of more directed-spending as opposed to open-call spending, which would take more staff time to evaluate and vet proposals.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right. Members, ready to vote? No more questions? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama? Member Kama? Staff was talking to you. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor, say...I'm sorry. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: At this point, I have the rates and fees changes for the Sewer Fund, then my own personal priority, and I will proceed as directed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. When we take up rates and fees. So, okay. So, EP&S, then we're done with Operations. Any cuts--changes for Operations? CIP. So, it is on page 23 to 24. Members, do you have any proposed amendments to CIPs for the Department of Environmental Management? 23 and 24.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, is it too late for me to add something --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, what?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- for EP&S, the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- under the Grants Program?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Please proceed. Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: After she's done, I had a question about the CIPs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, this...yesterday, we...we seemed to have been including our priorities as we went through --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we're not --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- each --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're not there yet.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We will get there.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We'll...we will get there? Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: All right. Thank you. Then I'll wait.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good. Then we'll take everybody up altogether. Do you have a question about CIPs?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. You know, that time that Member U'u-Hodgins said--like remember how I used to cut positions with their position ID number and like that, and then Member U'u-Hodgins said, can we just do a 5 percent reduction? And they're like, yeah, yeah, you can. And I'm like, what the heck have I been doing all this time, you know --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- wasting my time? And so, I was wondering if we could do something similar in the CIPs? Because they have all these projects, and they explain to us, you know, sometimes they don't have control over which one moves forward, and if we just cut some money, and whichever one can move forward, they can go to that. So, that's my question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, your question is, can we cut CIP a percentage or not --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or just money. And I see Director Milner, so maybe she knows.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You hit a nerve.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director? And I think probably Director Agawa is sitting next to you, but please.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. So, CIPs are a little bit different than the Operating Budget. The Operating Budget, it's all just the A Category, so it's easy to make a percentage cut. It's not all just one number for CIPs, it's project-specific. So, you would need to cut a specific project, it can't just be an overall cut. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shucks, I got nothing then. It's on you guys. I did --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did my part.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...so, okay. So, that's...that's the answer then. In the...yeah, I'm...I'm looking at the handout that Staff gave you regarding CIP projects, and I don't see anything for Environmental Management. There's EP&S. Let me look at EP&S.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's on the budget bills, the CIP Appendix C --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Countywide Environmental Compliance System Design and Construction, Solid Waste Master Plan. I mean, they all seem pretty important. I just...I don't think that they can get to all of them personally, but like they said, they don't have control over which ones move forward in the permitting process and like that. So, personally, I don't feel comfortable monkeying around, especially with the Lāhainā ones.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I have a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I definitely want those to move forward.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm sure everyone wants their own district projects to move forward. So, personally, I don't feel super comfortable monkeying around with that stuff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I have a question based on what...what you just said. Because Chair Lee has been questioning DR, DR, DR, right? So, I'm just wondering--and Member Paltin, you may know--that the West Maui projects that have--or are with CIP, are they...is there a possibility that it will be covered with DR funds? And we...we don't know, right? Because we don't know what the action plan was, and what the details are because...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They have that pie chart in the action plan, and the buckets...the biggest bucket was for Housing, Infrastructure, Public Services, and Administration, and Wildfire Mitigation. The Infrastructure needs to serve the low-to-moderate income category, the 80 percent and below, and I imagine it would be Infrastructure that serves the housing that they want to build --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or, you know, more evacuation routes, and things like that. Not necessarily R-1 expansion and Nāpili pump projects, but somebody from the Department of Management is obviously in that pay bracket that could answer it better than I.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So, yeah, I did like Member Paltin's suggestion, which was similar to Member U'u-Hodgins' suggestion on salaries, but this would be CIP. We know for a fact they can't...they can't do all the projects. We know that. They...they can't even do what they have now, okay. So, the point is, if it's not reasonable to cut a lot...you know, a percentage of their proposed budgets on CIP, I would suggest that they let us know which projects can be cut --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- rather than us guessing, and making the wrong decision.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We know it lets everybody agree that they can't do it all, so which ones would go first, one, two, three? I mean, you know, otherwise, we're going to have to put other conditions on these projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because even with the 'Ohana Assistance Program, they--you can't collect ten cents until you have a permit in-hand. So, this is the same principle. They should not be able to proceed without "X" requirement. So, that's...that's my position. And I believe that we should not necessarily just gloss over this, that we should hold their feet to the fire, and make them tell us what their priorities are, and what can be cut, or deferred, or reduced. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Staff, you heard...you heard the discussion, right? So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In one of their answers, they did prioritize --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Prioritize. So, can you pull that up and...at the right time. I...I don't know how long it's going to take you to find that. But maybe then we can share it with the Members, and they can figure out what--if they want to eliminate some of the lower priorities because they did put it in priorities.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair. So, for Department of Environmental Management, in EM-1, they...they did identify by prio...they did prioritize their projects. That's number 14 in Granicus. The...the page numbers that we want to look at, it's page 21 of the PDF, page 15 of their response from...from that point on. And they have priorities. They separate it into Solid Waste Division priorities, and then Wastewater Reclamation Division's priorities. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, can you share it with us so that they don't have to go look for it?

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, yeah. We can email out the...the PDF.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Then that'll add to your question...or answer your question, right? So, in there, it has the priorities that the Department sent. So, Chair...Chair Lee's looking for where can we cut, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To clarify too, like when I look at their thing, they have Wastewater Funds, Sewer...or Solid Waste Fund, General Obligation Bond, Lapse Bond Funding. None of them are really General Funded, so...I mean, I'm not sure. We



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could...if we cut from the Wastewater Fund, then maybe there wouldn't be any increase in Sewer, but I haven't done that math. If we cut from the Solid Waste Fund, I guess we could reduce supplemental transfer. But I mean, we're not going to find more cash, I believe, so, I guess, what is the goal --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- also?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Chair Lee, you...you heard the question, right? So, the ques...based upon Member Paltin, she's asking what is the goal? Is it to find cash, or is this reduce the number of projects?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If General Funds or cash is not involved, we could reduce a bond.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know, in other words...in other words...yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Try to reduce the number of projects.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. We can defer. We could defer the project, or...or...or just say, you know, that the condition is that before the project can be proce...or can proceed or something like that, "X" has to be achieved, you know? In other words, these projects don't just...they don't just go out and build them. They have to plan and design them, and get all the approvals that go with land use just like anybody else.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, it's not like it's going to happen overnight.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, when we get the list, you're going to share it with the Members? Okay. Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'd like to leave the CIPs alone. I...I understand the intent of this con...the con...conversation about the finances. I think the CIP projects have enough hurdles and challenges as it is. We don't necessarily have the power or the authority to eliminate the permitting and approval process, which would enable them to get these things done more promptly and predictably. But anyway, my conversations with the various departments...and since it's a mix of General Funds, Bond Funds, State Revolving Funds, I...I would like to leave the CIP project budgeting alone. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I'm...I'm looking at two projects that I'm curious if we can move to bond. And I don't know if Director Milner can speak to it, but...and this is just for discussion, Members. So, fund proj...fund FOG, F-O-G, and Lānaʻi Recycling Center. Maybe they would...are--how are they getting funding? Can we move them to bond?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I will look at that. They're currently funded under the EP&S fund. I don't believe we included that on our list of projects to move to bond, but I will double-check and get right back to all of you. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You had two projects, Member Johnson? You had two --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You want me to restate them again?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Can you --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The...the FOG, F-O-G...I know that's an acronym--fats, oils, and grease, I knew that's what it was--and then the Lānaʻi Recycling Center. And I'm just curious if we can move them to bonds because I hear where Councilmember Cook's coming from, you know, there's a lot of complicated capital stacks, but if we can bond it instead of using cash, I think that's where we could kind of reach out what Chair Lee is saying in regards to let...let's...let--we do have to find some money for these big proposals our...our Councilmembers are proposing.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: So, Budget Director did provide a response relating to General Funded projects that are bond-eligible. It's letter BD-18. In Granicus, it's number 172.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . 172, did you say?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, BD-18. Staff will note that the list does not contain anything for Department of Environmental Management for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, this is the one we just got. So, the whole list of all the CIP projects, they're saying that only these are eligible to be bonded?

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, apologies. I guess the clarification is that the...the list only has General Fund projects. I suppose if there's ones that are related to Solid Waste, that...that that's not included on this...on this list.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Johnson, we'll wait for Director, then, Milner to answer your question. Oh, there she is. Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. I just quickly reviewed the descriptions in Appendix C. It looks like both of those projects are in the planning design phase. We do not generally bond projects in planning and design as there's no guarantee that that will turn into a capital asset, so we prefer to use other funding sources for that. And then once we get to the construction phase, we move to bond. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And the price doesn't include the construction monies, right? That's...of course not, right?

MS. MILNER: Those were anticipated for future fiscal years.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. Worth a shot. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We keep fishing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We keep fishing. So, we take yours off. Chair Lee, did you say something?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I'm encouraging everybody to...to keep thinking about it, you know? We'll find a way, you know? Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Anything else for CIP then? Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, I don't have anything for CIP. I just wanted to ask, Member Cook, if you could repeat what you said about the CIPs, that we don't have control over...as we're...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Chair?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's what I wanted.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: May I?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I said that one of the major impediments to implementing the CIP projects is often the permitting...land use and permitting approvals, and the Council

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doesn't have control over that. The Administration, it's in their kuleana, but they have their challenges too as far as because some of it is State issues, and SMAs, and other stuff. That's what I was referring to. So, the delays and the predictability of when a project could be completed is...is really a tough one to deal with. I...I didn't want to add any more obstacles or hurdles.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So, it doesn't look like we have any more then, for CIP. We'll...we heard from Ms. Milner. All right. Members, you want to move on? Member Paltin, are you looking for CIP?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I'm...I'm trying to get ready for when you are ready for rates and fees.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. So, I'm going to go to Appendix A, Part I, Grants, and it's Budget Bill 41, page 40. Anybody have any amendments? Page 40, Appendix A.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's Appendix 1.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Seeing none? All right. So, none. Part...Appendix A, Part II, which is page 47, on DEM. It is Naska Sewage Pump Station Fund, page 47; Highway Beautification, Abandoned Vehicle, and Tourism-Related Traffic Congestion Revolving Fund, pages 47 and 48; Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reserve Fund, page 54; and Vehicle Disposal Fee Fund. Any amendments? Page 56. Seeing none. Okay. Appendix B, rate. Here you go, Tamara. Rates and fees. So, Appendix B, pages 4 to 10.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Based on BD-08, the Estimated Impact on Revenue, I think the cha...the Sewer Fund, with the increased rates and fees, was hoping to raise \$5,741,700. So, I decreased 2 thou...2,870,850 from the budget. And so, that's approximately 50 percent, so then I cut all the increases 50 percent. So, starting with single-family and duplex dwellings served by County water system, per dwelling unit per month, the new monthly base charge would be 46 instead of \$51. Oh, do I need to make a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How do you want me to do it? I move to amend --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Amend rates and fees.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in rates and fees, page 4, the monthly base charge of single-family and duplex dwellings served by County water system, per dwelling unit per month, from \$51 to \$46.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Johnson. And you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, I'm wondering if Member Paltin can make it an all...all-in-one motion, and we not go individual. It would save us some time and some voting, plus we already made the corresponding changes in the budget...we already voted on those. So, if she could just do it in one motion instead --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- of all of them so we have 46, and then...is it okay if we continue --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- and do it all-in-one? Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Moving along, for single-family and duplex dwellings not served by County water system per month, I'd like to amend the flat rate per dwelling unit from 72.50 to \$70.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, we're going to do all.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's going to be all one time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, all-in-one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then for condominiums and multi-family dwellings served by County water system, per dwelling unit per month, I'd like to move the monthly base charge from \$51 to \$46. For multi-family dwellings not served by County water system per month, I'd like to move the flat rate per dwelling unit from \$61 to \$58. For others per month per dwelling unit, Hāli‘imaile, from \$22.00 to 21.38; for Residential Care Homes, from \$105.50 to \$103.50. For the Monthly Use Charge for Nonresidential, I'd like to change it from a monthly base charge, per meter per month, from \$36 to \$31.25. Without Irrigation Meter Rate, for Commercial, from \$7.30 to \$7.10. For Hotels, from 9.10 to 8.88. For Industrial, Restaurant, Food Service Establishment, Commercial with Restaurant/Food Service Establishment, from 11.40 to 11.20. For U.S. Government, from 7.30 to 7.10. From State, County, and Religious, all from \$7.30 to \$7.10. With Irrigation Meter Rate, Commercial from 10.40 to 9.93; Hotels, from \$13 to 12.63. Commercial with Restaurant/Food Service Establishment, from 16,30 to 15.83.

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U.S. Government, from 10.40 to 9.93, and same for State, County, and Religious. For Kuapalu'u, flat rate per month from 72.50 to \$70. For Private Septic Disposal, per 1,000 gallons or less of waste for private haulers that haul waste to the County Sewerage treatment system, from \$128.50 to 125.75. For rate per 1,000 gallons for major agriculture, from 38 cents to 37 cents. Rate per 1,000 gallons for agriculture, from 48 cents to 47 cents. Rate per 1,000 gallons for all other users, from 1.65 to 1.63. And when it was half a cent, I just rounded up. So, that's my motion. As I was reading it, I realized I just went 50 percent across the board, so if --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- other one else...yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for doing all that work. Was there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah? From Chair Lee. Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. Any discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, can I please ask Member Paltin to repeat the others per month for dwelling unit for the Hāli'imaile again? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. It's from \$22 to 21.38.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I realize as I was reading it, I just was doing the math and not reading the words. And I...if I had read the words, maybe I wouldn't have given hotels and others the thing, but I just was doing straight math. So, it was late at night. and it was a long day.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's also not too late.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So, if --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But it's still a long day.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if somebody wanted to amend that on the fly, but my brain is tapped out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, any discussion? Okay. Yes, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, the single-family and duplex dwellings not served by County water system per month, that's the entire Island of Lāna'i. We don't have

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County water on Lānaʻi. And I think that was at--70 was your re...and then the hotel was...let me flip that over, find that...that was at 8.88; is that correct?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, I guess what I'm trying to do is maybe put...reduce the price of the Lānaʻi one, and add it to the hotel one.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: What? 40.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That way, they can get a break too. Because they are paying way more because we don't have County water, right? So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's the assumption.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Let's see, that...that's...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: ...a dollar...could...could I bring that...okay. Can I make --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you want to take a little recess, right, to discuss?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If you allow me a little public math, I don't mind it if you guys just bear with me.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Because she was on Exhibit A.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I hate going back.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Have at it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director's here.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Maybe...thanks for that. Director Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Based on the CFR, every sewer user has to pay their fair share, so the Sewer Department...or the DEM has a lot of algorithms that they run things through to generate these rates and fees. So, it's not really an arbitrary process. So, I guess what I would request is if you could table this for now, I can talk to DEM, have them run it through their system based on the cuts that were made, and come back with a proposal, if the body would agree. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, you're okay?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm okay with that.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we'll come back to it. Thank you, Ms. Milner. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Before we table the motion, I...I think it would be good to finish Member Johnson's thought so that Ms. Milner can also get the estimates based on what Member Johnson is trying to propose. So, you don't have to do the math...like what is the rate that you're proposing, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I would propose from 70 is Councilmember Paltin's proposal, and drop a dollar off to make it 69, and then put that dollar onto the hotels.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, this is private water system, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well...right. But the...it went from 8.65 to 9.10 to 8.88. So...well, okay. Maybe I could go in reverse and say keep hotels at 9.10, and that difference...from 8.80...8.88 to 9.10, and that difference goes to the...the Lānaʻi District. So, does that make sense, to go in reverse from that, or do you want me to...no, that doesn't make sense?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait. What...

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: I think what...I hear you, Member Johnson. I'm happy to support it when we have the math, but I think what Director Milner was saying is, we don't know if it's like even-even. So, if you change it, we don't know how many meters are in one section, and how many meters are in another...or how many whatever collections we collect from to make it even. So, maybe we can ask her to provide us the math that allows for a reduction of \$69 in --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I --

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: -- in Lānaʻi fee, and then have her let us know the total that would be shifted over, the burden would be shifted over to the other section.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's one way. I thought...I thought going backwards might make it...because if they got...let's say just for simple math, if the hotels got 10 cents off, we don't take 10 cents off the hotel, we go and take 10 cents off of the Lānaʻi...whole island.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Um-hum. Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, except for the hotels on there. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Here's Ms. Milner. Director Milner.



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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: No, I hear you, but there's like --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, Budget --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- 4 in one section and 28 in another --

MS. MILNER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- then the numbers don't add up, so...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: But maybe we can get to the number you want for the  
Lāna‘i rate, and then they can dump--or I'm sorry--they can transfer the responsibility  
on --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- on another entity.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Here's Director --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I think what Budget Director Milner said is  
that it's not simple math.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. So, part of it is it's not simple  
math, and part of it is that the Federal law states that everyone has to pay their fair  
share.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, boy.

MS. MILNER: So, it's not a matter of being able to reduce one and have the other pick up the  
burden, it has to be distributed equitably under Federal law. So, that's part of the  
complicated math. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How come we got to follow Federal...Federal laws, and not the President?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right? Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . . *(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good point, Member Johnson. I have a question for Budget Director Milner. And I'm sure this isn't an easy question, or like a quick question to answer, but since it was said, I just was curious how, you know, the--I...I think you said fair. Everyone's got to pay their fair share. So, how...how is that calculated? Like how is it determined what is fair?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. So, that's part of the algorithms that the Department has developed. They have developed an algorithm and a spreadsheet to look at what is considered a fair share. When I provide the numbers, I can provide you a little more detail on how that works.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll wait for her answer. So, we're going to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you want me to withdraw --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we're going to table this --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or table?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll just table it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we'll see if we have to change any of it at that time. All right. So, we're going to move on. Thanks for doing all that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure. Thank you so much. So, Budget Director Milner, because Member Paltin did an even 50 percent cut, that would follow the algorithm of Federal --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fairness.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- fairness, or...

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Probably not. Because --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I think so, because you made all the same cuts, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But we don't know the revenue from each cut. Like, so...like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Hāli'imaile is so small --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that...I mean, I don't know what algorithm they're using, but I didn't use no algorithm, I just divided by two.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, yeah, yeah. The del...but you divided the increase by two, yeah? But it was the same for everything? Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Just...just a point of information.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Lāna'i pays over \$200 more a year than the rest of the County, you know, for the sewer. So, that...that is...that is where my concern comes in, you know? We're...we don't have a County water, and we pay for that because we don't have it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- per household.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, everybody. Good. So, next, we're going to go to your departmental Members' priorities. So, in the matrix that you received, it is on page 6 of the matrix, and we'll start--are you ready? We're going to start with Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'll start with a motion, I guess. I move to increase the amount--by 300,000, for a total of 525,000 to increase the supplement transfer to the EPS fund correlating for the Section F, Number 6, Grant to Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. If I can get a second, I'll explain more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson made the motion.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Members. Of course, this was a duplicate with Councilmember Sugimura, who was focusing on the Hui in regards to the water quality monitoring program. There's several things that it would...they would be doing in addition to the very important water quality moni...monitor program. They would have 123 going towards reef health assessments. They would have 50,000 for reef restoration. That's three...three...that's South Maui, it would be, in particular where they're focusing on. The 50,000...or I'm sorry, that's 50,000, reef restoration in South Maui; 148K in outreach; and 79,000...79,000 for staffing full-time, four positions, and part-time, four positions. Members, you heard them come out in several of our district meetings on...they came and testified, and talked about the importance of our reef, and I just ask for the Members' full support of my motion. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any questions? Member, did you find it...have you found it on the spreadsheet? You did?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Number 6, the second one do...or page 6, second one down.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Any discussions? Seeing none. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Members.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson, that's your only one, yeah? Okay. Next, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. On Budget Bill 7, Number 11, for Mālama Hamakua Maui, I move to increase the proposed amount by \$15,000, making it \$40,000 for Mālama Hamakua Maui. And if I get a second, I can continue to explain why.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins, second by Member Kama. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. As you heard from the community meetings in Pā'ia, they do wonderful work on behalf of the County, taking care of the Open Space. And with the increased amount of funds, they can expand their footprint of beautification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discu...okay. Good. Any other discussion? I think we heard them. All in favor, Members, no discussions, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci? I have Revolving Fund 2 for Highway Beautification Fund. It...it's his priority.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. This one was to insert a new condition to the already-existing fund, up to 100,000 for the removal of trash and abandoned

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materials and vehicles. And this would be for Highway Beautification, Abandoned Vehicle, Tourism-Related Traffic Congestion on the...it could be on the Hāna Highway, Chair, the Pi'ilani Highway, or the Honoapi'ilani Highways, or whichever...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Sinenci, second by Member Paltin. Any discussion? Any further discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is this a replacement? I didn't see it on the paper. Or what page...what page on our packet?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. This was on Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or I mean --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On the matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is it on the matrix?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, sorry. On the matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Page 25 on the matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Twenty-five?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. I had a...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I see.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Full support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Twenty-five on the matrix, okay. So, that's the top one, right --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- on this page? Okay. Okay. Members, any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering, don't...aren't...aren't they supposed to do this anyway with this money?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And these...again, we've been working...Chair, we've been working with some of the advocates. And you're right, but this...the County

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norm...Public Works would normally do this. The monies would be for maybe other nonprofits, or people that want to apply for...to help clean up...clean up 'āi --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: 'Āina --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess my only concern is, I...I thought that they do this with this money, and would the up to 100,000 be interpreted as limiting?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because I don't want limits. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I want...I want them to use all the money to remo...remove trash, and abandoned materials, and vehicles.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We just put it for--and I'm not sure if maybe--like the Amala Place, you know, areas of encampments, cove, some of the camps that might be around that may need additional removal of trash. I know Pā'ia might have some for removal of trash on Holomua. So, we're...I mean, that was the original intention, to add this for some of the advocates to help clean up specific camps.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would it be better to not say up to 100,000, and say like, you know...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, you want to utilize--because it's the...the fund is already there. You just don't want to limit it to ---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The fund is already there, and it looks like...you know, like they need to use 132,476 for . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . personnel, they need to use 1,279,711. Is 100...100,000 the balance of what is already earmarked, the balance of the 2,361,312? Because 50,000 is for trash pickup at Hamakualoa; 347,083 is for street tree trimming; 30,000, Teens on Call; 1,279,711 for Operations and Service for EP&S. So, I just...if their plan was to use more than 100,000 for removal of cars, I just didn't want to limit us to 100,000, is...is my only concern. If they use all of the excess money to do that, I'm...I'm cool with it...you know what I mean?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. I can add it up. And so, up to whatever's available after...after what's listed in the fund?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...if it's more than 100,000, I would say at least 100,000 is...as the balan...oh, Ms. Milner. Thank you for helping us.

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

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. I think I would just say, based on some of Councilmember Sinenci's comments, if the intention is this...for these funds

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to be grants for nonprofits, I think we should specify that. So, either up to, or at least whatever the dollar amount, must be from grants for the removal of trash and abandoned materials and vehicles, I think would accomplish your purposes. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, like for the corporation development for Hawai'i? Okay. That's...yeah, let's do that. Let's name her.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Let me --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, what...what is it?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: What is the balance?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry. Member Rawlins-Fernandez and U'u-Hodgins has their hands up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Member Sinenci, if...if your intention is to direct it to a specific nonprofit, or multiples...nonprofits, I think you should name them. Otherwise, is the intention to open it up as an RFP? Because then that just makes it take longer for it to be available to, you know, folks to...to then write applications. And then the Department would then have to develop like a program and an application process. And so, I...I don't know if it...if it's going to be grant, then there might have to be an application process, and I guess if it's going to be like a contract, then it would be an RFP process. Or if you put the...the organizations that you intend it to go to, then there wouldn't be either. Then it would just go directly to the organizations you intend.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, I think I like the latter. *(echoing)*

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oops. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, I can provide that if you give me a little bit --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- of time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. So, on Budget Details 7-87, they are expanding the County subsidies by 100,000, which was already 300,000, to make it a total of 400,000 for this exact purpose. Did you want to condition that fund, or did you want to add onto it? And then I have more after you give me some detail.



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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: This is for the...did you ment...did you say the Highway Beautification Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That one?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, they're already adding onto it. So, are you conditioning this --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- money, or are you adding onto it? You're conditioning this money to --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: What --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- your grant, your nonprofit grant?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez said it would be better...or easier to...to name the nonprofits so that they wouldn't have to go through the process. But --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- I mean, originally, it was 100,000 for grants for the removal of trash and abandoned materials and vehicles.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Personally, I wouldn't support for a nonprofit to be removing vehicles because then I would assume that you would need like a right-of-entry, and they would have to contract with a tow company that would have to probably go through the County and need a right-of-entry. And that's a...that's a specialized job, removing vehicles. I would support the...this condition, this fund for the nonprofit for removing of trash and abandoned materials, but vehicles, I think we would put ourselves in a liability if we asked a nonprofit to do it when the County does it as well. And we've increased funding substantially for the removal of abandoned vehicles. Oh, so...sorry, Member Cook. So, if...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I...I won't be supporting this unless you wanted to change that, and then I'm happy to support it. But thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, I can --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- take...because already, the...the fund has monies, leftover monies, to do the vehicle removal. So, I can just keep it to trash and abandoned materials...up to 100,000 for grants for the removal of trash and abandoned materials, if that's okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. All these hands are up. Member...okay. Member Kama, Member Johnson...who else?...Member Paltin. I can't see Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Okay. Go ahead, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Member Sinenci, a question regarding this...his priority. So, the group that you have in mind already has been doing this work previously, and they...they do have some money left over that would probably be for the removal of the vehicles, that you can allow the rest of the funding to go for the removal of trash and other kinds of abandoned materials.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Is that right? You do? So, how were they removing the vehicles prior? Were they calling a tow truck to come do it, or were they hauling it off themselves, or what?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I think...I think the County was doing most of that for...for --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- Amala Place.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I'm not sure about Holomua, but they were also doing it for Holomua. So, if it's like...like Member U'u-Hodgins said, if it's --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Then it makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- just for nonprofits, maybe we'll just keep it at the trash --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- for now.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I mean, it would...they would be able to bring in like a container so that they could just dump things, and then...and then haul it away, versus...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah. That makes sense. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I don't know who was next. Member Paltin's next.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm--as the seconder, I'm open to the change. I'm okay with it. I just was wondering, did we name the entity, and are they able to receive the...the money? I don't know the requirements to receive the money. Or would they possibly subcontract under another entity, like Mālama Maui Nui or someone that does it? I'm supportive of the idea of...I'm supportive of you naming who you want to do it, I just want to ensure that it doesn't end up as Carry...well, I guess it's a Revolving Fund, so it doesn't...but I just want to make sure that within this fiscal year, that the money is able to get to the people that you want it to get to so that they can do the things that you want them to do. And I'm not sure of what the requirement is to...to make that happen, so I wouldn't know what the needs are to meet...what you need to meet those requirements.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right. I would just...and...and I do have...Chair, I do have another priority under the Grassroots Collective, but that...that is just for specific things. So, at this point, the only nonprofit that I received for trash removal was Holomua Outreach, but they come under the...the Grassroots...Grassroots Collective.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and so, that's...you...you named them for this priority?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That was the only one that I received a request for trash removal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, supportive of what things he's saying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Holomua Outreach would be --

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But their fiscal --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- a nonprofit.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Under --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But their fiscal --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fiscal.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- sponsor would be the Grassroots --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Collective. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- Collective. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Staff, did you get all that with the discussion?

MR. KRUEGER: So...so, Chair, just to clarify, I guess the condition would...would be specifically for...are we to have to mention that it be for Maui Grassroots Collective as the fiscal sponsor for Holomua Outreach?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Correct.

MR. KRUEGER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For 100,000?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, up to 100,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And you're no longer vehicle...can...can you repeat what you want, and --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. No vehicles, just...yeah. For...for grants for the removal of trash and abandoned...well, to the grantee of abandoned materials and...and trash, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Got that?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I heard a voice. Anybody have any questions on that? We're good? Ready to vote? Okay. Members, all in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's nine "ayes." Very good.

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- sorry, just for the Staff, Maui Grassroots Collective, Inc. for the full sponsor name.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Maui Grassroots Collective, Inc.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. And Holomua Outreach is under that, right? Okay. Very good. Okay. Then Chair Lee. It's page 6.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Oh, my gosh. Okay. Under EP&S, Enviro...my matrix is page 6...8...6. Okay. Now, this is under the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Program. I'm asking for an increase to the Operations and Equipment Fund by \$250,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion for...motion made by Chair Lee, second by Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And the...with the condition as follows. Up to 250,000 must be for Ka‘ehu to manage and restore County shoreline property at...right off Waiehu Beach Road. Right across Hawaiian Homes. And so, they have been in business for quite some time, have...they have been a grantee of the Green Grants Program, but they need a lot more money. My Staff and I did a site visit, and sure enough, there's...there are a lot of things that need to be cleaned up along the shoreline. And

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they offer a great educational program and volunteer projects program. I ask for the Members' support, please. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, in your write-up, you also gave the tax map key, so we can include that too. Is that what you want?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You could if you wanted to, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm curious, is the equipment for the group or for the County EP&S?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's for the group because the group is there --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I'm...I'm supportive.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- indefinitely. I mean --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- the--it's not there...they're not there for a short while, they have...they're there...they're committed.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, thanks. I don't have any problem. I was--just for clarity. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I rise in full support of the work at Ka'e'hu, and I'll just give a couple data points to add to Chair Lee's proposal. 8,000 pounds of marine debris removed in 2024, 500 community members were engaged, 20 cultural stewardship activities completed, and 6 island communities served. That's fascinating data without that money, so imagine --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- what they can do with it? So, thank you, Chair Lee, for that. Full support, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Any other discussion? See none. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

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COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And they're taking care of our land if you think about it, right? Such a good job. Okay. Then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to increase Category B, Operations and Equipments [sic], of Part F, EP&S. The line item for up to 350,000, must be used for West Maui Green Cycle LLC.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and second by Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. We did hear testimony, and I know this is a multi-year fund. They had some setback with the fire, but they have informed me they think this is the year that, you know, all the work, and preparation, and everything is going to come to fruition with the compost. And it's a multi-district project. They have school composting going on in Waihe‘e and Kihei as well, I believe. And, you know, one of my staff lives on a pig farm and, you know, back in the day...like I don't know when everybody else was in elementary school, but you used to like scrape off, and there was--like, the plates weren't disposable and stuff like that, and then the pig folks would collect the slop, and...but then we...they stopped making...they made disposable plates and silverware, and...and they let kids just throw it all in one, and then the pigs couldn't

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eat that slop. And the...it was like we were training that generation of kids to just be a disposable society. So, not only do they keep this waste out of the landfill, it's like retraining our kids of like don't waste, and to turn it into compost, which we need because we...we can't really be allowing Home Depot and Lowe's to import the coconut rhinoceros beetle. My husband and son went to O'ahu this weekend on their class huaka'i, and, you know, my husband was all like, we really can't allow that to come here. So, in my mind, we're creating compost, we're diverting waste from the landfill, we're training our kids how to, you know, reuse stuff and not just be such a disposable society. And this is the year that we hope it all comes to fruition and really takes off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Boy, George has been learning lots of things with all your stories.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hiki nō.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, hiki nō.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, did you get a second? Oh, okay. Chair Lee. Okay. All right. We heard the discussion. All in favor? Anybody else, raise your hand, say --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please. Please --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I fully support this for all the reasons Member Paltin said, for all the reasons that we heard in testimony when we went to the Lāhainā...when we had our budget hearing in West Maui. But also, I...I'm really sad to hear that a lot of...or where...wherever Member Paltin said that they...that the schools aren't collecting food scraps for pig food...that's sad. On Moloka'i, we still do. So, I...I think it's possible, I just...you know, they have to want to, I guess.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Us...oh. A side pilot program that Gretchen was working on was to try and re...I think it was before the fire, but to reintroduce nondisposable plate and silverware, flatware, whatever you call it. But in many of the cafeterias, they had concrete over the drain that the dishwashers had used. So, at one time, she was collecting all the plateware, and bringing it to the hotels and having them wash it, and



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then bring it back up. But I think after the fire, that just was not sustainable. But she's really trying to, I...I guess, get us back to where we used to be before we came such a disposable society.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I guess the...I don't understand why the schools don't have the students, you know, separate the food scraps from the...the...the plate and the, you know, forks and stuff. Because you could...you could still do that even if it's disposable, which is what our schools do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: DOE is all I --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- can say, is...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's...it's a question --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for the DOE. Because I guess there's not somebody at the DOE willing to stand there and ensure the kids do it --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh. Understood.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- without this --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin, for enlightening me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- without this program.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Ah, got it. Mahalo for that clarification. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, before you do that, the second came from Member U'u-Hodgins. Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know, I'm...I'm a farmer, and I...I just rise in full support of this. We got to compost as much as we can. Not only is...it saves me from going to the big box stores to buy compost full of who-knows-what, it also is...it saves our landfills, you know? And...and we're looking at landfills getting, you know, full up really fast, especially if we talk about building. So, these are all good reasons to support this, and thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Full...full support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Right. Member U'u-Hodgins as the second --

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then Member Kama next.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. I did this growing up, and my kids have to do this at our house now. No food actually goes in our trash at our house, and my house is too old to have a garbage disposal in our sink. So, this is my normal, and it should be everybody's normal too. So, I'm happy to support this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Oh, I...I used to do this when I was a kid because the pig farm was right down our house. But the thing is, I'd like to see that time when that comes back, where we have full-fledging [sic] running piggeries. I mean, we had piggeries up the ying-yangs in Kalama Valley. And oh, God, I didn't like the smell. I will tell you that. When the guy came on his big truck with his 55-gallon drums. But the day that that happens is the day that we should be funding people who have to stand in line and make sure the kids actually do that, until they actually get into the habit, that this is for your future that you're doing this. So, I am happy to support this. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, all of our experiences, so interesting. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, anytime you want to visit a pig farm, I'll...I'll just call up Christian (*phonetic*), and maybe he'll let you come to his house.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the smells, and the sounds, and the little piggies.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...(*laughing*)... Okay. So, before we vote, I will just add that the Upcountry Farmers Market, there was a piggery, right, not next to it but kind of close by, and it was interesting. When the wind blew, you knew, you know? And you could hear it too, so it's still around. Okay. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This looks like a nine "aye." Yeah? Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**    **None.**

**ABSENT:**     **None.**

**EXC.:**        **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**    **APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Paltin, and thank you for always supporting this project many years. So, I have a project, Residency Area 1, is to increase Mālama Maui Nui grant, and add conditional language for Kula debris removal. And I'll entertain a motion to increase three grants to Mālama Maui Nui by 75,000, and to add the following condition: up to 75,000 must be for Kula debris removal, hazard mitigation, except that one-to-one matching funds be received by Hawai'i Community Foundation before the release of County funds.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So...wait, somebody has to make the motion for me. I can't do it. Oh, you did? Okay. Member Kama, and second by Chair Lee. Thank you. So, this came from a discussion. I went to a meeting...an online meeting about debris removal. And after the fire, Kula residents were, you know, waiting for NRCS and Central Maui Wastewater...Central...Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation to do this cleanup and debris removal. And the residents were saying that, yeah, that money is going to do a part...a portion of the debris removal, but there were other portions that, you know, it did not cover, and it's personal property. And so, at this...this nonprofit then would administer grants to the property owners to do their own debris removal. That idea came from a discussion of...a good idea, I thought, with Hawai'i Community Foundation, and...and they committed up to \$75,000. I think you heard me talking to Managing Director when he was here, that he would have to commit to some funds too. So, that's what this is about. Any thoughts? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm supportive, I just...if they don't get the one-to-one matching funds from Hawai'i Community Foundation, and like we're going into the next fiscal

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year, like, for me, I don't want to see Carryover/Savings, so what are we going to do? We're just going to carry it over if they don't get the...like how...you know what I'm saying?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, are you asking me if the Hawai'i Community Foundation funds are guaranteed or secured?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess. That would be --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, that...that I'm sure of, and that...that--my discussion with Managing Director when all of you were here and he was before us, I brought this up because I was told to ask him. So, I did, and I'm expecting that match to happen.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Within Fiscal Year '26?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I wish it could happen now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Ms. Toshikiyo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, here's Ms. Toshikiyo. Am I doing something wrong?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: No, Chair. Thank you. I just had a thought that if we could change to what you just said, where matching funds are received from Hawai'i Community Foundation rather than received by. Because it sounds like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- Hawai'i Community Foundation is going to be providing the matching funds rather than receiving it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Funds are received...what did you say?...by Hawai'i Community Foundation? From?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: It says by right now, but it sounds like Hawai'i Community Foundation is actually going to be giving the funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: So, it would be from Hawai'i Community Foundation --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- just to make it clear.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So--and the other...we--our office asked Mālama Maui Nui. I'm so...I'm always impressed with, you know, the...the legacy that Jan Dapitan has left, and all that that organization does. So, I inquired with them to help us with this, and...Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Does Mālama Nui already have a grant? Do they have a standing grant, or are they going to have to apply for one with DPS?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, in other words, would...would Mālama Maui Nui have to apply for this?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I would imagine. Yeah, it would have to be created.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Because we just cut the...their grants program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mālama Maui Nui?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: E...EP&S.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I...I'm just...if people already have a grant, and we're funding them --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- then it's easy for them to process it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see what you're saying.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: If it's a new grant, and the Department has to process it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: New organization?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I'm just concerned do they have the capacity. I'm all supportive of this --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I need a second.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And Member Johnson, you can talk about this. So, Member Johnson made the motion, second by Member Kama. And you can say first, then I have also something to add.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Well, first off, let's give a big shoutout to Kyle and his crew, who have been doing that kind of work Upcountry. I know this is your district, Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- but I...I will say that I often hear you say, when we talk about the Lāhai...the wildfires, you say, oh, and don't forget Kula.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum. Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, and don't forget Kula. Well, this is our chance to not forget Kula. So, I...I really want to support this, and I want to thank all those folks who are doing that kind of work out there. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions? Member Cook? No? Okay. So, just so you know, Mālama Kula is Kyle Ellison. He's like a one-man show. I mean, he's like Mr. Energy, and he does a lot, and he's nonstop. I even saw him on TV this morning on *Hawai'i News Now*. But he has been helping with the mitigation and debris removal after the August 8th, 2023 wildfire, and he doesn't stop. I mean, when I was talking to him this weekend, he was like sweeping, and doing some kind of debris removal also. But he's always there to help people, so I hope you support this. If no other questions, I'm going to ask for the vote.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? How much did you say to Mālama Kula?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 380,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 380,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that what he asked for in testimony when we were at the Pukalani Committee Center hearing?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: I don't know if he asked for that specific amount, but he did ask for this program. And he...he wrote a...he wrote a white paper on this. Member Johnson and I have it, I don't know if he sent it to all of you. And I can get it to you if you --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm supportive, and I think this 380,000 will yield such huge returns on this investment for the mitigation that they're doing. Because we know it...it's been a very dry wet season --

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and, you know, it...it's not a matter of, you know, whether there'll be a fire, you know, it...it...you know, not if there will be a fire, there...there will be more fires. And we have to be smarter, and I appreciate the work that they're doing in being smarter to mitigate the potential risks to everyone that lives Upcountry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Member Johnson, you have your hand up? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I have the white paper here, but it's three pages long. I don't want to read it to the whole...but I'll just try to go over it real quick, if you guys don't mind...because I know some folks online don't have it. So...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, it's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I just was asking the amount --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Member Johnson. What he...what did he ask for, the amount?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Okay. All right. Okay. Duly noted. Sounds like the Members want to go home. But 380,000...yeah. Okay. I hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, that wasn't what he requested?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, that was...yeah.



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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can...can you repeat that? Because that...when you said it, that's just when Tom...Member Cook coughed.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mālama Kula respectfully requested 380,000 from the County of Maui. Okay. That's--of the three pages --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- that's the gist. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. Staff would just request clarification. So, right now, we have down that the motion is just to add a condition; is...is that right? Is it just a condition, or does it have a corresponding increase to B Account...to...to Category B?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: An increase.

MR. KRUEGER: Increase and condition?

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

MR. KRUEGER: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Here we trying to cut, but thank you, everybody. All right. Members, anything else for conditions? I think that's the end of it for this department. We are waiting to hear back from Director Milner regarding the rates and fees.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Did we vote on this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're not done.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because we have all the rates and fees yet, and it's...it's...oh, we didn't vote on mine? I thought we did. Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I thought I said yes and thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think so. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, how --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Let's vote for this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Members, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that nine "ayes?" Thank you very much.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah. Thank you --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, can I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for my --

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Before we take a break --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- I just want to remind them, before we leave this topic because it's an important topic, today's Earth Day, everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: April 22nd, 1970, is when it started, a billion people in more...in over 193 countries have been participating in this. So, it's very timely when we're talking about EP&S grants. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Certainly is. Okay. All of you, we'll take a break, and you can go plant a tree and come back. . . .*(laughing)*. . . No, no, no, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't we?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Member --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Before you recess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Rawlins...Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What time are we planning to go until?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, tonight, your public hearing starts at 6:00. Can you all work until 5:00? Is that too long? Okay, you're good? Well, we're going to be here, I think. Nobody's going to really leave. So...yeah. Everybody's awake, and doing great. So, it's now...so, 3:20, come back? Are you guys--ten minutes-ish? Okay. We're in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:           3:09 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE:       3:31 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . All right, everybody. Getting there. We are done for right now with Environmental Management, and the next department is Finance...Finance, not Countywide. So, with Finance, it is Budget Bill pages 7 and 8. Are there any proposed amendments for Category A, which is Salaries? And after this, we're taking up Fire, by the way. Okay. Page 7.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ready?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Ready. And so, any amendments for Category A, which is Salaries --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then we'll go B after.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll move to cut B6a(1), Category A, by 75,000, plus \$55,815 of fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Discussion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I...I do want to acknowledge that the new head of Finance is making impressive progress to filling their vacancies, but there still is like six expansion positions that are getting closer, but are not yet listed...posted. So, my explanation is I'm de...defunding the expansion position, and taking into account vacancies and positions that require reorg approval. That's not to say I'm defunding any one particular position, just that that was my reasoning in this cut. And if any positions get posted, I'm totally fine with them reallocating monies to hire.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by somebody...okay. Member U'u-Hodgins. And you explained it. Do you have any more to say?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Nothing more to say, except for I see what work they're doing, and they're coming along from previous years. And so, the reinstatement of the cut is not as large as last fiscal year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions, discussions? Okay. Ready to vote? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to cut B6c(1), Category A, \$75,000, plus 55,815 fringe. Shucks. I neglected to mention in my first motion any associated Category B increases need to...position expansions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. For both?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For both.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, this is just in relation to chronic vacancies, you know, positions on continuous recruitment, and whatnot. Like, they are posted for filling, but they're not being filled, for whatever reason. And the cut is less than last fiscal year, in the hopes that we can provide some incentives to get more people to work for the County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions, comments? Seeing none. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

MR. KRUEGER: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

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MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. I don't believe there was a second for this motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I--Member U'u-Hodgins.

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, Me...oh, okay. And apologies. Staff would just like clarification on the part of the motion relating to B Account. So, we understand the \$75,000 cut from A, alongside the fringe cut that will need to be made, but...but is there something additional that needs to be cut from B?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the previous motion and this motion, I'm a little bit flying by the seat of my pants because it was like, you know 10:00 at night by the time I got home, and took a shower, and ate dinner. So, if there's any associated expansion due to position increases, for the first motion, I'm proposing to cut those as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, for both, similar, right? Okay. All in favor--any questions, Members? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye." Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Okay. Motion carries.

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.</b>
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<b>NOES:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>EXC.:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anything else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to cut B6d(1), Category A, by 150,000, plus 111,630 of fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member U‘u-Hodgins. What did you say the...the numbering was?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 150,000, and 111,630 fringe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And this section has a lot of chronic vacancies on continuous recruitment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion, Members? Seeing none. All in favor, raise your hand. Member Kama?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, you're on a roll.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm...I'm complete if...I'll yield to my colleagues.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have any more amendments for Category A or B Accounts? Okay. Member Paltin [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. So, Member Paltin, on page 88, Finance Admin Program, this is in relation to your small A cut in the Admin Program. For Category B, they do have \$600,000 for the purchasing of new work stations and furnishings for the second floor. Is that where you wanted to remove some funding in the Category B?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. That is for...they wanted to hire the same group that Personnel hired to rearrange their workspace because their workers are having to eat lunch in the conference room and I --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or something like that.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I totally support them having like a lunch room, and a better flow because, you know, a lot of those guys are in Unit 3 and --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- they're --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I just was hoping to give Staff some direction on where you might want it, but that's--I get it. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. They...they were going to hire a consultant. I think that person--they might have seen what Personnel did with their space and liked it. And so, I think they're hiring the same consultant to rearrange their stuff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else, Members? See none. All in favor...ready to vote? All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That looks like nine "ayes." Motion carries. Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm...I'm not sure --

MR. KRUEGER: Chair --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- what we're voting on.

MR. KRUEGER: Oh. Apologies, Chair. I...I believe the...the vote did occur on the...the last one that the vote occurred on was for the Motor Vehicle and Licensing Program, so I...I believe we're...we're good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we're done already? We just voted twice? Did all that?

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, apologies, Chair. But...but Chair, I...I--Staff would just want to note, right now, yeah, just in a brief review of the details, we're not...we're not identifying anything for B as it relates to the Admin Program. We're scanning the other ones right now, but there doesn't seem to be anything for the Real Property one either.



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks, Staff, for catching my back. And we just wanted to vote twice to really --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- emphasize.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Did all that, huh? Okay. So, are we good? Staff, yeah? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: At this point, I yielded to my colleagues.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have any more amendments, cuts, changes? Seeing none. All right. So, Finance does not have any CIP. Appendix A on page 40 to 41, Part I, Grants. Are there any amendments to Grants? I don't see any. Wow. Okay. So, we're done with that. Nothing? Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenue. With Finance, they have nothing. Appendix B, which is Rates and Fees, pages 11 to 16. Okay. Are there any amendments to rates and fees, excluding real property tax? We're going to be taking that up later. What..you have one what? Oh, okay. So, you want to go back to what? Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, you're talking about dinner for tonight? . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: A little bird told me that somebody's grandma was making trifle for tonight.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's right. Dianne Shimizu, yeah? Ooh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does anyone see the out-of-state registration?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Page 13.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Middle-ish. Oh, in rates and fees. Sale of temporary number of plates, dealer...oh sorry, dealer...special license plates, right? That's what it is. Oh, here, right below that has national park . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On page 14, out-of-state vehicle permit, I'd like to raise that to 250.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's...it is now 100, and you want it to go to 250?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes, please.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, it's 100?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 100.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...okay. So, motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Johnson; is that right? Ms. Milner...I don't see her. Oh, I do. Okay. Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Chair, sorry. If I could just have a moment to double-check because I...I do know there are some HRS sections that may pertain to that fee. So, if I could just have two minutes to double-check that, I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- I would appreciate it to see if they set a cap on the amount. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and if there is a cap, I'd like to raise it to that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Can you clarify for me, Member Paltin? So, this is for people who want to keep their out-of-state license plate?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Every year, they pay this fee?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not sure how often they pay it, but that was my understanding, the folks that want to keep their out-of-state stuff.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Out-of-state vehicle permit. Okay. That's not like if somebody was to buy a car from America, ship it in, and then they pay for some transfer fee, or no?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I'm...I'm not 100 percent sure, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- my understanding is like, you know, even if you buy it in another state, and you ship it over here, you register it here.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And belief is that, you know, if you stay over...if you bring it over here, and it's already--like, it's not a brand-new car or something, and you just want to keep your plates because you're not sure if you want to move back or whatever, and pay --

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- twice...I think if you're going to bring your whole car here, you should commit or pay money.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. I'm only asking because it says, out-of-state vehicle permit. So, I'm just curious what...what that is. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for...for me--I mean, I guess if we're doing...oh, I see Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes. So, I found HRS 286-54 does say that changes in the amount of the administrative costs shall be established by the County's Legislative body.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, we can do anything?

MS. MILNER: Yeah. It says when...whenever a vehicle is registered under this section, the sum of \$5 shall be assessed against the owner of the vehicle to defray the administrative costs incurred by the County. Subsequent changes in the amount of the administrative costs shall be established by the County's Legislative body. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- did I get a second? So, for my discussion is, I don't know about you guys and your district, but driving all over the West Side, I see so many out-of-state vehicle plates, and it's...it's just...like where are those people going to live, and are they going to take housing from the people that already lived here and really need it? And so, there's that. And...and...and if they're not going to register their car in Hawai'i, what's their long-term plan, you know? Are they going to move back over there and not have to reregister it over there or whatever? So, it's like...yeah. Live here, or sleep here, or commit, you know?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Because I do have a problem of behaving like my children, and thinking everybody is like Google, and I can just ask them a question instead of

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just Googling it myself--or as my kids say, search it up because different eras--now, they get different search engines. But the AI overview for this is to legally operate an out-of-state vehicle in Hawai'i, you'll need to obtain an out-of-state vehicle permit from the relevant County's vehicle and registration licensing...licensing division within 30 days of the vehicle's arrival. This permit allows you to operate the vehicle with your out-of-state registration plates for a limited time, typically until your out-of-state registration expires or for 12 months, whichever comes first. You'll then need to transfer to Hawai'i registration if you plan to keep the vehicle in Hawai'i beyond that period. So, happy to support. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi, Ms. Toshikiyo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Hi, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hi.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yeah, thank you. And as it relates to the HRS section that Ms. Milner was referencing, it does tie the fee for...it gets to defray the administrative costs incurred by the County. So, if...you could put that in the record as well as how it relates to defraying the administrative cost, that would be great.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Got it? Ready?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, did she want me to say that, how it defrays the costs?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes, please. Yes, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Because the fee is tied to the administrative costs for the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you know, we have a chronic number of vacancies in our DMVL section. And, you know, for us to take this time to assist folks who are out of State takes away from our residents...our tax-paying residents who have been here multiple years. And so, you know, if they want to cut the line before our residents, this is the...the defrayment of that expense.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I just wanted to hear Kristina's reaction, or reply to that explanation. Because, yeah, technically--well, not technically, but every fee has to have a cost. And

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not...nothing to do with justice, but a cost, an actual cost. So, Corp. Counsel, could you make your comment on that, please?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes. I just was hoping to give on the record how the...the increase in the fee is relating to the costs to the County to administer these out-of-State permits. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ms. Toshikiyo, could it be --

MS. TOSHIKIYO: But that's, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because of our --

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Go ahead. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you know, our...our chronic vacancies. There may be overtime costs involved, and extra work where we're trying to do all we can for our residents, and now we have to accommodate not only our residents, but folks from out-of-state as well, while we have these chronic vacancies for multiple years.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes, that would work. I mean, there's a basis for that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hanano, you have something to say?

MR. HANANO: Yes. So, just in general, you know, when we're talking about charging a fee for something, the idea is, like Chair Lee said, and Ms. Toshikiyo...Toshikiyo said, it has to be associated with a cost. So, you can't charge something that...you can't charge a fee that is greater than what it costs because then that'll be considered a tax. So, that's why, when we try to figure out these fees and, you know, when we come to an amount, you know, we want to make sure that it's tied to a cost, and not something greater than that. Because then it would be a tax, and that's a whole 'nother thing that we have to get into.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Noted. So, when we're fully-staffed, we'll roll it back.

MR. HANANO: Right. And, you know, I mean, that goes into the equation. If you're paying someone overtime because you're short...you're short-staffed, then of course, you know, it's going to cost more to administer that service. So, that--I just wanted to point that out in general, that's the idea between a fee and a tax.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. Now--I learn something every day.

MR. HANANO: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, your...so, to your point, do you think our...our discussion here covers our bases? Because Councilmember Paltin also brought up the sheer

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number of increased people driving around with out-of-state plates. Obviously, there's more administrative costs just because there's simply more cars if we have it.

MR. HANANO: That's correct, Councilmember Johnson. So, I mean, that whole equation--I mean, that...all those factors go into the equation of how much it'll, you know, cost to administer --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So --

MR. HANANO: -- the service.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, to be clear, it's \$100 now. You're not requiring us to say how much it...per...per license it costs like \$170, or "X"...you--we're not required to come up with the actual number, or are we?

MR. HANANO: Well --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Public math.

MR. HANANO: Well, I think in...in general, you know, like I said, if you're charging a fee for som...for a service, then it should not be more than what it costs to administer the...the service. So, in this case, you know, this falls under the Department of Finance. So, you know, they should do their calculations, and if they feel that it's over and above what it costs to administer the service, then, you know, that might be a concern.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, if we're spending "X" amount of dollars in overtime every year for the Department of Finance, wouldn't that...we're under what it would cost...I would assume, you know, because we're spe...we're short-staffed, and we're paying for overtime for these folks. So...

MR. HANANO: Well, I mean, like I said, that goes into the equation --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Formulation.

MR. HANANO: -- as far as, you know, whether or not the fee is...is more than what it costs to administer the service. Definitely, if there's overtime involved, of course, that's going to raise the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. HANANO: -- fee they can charge. In this case, whe...you know, whether it is above, I don't know. I mean, I'm just saying that in general, that's the factor --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I --

MR. HANANO: -- that you consider when you --

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. HANANO: -- set a fee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, we...is it an impossible question to answer right now? Because my question is, is it safe to do...250 is the motion on the floor.

MR. HANANO: Yeah, I think maybe we can...you know, I mean, that's what is on the table for discussion. You know, it would maybe help if Finance could verify, you know, whether or not --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. HANANO: -- that's within the...in the range.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We're spending a lot of time on this, Chair. I'm...I'm fine. I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: My questions are done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Member Rawlins...I mean, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I know we're on Finance right now, but does...can somebody tell me if MPD has access to databases that's not within our State? So, if this person, who is driving an out-of-state license plate, gets, say, busted for speeding and driving in a kid-school zone, are...are police officers not doing a whole bunch of overtime to figure out who this person is, or all of the extra research that comes with somebody who's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Register --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- maybe not licensed here, and drives and out-of-state car? Or how does this work? Like, I know we're talking about finances and the registration of an out-of-state car, but what about all the other things that every other licensed driver is required to do here, and the impacts that it has to the other departments, like let's say Police?

MS. KAWASAKI: That's a pretty complex question, but in general, the Department of Motor Vehicles does keep extensive records with regard to somebody's driver's licensing status. So, it is not normally in-depth research that they have to do. They'll pull up the driver's licensing record, and it will all be there, and you can get it in a matter of seconds --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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MS. KAWASAKI: -- or police can get it. There are costs associated with...when we prosecute somebody for that driver...driving violation--or that crime, if it's...if it rises to that level--and DMV staff would then need to produce a report, and perhaps testify on that--but that's different, and not related to the fee that you could charge for this particular entry in --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KAWASAKI: -- Appendix B.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I was just trying to see how else we could maneuver this, but I appreciate that answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think the bottom line is that we need to get more feedback from Finance, DMV. Because if they determine their cost is "X," we can't fudge that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We can't change that. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, maybe we can just hold off on this one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll withdraw. I have another one, though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, withdraw?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I'll withdraw my second, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, we withdraw that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On page 12 --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I just want to say something real quick, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I know...mahalo, Chair. I...I know the motion has now been withdrawn, but there are a bunch of things, such as a CD that data is put on, that then individuals are charged \$100 for --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 500.



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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- during election time from the Clerk's Office, and I know it doesn't --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 500.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's 500?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the CD-ROM of --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, wait.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- it's 500 --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's 500 now? Okay. I know it doesn't --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for...page 14, Real Property Tax Map CD-ROM, 14...\$500.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, if that's \$500 . . .*(laughing)*. . . you know, I don't know. It just...I don't see how that matches the administrative cost, honestly, for...for of the...the things. I just needed to add that since we were like highly scrutinizing the \$100 admin fee for processing of an out-of-state license plate. If that's 500, then, you know, I...I'm sure we're giving the out-of-state license plate applicants a discounted deal at \$100. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my next motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On page 12, I'd like to amend Account 3288. I move to change small A to 800, small B to 50, and small C to \$50.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, the first 800. From 640 to 800?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 640 to 800, 15 to 50 on B and C.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you know, we just gave 500,000 to Maui Nui Marine Resource Center, 100,000 to Hui O Ka Wai Ola, to ensure that, you know, our marine waters, our nearshore waters are like livable, swimmable, fishable, drinkable kind of things, and then we're allowing folks to take that marine life out for such a small fee. And we're...we're trying to restore our ecosystems, our nearshore waters. I don't think that

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people should just take for, you know, aquarium businesses or whatever, for such a low fee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion, questions? See none. All in fav...oh, who...do you want to...Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: In light--I mean, I'm happy to support this, don't get me wrong. This is good. Just in light of the last conversation, just making sure --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- that we can. This--for the attorneys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hanano.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, I don't think we've raised it in the seven years I've been here, and, you know, everything costs more.

MR. HANANO: I'm sorry, I...I missed the...what fee that was.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aquatic life operations permits to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Page 12.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- remove aquatic life --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 3288.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- from our oceans.

MR. HANANO: So, generally, for all fees, we should get, you know, some kind of verification from the Department that, you know, it's not...it doesn't exceed the cost of what it costs to administer the service.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I guess for my discussion, the cost to administer this service to ensure that there is this aquatic life is much greater than 600,000 we appropriated just now. I mean, I'm not going to charge them 600,000. Although I wouldn't mind, but I don't think I'd get support.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because, I mean, if they're going to take our fish, they should be contributing to those.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Mr. Hanano, do you think we should ask then the Budget Office to get a reading on this?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member Rawlins-Fernandez has her hand up.

MR. HANANO: Yes. Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You are? Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Remember a few years ago, when we asked...or we put funding into the budget for...for the Planning Department to do a cost-recovery study? And we found that we were heavily subsidizing all permits, and not charging fees that match the administrative cost of processing the applications for those permits? I would assume that is true for so many of the permits. And so, if you wanted to have that true cost, I...I think it would take that level of like analysis. And so, I think--what...what was the proposal, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 800,000...or 800, 50, and 50.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I support 800,000. Mahalo.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 800, 50. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 800, 50, and 50. Okay. Any other discussion? So, Mr. Hanano is--excuse me, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Mr. Hanano is saying that we should check with DMV [*sic*]--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not DMV.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- about what the actual costs are for the fees. So, are you asking us to put this on the side, and look at it after we hear from the Administration?

MR. HANANO: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, we'll add this to the list. Is that all right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And...and, you know, all our regulations and administering of the SMA, on my search it up, it says Maui County's role--while the DLNR is responsible for issuing aquatic life operation permits, Maui County may have its own regulations or ordinances regarding activities within the County, particularly within the special management area. You may need to obtain permits or approvals from the Maui County Planning Department for projects within the SMA. And we know that

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our Planning Commission and the whole SMA is overworked, and so this is an increased burden on them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. We all agree. So, Staff, can you put this on the to-return list?

MR. KRUEGER: So, Chair, should we consider this motion tabled for this...for the time being?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Okay. This one, plus...what is your other one, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Mahalo, Chair. I think --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The license plate.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- tabling so many...I mean, the point of like, you know, process is to not make it too cumbersome. And so, if Staff... *... (laughing) ...* I think like tabling so many, you know, kind of like defeats the whole point of having like a process because then it starts to--you lose track.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, I...I think it's just as easy to just withdraw.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you willing to withdraw?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I am willing, ready, and able.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Willing and able? Okay. You and Member Sinenci. And then the other one is on the license plate, so both of them. We'll just withdraw and revisit. Can you keep a list? Yeah. So, I have a...oh, Member Kama, and then --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So --

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, at any given time during our BFED meetings, when we're out of this, could we actually send a letter to Finance and ask them those questions? Because we might want to do this next year, but I think we want to know the answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we want to know the answer so we can take action now --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I don't know --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- but --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- we just want to withdraw the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- it sounds like...yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I don't know. It sounds like Tamara might want to withdraw, I'm not sure. I just want to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, she withdrew both.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: She did?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The two. Yeah, license plate --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I see.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and the one about the aquatic.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, I'd want them to do the whole thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, all?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And if we're going to redo...if we're going to take a look at this next year, why...why cherry-pick? Just look at all of them and see if they all actually fit if...if we have been all these years not charging what we should really be charging --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Undercharging? Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- for some of these things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess, you know, too, we could see what the cost of a study costs, divide that by all the fees and whatever...maybe.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Ah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And here's comes Ms. Yoshimura. So, I have a question on...on this also, is that in my community, I have a whole bunch of trailer homes popping up, you know, or tiny homes that are on wheels. Where is it in here, Mr. Hanano or --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Moloka'i.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, she's raising her hand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't have the answer to your question. I didn't see it in here. I think those...anyway, this will give Mr. Hanano some time to look for the answers to your question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But what I was going to say is that I suspect a lot of the permits are actually subsidized, as I was saying with the Planning Department permits. And so, I don't think it's not legal for us to decide on which permit applications we would want to subsidize. And we can then, you know, choose for those that we don't want to subsidize as heavily to pay the actual cost of the administrative work that it takes to process the applications, instead of subsidizing those. So, I...I don't personally need to see a cost-recovery study for all of the permits listed in Finance Department. If there are only a few that we would like to understand what the administrative cost actually is, I could be supportive of that. I think Member Paltin introduced too that I would be supportive of. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mem...Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I, too, was going to kind of get a little bit of a hair-splitting moment. But as we begin the Department of Finance, in the beginning, it says, business licenses, permits, and then nonbusiness licenses and permits, which is where we're talking about making changes. And then it creates another subsection with fines, forfeits, and penalties, and then uses of money, and then charges for current services, which is where Member Rawlins-Fernandez was talking about the \$500 CD-ROM. Which is very old school, by the way. I would think it's on a different version now. But that's a charge for current services, whereas these permits don't necessarily specify that it's a charge for current services. But if it was a charge for current services, I'm confused on why selling firearms for an annual fee of \$10, and an auctioneer fee would have a \$90 difference.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I know the answer.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The State...I tried to raise that firearm thing before, and we don't have authority. It's under the State Legislature. That's --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And then --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- what it has to be.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And then all of them have different fees. And we did changes to the taxicab businesses in...in be...before this, and we didn't necessarily need a study to see what they were doing, we just heard from them. And they said, these are our issues, so we made a bunch of changes to the tax...taxicab businesses and drivers.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And then aquatic life operations is right below that. I know I'm the reason why we're not doing this right now, because I wanted the lawyers' opinion, but I just...I might disagree with them. But that's okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just extra information, and a point is if you look at the column to the right where it says HRS, that means that there is a State law saying what we can and cannot do. Because I tried to raise the gun thing before, and they said, you cannot do that. But in...in the Planning Department, we found that the County didn't have a procedure for analyzing the Planning Department's cost of providing services, and a comprehensive study had not been conducted in more than 25 years. And I would say the same is the...the...the same is true for Finance. And so, the County does not have a method for updating its fees annually via consumer price index or other factors, and so I'm using my best guesstimate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I guess, Mr. Hanano, I...I looked at the trailers on page 16, License and Permits, and it's...there's trailers there. So, is that where the...all those tiny homes in Pukalani that are on wheels, they have to get their DMV lic...is this where it is? Electric Vehicle Highway Improvement Fee...

MR. HANANO: Sorry, Chair. What page is that on?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's on page 16. And...and the reason I'm asking is, when I...when I went to talk to a lot of them, they just said, oh yeah, we...we're...we're legal because we get a permit from DMV, and then we hang it up, and then we're able to have this vehicle on wheels--I'm sorry, home on wheels under the DMV license. And this is trailers. Is this where it is, the top?

MR. HANANO: Yeah. I'm not sure, Chair, on...on that answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. HANANO: It would depend on...I think the way the HRS is set up, it's by vehicle weight, generally. So, if that's the case, then it would depend on the weight of the...this vehicle, and what it's classified as.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, since we're looking at other items, can we also look at that too? And then I'll move forward. Oh, Ms. Milner?

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MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Members. Yeah. My understanding right now, if we're still talking about the tiny homes, is that there may be a building permit cost associated with it, depending on the type of structure. But if it were a mobile trailer, then it would have the DMV charge. But I'm happy to discuss this further with the departments. But I don't think there's anything in rates and fees that is tiny home-specific as of yet. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're going to get back to us then? Okay. Thank you. Members, are...any other discussion regarding rates and fees for Finance? No? Okay. Great. So, let's see...rates and fees. Member priorities, there's none. So, are we all good with Finance? We're going to move forward, and we're not going to be able to complete it because we had that whole discussion going on about compensation. Next, we have...you want to take a little break?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I...I have just a little bit of stuff, and we can just power through it if you guys all work with me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead. What are you on?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. After...after I'm done, we can break for dinner. I'd like to...or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- we're on Fire and Public Safety?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. We are going to move. Okay. We...you want to take a break after Finance? Like a short break, or...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I...I'd like to take a break after I do these cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we're now going to take up Fire, right, is what you're saying?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Fire is Bill 41, page 9. And anybody have amendments for Column A? Member Paltin. We'll just have you speak.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Page 9.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For B7a(1), Category A, I would like to cut \$178,352, plus fringe, which I did not calculate because I'm not sure which is uniform officers and which is not uniform officers, and the fringe is different. So, I'll have OCS sort that out for us. And if I get a second, then I'll go into discussion.



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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Sinenci. Can you give us alphabets that it's connected to?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: B7a(1), Category A.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Motion made by --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my discussion, I'm cutting all the funding for expansion positions to get them to the open recruitment phase. If they get to the open recruitment phase earlier than anticipated, vacancy money can be used to hire if they get to the open recruitment prior to the next fiscal year. And I...I spent a lot of time on this budget trying to make accurate cuts, but it's difficult when you're not given accurate information. And I've been over this with Personnel and the budget, and, you know, Personnel has positioned IDs that they've updated from 2023, earlier in 2024, that aren't reflected in the Budget Details. There's SR-17--or S...salary ratings and steps with different values attached to it. There's Firefighter I positions, which we all know, everybody comes in at the bottom step, but they're not replaced back to that bottom step. So, that's some of the padding that I don't feel comfortable with, that we're being given loosey-goosey, inaccurate information. And so, while I normally wouldn't be so drastic in my cuts to the Fire Department because we need them, if I'm not given accurate information, then it's harder. I spent hours, like why is it like this, you know? Going down to the 6th Floor, talking to those folks, like why is it like this? We asked for the list of vacancies with the position ID numbers. I look at their vacancies, they're saying like 30-something, and then I look at what Personnel gives us, and it says 60-something. So, it's very difficult to be accurate and precise when we're not given accurate and precise information. So, that's part of my thing. And...and if you look at the Carryover/Savings, there...there is Carryover/Savings annually, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Frustrating. Okay. Thank you very much. Any other discussion, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, could you repeat the cut?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's \$178,352, which is the entirety of the expansion position amounts. Not cutting it to four-months' funding, just cutting that whole thing. If they are able to create the positions before next fiscal year--which, you know, I've heard annually that they'll do, but I've never really seen it that much--then they can use vacancy funds. I didn't calculate the fringe because the fringe is different if it's a uniformed officer or not, and I'm not sure which of these are supposed to be what.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, any other discussion? If not, we can vote. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries. Chair Lee. Oh, Chair Lee's not there. Eight is...Chair Lee's excused. Eight "ayes."

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

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**    **None.**

**ABSENT:**     **None.**

**EXC.:**        **Councilmember Lee.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Next is B7a(1), Category B. I move to cut 50,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, this is for partially expansion-related expenses, partially for the webpage, and partially for the CIP consultants.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion? I think when the Department answered the questions, they said that the webpage and the communication person was in excess, so you're right on. Okay. Here comes Chair Lee. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Anybody else have anything to discuss? If not, all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Chair Lee's voting too, so that'll be nine "ayes."

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Okay. All right. Anything else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to cut B7c(1), Category A, by 100,000, plus a fringe of \$85,220.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 85,220 fringe, did you say?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Member Paltin made the motion, second by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For my discussion, the Carryover in this category in Fiscal Year '23 was 1.27 million, and in Fiscal Year '24, it was over 3.03 million. So, I'm just reducing a small portion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Any other discussion, Members? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to cut B7e(1), Category A, by 250,000, with a fringe cut of \$186,050.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Sinenci. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Carryover in Fiscal Year '23 was \$957,301, and in Fiscal Year '24, it was over 1 million...0.01...1.01 million, sorry. So, just reducing a small portion of this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Any discussion? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my last one, I'm not sure in which section it goes, but on page 290 of the Program Budget, there was a miscalculation to lease purchases. And so, we need to add in \$8,166 to that. Page 3 of the April 15th transmittal verified that an incorrect amount was listed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Here's Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. I'd like to double-check the transmittal. My recollection is that two numbers on that chart was just inverted, so no additional funds need to be added --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, if you can --

MS. MILNER: -- or taken away.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- look at the --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- April 15th transmittal, page 3.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Staff, you got that? Another follow-up, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can read it. It says, the Department equipment total on page 290 of the Program Budget shows \$9,833,776, but the sub-fund total on page 9-2 of the Budget Details show \$8,473,336. By adding the totals of the Revolving Fund and Grant Revenue Fund, the total equipment should equal \$9,841,942. Please confirm whether the Department's equipment total is \$9,833,776 or \$9,841,942. Yes, the total equipment is \$9,841,942.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are we waiting for Ms. Milner? Or you're fine, right? Yeah. Okay. There she is. Ms. Milner? Oh, are you pau?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Sorry, I was popping in and out. I didn't want to interrupt. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yes, I believe that's just a typo. The Budget Details are correct, it's just that page 9...290 was incorrect, and we will update that for the final version of the Program Budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll withdraw that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Okay. Any others for Fire? None? Okay. So, for Fire, which next would be--we did A and B, so I would like to take up CIPs, Budget Bill 24...pages 24 to 25.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: For CIPs, I'd like to...if...I wonder if this is now the time to see if we can take some of these CIP projects, and put them to bond instead of cash.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Would you like to do that now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we can do that. I...I had a motion to do that too, so go ahead. I think you're looking at the same thing, or --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- maybe...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I'll just go from...exactly, page 25 in Bill number 41. There's two projects, the Ha'ikū Fire Station, and the Kula Fire Station Apparatus Bay. The CBS numbers are as following, CBS-1002 and CBS-8918. The Ha'ikū Fire Station is...is proposed at 3.4 million, and the Kula Fire Station Apparatus Bay is proposed at 3 point...3,080,000. Yeah. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- according to this letter from Director Milner, if...if she wants to reconfirm it, but basically, the letter was we were asking which projects...CIP projects can be bonded instead of cash, and these were on the list for this department. So, if you're ready, I...I move to make these two projects bond-funded instead of cash.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Motion made by Member Johnson, second by Member Sinenci. Any more discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if you'll allow Ms. Milner just to reconfirm what I just stated so that way, everybody's on the up and up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ms. Milner. It's her letter. Yeah. That's --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yes, those are the two projects from Fire that we feel would appro...be appropriate to move to bond. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. And we got to get that fire station built --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- in Ha'ikū, you know? We've been waiting and waiting, so...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I guess I will say, for the record, this, of course, in my opinion, does not slow down these projects that are highly crucial, it's just a matter of using bond instead of cash. I want to make that very clear for our community. This does not...no intention to slow down these projects. We need to go full-bore with them, but it's a way to free up some cash. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Any other discussion? No? All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's nine "ayes."

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion carries. Okay. Let me put that away. So, Appendix A, Part I, Grants, page 41, 42. Does any...anyone have any proposed amendments to this for Fire and Public Safety? Probably none. Okay. Next, we have Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues. The funds are the Haz...Fire Hazad...Hazard Removal Revolving Fund, page 47; Plan Review, Processing, and Inspection Revolving Fund, Fire Section 16.04D.060, Maui County Code, page 48; and the Fireworks Revolving Fund on page 55. Anybody have any amendments? I wish we could...oh, in...it's page 47, 48, and 55. Any amendments?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Didn't we need to earmark the funding from this morning's testimony from Budget Director Milner for Fire? I forget which one. I thought she was going to send it in...Fire Hazard.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, that's going to be one that--put on the list to hear back, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or can she magically pop up and tell us what to do?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . There she is.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Members. Yes, I submitted an email after my testimony this morning, but for the record, the request is to amend the Operating Budget, Fire Prevention Program, to add an earmark that says transfer \$250,000 to the Fire Hazard Removal Revolving Fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fire Hazard Re...okay. Right here. Okay.



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member U‘u-Hodgins. And we will look for the email. You got the email from Ms. Milner? You do? Okay. We're good. Okay. So, is there one more? Oh, okay. We got to vote. Did we make the motion? Paltin and Member U‘u-Hodgins. And all in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So, nine "ayes." Motion carries. Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: We--I don't believe Councilmember Johnson is present.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, okay. So, eight "ayes," one excused. Here he comes. Member Johnson. He's voting "aye," so that's nine "ayes." Soon, you will hit your desk. Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct? Yeah. Any others? So, Appendix B, which is Rates and Fees, page 17 to 18. Are there any amendments? I know. I wish we could charge a lot for fireworks, but...okay. Yeah. Seeing none.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You got to call up your friends over there at the State Legislature --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- to let us --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let us --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- charge more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know. I don't know if that helps though, right? Just adds to the fund. People still do illegals. It's so frustrating.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. Apologies to backtrack, it's just regarding the change for the...to move the two projects from the General Fund to the Bond Fund, the Kula Fire Station Apparatus Bay and the Ha'ikū Fire Station.

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

MR. KRUEGER: Did the body also want to add those two projects to the Bond Authorization Ordinance, Bill 43?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Maybe if...if it's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do we have to make a motion?

MR. KRUEGER: -- maybe a motion for clarity.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Motion made by Member Johnson, second by Chair Lee.  
All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.</b>
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<b>NOES:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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<b>EXC.:</b>	<b>None.</b>
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**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:   APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Move this to Bill--what, 43 did you say? Yeah? Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Okay. Thank you. Apologies for that, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for that. Anything else, Staff? That's it? Yeah. Okay. So, then we are actually done with Fire. Perfect timing.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Now we can do whatever you want.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now, it's dinner. Is that what you mean? Okay. Thank you, everybody. It is now 4:33. I'm going to...this item, we will take up--as you know, tomorrow, we'll pick up and we'll have--is it Human Concerns tomorrow morning? Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Set for Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What--can you tell us what you want us to prepare for to...for tomorrow?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, we're going to take Liquor, Con...we're going to take Human Concerns, Liquor, Housing, and I would love to get Management, just to kind of continue on with the calendar. But...so, Human Concerns, Liquor, Housing, and Management.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And Management.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Management, if we can get there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On the Liquor one, we're not going to take it from Countywide. Did they...they get a salary increase too? Would they --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They did.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- propose their own increase in --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because they're self-funded, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Deputy Director Kawasaki.

MS. KAWASAKI: I'm sorry, can you repeat that? I was speaking to Mr. Hanano.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the Liquor Fund, if the Director and Deputy Director got an increase, we're not going to take that from the Countywide, and I don't feel comfortable monkeying around with their stuff. So, do they have a proposal on how to fund their salary increases?

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MS. KAWASAKI: I think that would be an interfund transfer from the Countywide into that fund, but I defer to Ms. Milner and Ms. Toshikiyo. We were --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. KAWASAKI: -- discussing this earlier today. Not particularly with regard to Liquor, but what we were told earlier today is that the General Budget provision that you see attached to Bill 41, if you take a look at Section 20, that applies to all departments, and that would allow for the transfer of the money. And I invite them to correct me if I didn't understand them correctly earlier today.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't want to transfer the money though, I want the Liquor fees to pay for their raise because --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They're self-funded.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- they have enough money. I mean, they --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director is raising her hand.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. So, on page 13-5 of the Budget Details, there's a line item for salary adjustments for funding in anticipation of the collective bargaining agreement. That should also say and Director increases. So, that fund and the Water Fund, they already built in those increases into their own budget, so no transfer from Countywide is necessary. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And it looks sufficient amount?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: I believe so, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I believe so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, before we leave this, I have a related condition for Fire, as you all may have--I have to try and find it. So, where is it? So, mine is related to the settlement of the firefighters' hazard pay, and I'm going to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that Countywide?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I wonder if it's in Countywide.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are we doing Countywide?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I actually...I'm...I...I don't know if it's Countywide or Fire.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's in Countywide? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's County...it's Countywide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Then we'll take it up later then. Okay. Anything else, Members?  
Nothing? Yes. I'm going to...yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just checking with you. You withdrew the Ka'ahumanu Church repairs?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We didn't take that up yet.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But...but your...for your priorities?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, because we just had the duplicate deadline --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- five minutes ago.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I still have it, unless if --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, you still have it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I still have it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You still want us to send in alternatives?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, for that--you know, I...Staff, so Ka'ahumanu Church, Thursday night, when they came and testified, I had expressed that I have them as one of my priorities. And Member Sinenci said he also did, and that he's--are you...are you asking if he can submit another one or what? Is that what you're asking? Okay. So, Ka'ahumanu Church is in there?

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MR. KRUEGER: Well, check on that, Chair. But...but yes, if...if there's a duplication, and it sounds like...then it...it would sound like that your priority would remain, and Councilmember Sinenci would provide a replacement?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It'll --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that's in OED?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It'll be another church.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In Hāna you said, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Thank you. . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Members. We're going to defer this, and...and...and we will take this up tomorrow. Unless if you want to come back after the public hearing and continue working. No? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. All right. So, this meeting is now adjourned. It's 4:38. . . *(gavel)*. . .

**ADJOURN: 4:38 p.m.**

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Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

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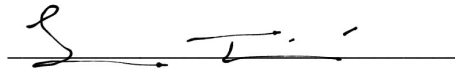
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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 159 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 29th day of May 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

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

Logan Tsuji