BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 10, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 1:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (Out 4:11 p.m.)
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member (Out 4:22 p.m.)
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 2:39 p.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member (Out 4:24 p.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani Uʻu-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary (In 2:34 p.m.)
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional staff
Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tom Cook:
Jared Agtunong
Stacy Takahashi

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:
Axel Beers

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tasha Kama:
Evan Dust

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:
Angela Lucero

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:
Haunani Madela

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:
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Michele Yoshimura
Jordan Helle
Jocelyn Moniz

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Nohelani Uʻu-Hodgins:
Susan Clements

Residency Area Office (RAO):
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Leo Caires, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Mahina Martin, Chief of Communications and Public Affairs, Office of the Mayor
Luana Mahi, Economic Development Director, Office of the Mayor
Patience Kahula, Community Development Block Grant Program Director, Office of the Mayor
Cynthia Lallo, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor
Layne Silva, Director, Department of Liquor Control
Jarrett Kahoohanohano, Deputy Director, Department of Liquor Control
Misty Nakao, Administrative Assistant, Department of Liquor Control
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Charen Kepler, Executive Director, Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows
Tasanee Cogliandro
Others (10)

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

ITEM 1: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI** ((BILL 60 (2024), BILL 61 (2024), BILL 62 (2024), BILL 63 (2024), BILL 64 (2024), BILL 65 (2024), RESOLUTION 24-66, RESOLUTION 24-67, and RESOLUTION 24-68))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome everybody to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Today is April the 10th, and it is now 1:03 p.m. This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder for the Councilmembers, when your name is called, if you are not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name…I guess there's some who's not here…if there is anyone in your room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. So, at this time, I would like to first say good afternoon to Council Chair. What is our greeting today?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The greeting is konnichiwa. And I am home alone in my workspace. My little dog Koa is sleeping on her swing and we had a great time on Lānaʻi. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, she talks to her dog. Before when we picked her up, she had to have a conversation and a goodbye and…great relationship with your little one. Next, we have Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair, and konnichiwa.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Konnichiwa. Next, we have Member Paltin. Konnichiwa.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā and konnichiwa kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Next, we have Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Konnichiwa. [*Spoke in Japanese*], Lānaʻi District Office, [*Spoke in Japanese*].

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's from spending time with his grandmother. And your daughter speaks Japanese, too, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Just a little bit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Uʻu-Hodgins…oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Konnichiwa. Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Konnichiwa. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, aloha 'auinalā kākou. Mai Molokai Nui a Hina. I'm at the Molokaʻi District Office, alone in my side of the office. And

yeah, mahalo Member Johnson and Ms. Morita for hosting us on Lānaʻi. Hopefully, Chair Lee can show us some of the dance moves from last night.

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

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And that will not be during a recess; it'll be when the cameras are rolling. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, Chair, and konnichiwa.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Konnichiwa. Member Sinenci…he said he might be a little bit…oh, you're here. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey, aloha, Chair and konnichiwa. Dōmo arigatō.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's good. One hundred percent attendance. We are here in force, and I just wanted to--oh, I'll introduce everybody, and then I wanted to know if we could get a brief from…from West Maui because we had a…a…a meeting, residency meeting, and then afterwards, if we could get a brief from Lānaʻi. Although we know on Lānaʻi, all you have to say is cat. That's it. Just kidding. Office of the Mayor, Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director, thank you for spending time with us. Dr. Leo Caires, Chief of Staff, I see you in the audience. Mahina Martin, Chief of Communications, Public Affairs and Luana Mahi, Economic Development Director. Patience Kahula, CDBG Program Director; Cynthia Lallo, Executive Assistant. Department of Liquor Control, Layne Silva is the Director; Jarrett Kahoohanohano, Deputy Director; Misty…Misty Nakoa, Administrative Assistant. From the Department of Corporation Counsel, we have Kristina Toshikiyo. And I want to thank our Staff really for working hard, Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary, as well as Pauline Martins. Thank you very much. James Krueger and Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Analysts; Jarrett Pascual and Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analysts; Carla Nakata, our Legislative Attorney; along with Megan Moniz and Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Thank you, everybody. You can see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. So, before I go into the agenda, I wanted to just get a brief summary from Member Paltin and…and then next to Member Johnson for Lānaʻi. Just talk about the District Meeting. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. We had 32 testifiers on…this past

Monday evening at the Lāhainā Civic Center gym. A lot of the testifiers spoke to the need, desperate need, for affordable housing. Many of them were crying. As they testified, there's concern about wildfire debris cleanup and the use of crushed concrete, a lot of need for mental health care and support for survivors, and talking about how housing would help with their mental health. Testimony in support of MEO Transportation and Head Start Programs, Partners in Development, kūpuna care. A lot of testimony for keeping funds in the budget for Lāhainā Community Land Trust as well as West Maui Green Cycle. One testifier spoke to STRs not being suitable and…and that kind of kicked up a storm of plenty people saying STRs would be more suitable than the living conditions going on right this minute. Testimony for more park space because that was used as shelters immediately after…with parking. Testimony for better evacuation plans and routes, a number of pickleball testifiers, rental assistance because the FEMA program is not working out for a lot of folks, and MEDB STEMworks was also, by one of the high school teachers. And our first testifier was an MEO Head Start participant his self, so that kicked us off. And so, housing, Lāhainā Community Land Trust, pickleball, housing, housing, housing. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Johnson for Lānaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. We met at 6:00 p.m. last night at the Lānaʻi High and Elementary School cafeteria. We had a pretty good turnout with 26 testifiers. We also received some written testimony. The evening kicked off from Kahau Siliga, the Director and teacher of E Mālama I Nā Keiki O Lānaʻi, one of the only two preschools on Lānaʻi. She, along with the board members and parents of the children that have attended, testified on the need to restore grant funding for their school. A hundred percent of their $86,000 grant, which they have received from the County for decades, subsidized the cost of preschool attendance for local families. They received a notice from the Administration last Friday, however, that the…this fiscal year, they were not selected by DHHC as a grant recipient. Over the night, we also heard from advocates for funding for the Lānaʻi Cat Sanctuary, which previously was funded under the Feral Animal Grant in OED. Lānaʻi Feral Animal Grant fund was cut from the Mayor's budget this fiscal year. So, the cat sanctuary is asking for $285,000. Affordable housing continues to also be a concern in our community. There is a fully entitled piece of County owned land that is in need of infrastructure so the housing development can proceed. And lastly, we heard from supporters of MEO, the Lānaʻi adult daycare facility at Lānaʻi Kināʻole, a health care provider, and they thanked us and the County for our continued support of their programs. And that takes it to the end of my report. Thank you, guys, for coming. I hope the travel wasn't too hard on you and the boat, the ferry, was a beautiful ride. And I hope the food was good. So, thank you so much for coming. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Thank you for your hospitality. And yeah,

it was a interesting meeting from both communities. So, Members, at this time, we…just so you…I want to just say this; we have only one item on the agenda, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for the County of Maui. And as you all know, because we only have one item, people that come up and testify can speak on anything in the budget for three minutes and a…thirty minute…seconds after that to finish your testimony. We will continue our deliberations on Fiscal Year 2025 budget, beginning with presentations from Department of Liquor Control and then the Office of the Mayor. We will then take public testimony and…and proceed with questions and answers for the Department of Liquor and then the Office of the Mayor. After we've completed Department review for the day, then I would like to have some time to revisit our procedures for priority amendments to the Mayor's proposed budgets from you, Members. At this time, I'd like to invite the Director of Liquor Control, Layne Silva, to provide a presentation on the Department and introduce any personnel joining him. Members, for your information, Liquor is in Granicus 98, 9, 8. And his presentation is not on the screen yet…will be. So, as he is getting set up, I just want to recognize Layne's dad, Frank Silva, who worked…I worked with him with Mayor James Kimo Apana's Administration, and I just learned recently of his passing. So, our condolences to you and your family, Layne. Your father was quite a guy. He was good fun, too. Okay. So, at this time, take it away. You can introduce who's with you.

DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL

MR. SILVA: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Councilmembers. Right, at this time, I will introduce myself. I'm the Director of the Department of Liquor Control, Layne Silva. With me today is my Deputy, Jarrett Kahoohanohano, as well as our Administrative Assistant, too, Misty Nakoa. At this time, I'm going to turn it over to Jarrett. Jarrett will be doing the presentation right now. Thank you.

MR. KAHOOHANOHANO: All right. Let's get this started. So, our Department Divisions, Office of the Director, of course there's Director, Deputy Director, also Private Secretary and the Administrative Assistant II. Support Services Division has an LCO IV, which is the Division Head, an Accountant I, an Account Clerk III, Auditor II, and a Secretary to the Board and Commissions II. Licensing and Permits Division, as of right now, we have our Division Head, which is an LCO IV, LCO II and a Senior Clerk. The Enforcement Division also has a Division Head, LCO IV, with LCO III, LCO II, LCO I, and LCO Trainee positions. The Division Operations, Office of the Director serves as the administrative head of the department, provides the necessary staff and administrative services to the Liquor Commission and Liquor Control Adjudication Boards to carry out their functions, investigates applications for permits and licensing, complaints regards…regarding violations of State liquor laws and rules established by the Liquor Commission, and we also issue administrative complaints and perform other duties as required by law. Sports Services Division provide the necessary

staff to service the Department, Liquor Commission, and the Liquor Control Adjudication Board to carry out their functions and responsibilities, provide the Commission and Board secretaries…secretarial support, license, renewal, financial services, audit services, budgetary control, general inquiry and routing services, clerical services, and face-to-face service to the public. Our Licensing and Permits Division, they perform investigations tasks relative to the issuance and transfer of liquor licenses and permits, provide the informational, educational and certification training programs related to such licenses and permits. Our Enforcement Division perform enforcement of the Rules of the Liquor Commission and laws governing the manufacture, importation, and the sale of intoxicating liquor within the County of Maui. They also maintain surveillance of liquor…of the liquor industry by conducting inspections and investigations of licensed premises to ensure compliance with the Rules of the Liquor Commission and Hawaii Revised Statutes, to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Right now, with our position vacancies, we have 4 out of 25 positions that are vacant. Those four positions is the Liquor Control Officer IV, which we…we regain funding in Fiscal Year '23. Liquor Control Officer III, we are reallocating it to a training position, so we can post it and bring in new employees. Liquor Control Officer I, also the same; we're bringing it down to a Liquor Officer Trainee, so we can post and bring in new employees. And then, we also have a Liquor Control Officer Trainee, which was previously an LCO III. On the August 8th wildfires, a total of 36 licensed premises were destroyed or rendered inoperable due to the August 8, 2023, wildfires. In order to alleviate hardships faced by the licensees that had been affected by the August 8 wildfires, the Department developed a relocation liquor license application process. This process would allow licensees to begin processing relocation liquor license applications and granting temporary liquor license to existing licensees who were in good standing with the Department at the time of the wildfires and whose licensed premises were either destroyed or rendered inoperable as a result of the wildfires. The temporary liquor license would allow the licensee to resume operations expeditiously and avoid financial hardship while going through the application process for a new liquor license. Just a side note, we had one of our first relocation licenses go through…applicants go through today, so they are well on their way. The Department does not manage grants. However, the Department supplements funds from its Liquor Education Fund to assist agencies that have already received grant approval and will be fully funded by the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, Grants Management Division. The agencies have already gone through the application for grant and vetting process through the DHHC, which manages and operates the grants. The objective…objective is to educate youth and prevent underage drinking in the County of Maui. Revolving Funds: Department…the Department, through its Liquor Control Program, administers the Liquor Education Revolving Fund. The Liquor Education Revolving Fund is pursuant to Chapter 281-16 and 281-17(3) of the Hawaii Revised Statues. Revenue deposited into the fund is derived from the assessment of fines imposed on the liquor licenses by the Liquor

Commission or Liquor Control Adjudication Board. The Department does not have equivalent personnel funding through the Revolving Fund. The estimated balance, as of June 30, 2024, was $272,480.00. Thank you. That's our presentation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're done?

MR. KAHOOHANOHANO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you very much. So, Members, we'll ask questions later. I'm going to switch out and ask the Mayor's Office to come and do your presentation. Okay. Thank you. So, as they're coming down, Members, we did ask the Mayor if he wanted to join us, but he's unavailable. So, we have Dr. Caires and his team here, which will do the presentation. Do we have enough chairs for them? I think so. Okay. I guess you have a . . .*(pause)*. . . Okay, Members, as they're getting ready, so the Office of the Mayor initial letter and responses are number 17 in Granicus, and Department questions is number 56 in Granicus. And ready to go? Go ahead. You can introduce who's with you.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MR. CAIRES: Check. Check. Okay. Okay, we'll get started. Mahalo and aloha ʻauinalā, aloha mai kākou to all of you, to you Budget Chair and the rest of the members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. Mahalo for welcoming us here today. I just wanted to extend aloha and mahalo on behalf of the Mayor to all of the members of the public out there as well and those who are at a distance listening in. ʻO Leo Caires, koʻu inoa. I serve on Mayor Bissen's Chief of Staff. I have alongside of me the following members of our team. I have Director of Public Affairs, Mahina Martin. We have Budget Director, Lesley Milner, introduced earlier. We have of the Office of Economic Development, Luana Mahi. We have Mayor Bissen's Senior Executive Assistant, Cynthia Lallo. We also have joining us Community Development Block Grant Program Director, Patience Kahula. And we also have some staff standing by. We just wanted to extend our appreciation for the opportunity to be here today to present and discuss Office of the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget. We also want to say mahalo for the Committee's questions for clarification that have come to our office and allowing us the opportunity to address them for all of you and are forthcoming. We welcome your comments and clarifying questions and if we, as a staff, find that we may need to…further time to conduct added research, we will kindly request that the question be placed in writing for us, and we will be glad to follow up and get a timely answer back to the Committee. On…again, on behalf of our office, I want to mahalo all of you for your work and leadership along the way. Our entire community and our staff have been through a lot from the fires, and the work continues. I'm so very proud of the commitment and the dedication from our staff as I continue to reflect back and forwards on this experience in the

days ahead. Just as a quick walk-through today for how our presentation will flow, which has also been emailed I believe to all of you on the Committee. I'll begin our presentation to talk about our office, our budget, and then I'm going to pass it along to Mahina to speak on Public Affairs and the Department request for Public Information Officers. Mahina will be followed then by Patience Kahula, who will go over Community Development Block Grant, and then after Patience will be Luana Mahi. And at the conclusion of our presentations, we'll stop and be ready for your comments and questions. So, we can go ahead and get started on our presentation. You can click them.

MR KRUEGER: There we go.

MR. CAIRES: Okay. So, in our Mayor's Office, these are the programs and services that we provide, covering Budget, Communications, Government Affairs, Public Affairs. We have Executive Assistance and other Administrative Supporting staff members. Under the Office of the Mayor, again, we have CDBG, Community Development Block Grant, and we also have Office of Economic Development. We can go ahead in the next slide, please. Okay. I just wanted to provide an opportunity for the public and the Committee to understand our working structure of our senior leadership reflective to support Mayor Bissen and wanted to highlight our structure for you today. Okay. You can go ahead, next slide. Yeah, it's okay. On this slide here is our 2025 Fiscal Year proposed budget, and this slide aims to really just provide a general overview and some notable points that I'll share with you today. The fiscal year proposed budget is 30.9 million. This represents a decrease of 11.6 million. Through operations, it has decreased by 670,000. In terms of the equipment, that has decreased by 3.8 million. I wanted to point out a couple of points here on this year's budget. What has occurred is the East Maui Water Authority established…has been established as a separate department, seeking to restore $20 million to the Emergency Fund. We're moving some funds in the amount of 6 million in grants from the Administrative Program to OED. The list goes on. We wanted to talk about…we do have an additional one expansion position and just wanted to point out on the last bullet here, the important note, *Akakū* budgeted amount in…in the budget has decreased to align with the prior year's actual expense. On the bottom right corner, in the yellow box for your view this year, we just wanted to highlight as a percentage across operations, a reduction in…at 2 percent in operations, a…we're staying in the 1 percent mark on salaries and, as far as equipment, a reduction of minus 74 percent. Overall, for the Department, the average reduction is minus 27 percent. Next slide, please. Okay. In this slide, we just wanted to highlight for you the budget spread across the programs and, you know, won't spend too much on it, but just in the right column for fiscal year, 5.2 for Administrative Program…Administration Program, excuse me, 632,000, for our Budget Program, our CDBG Program, 1.8, OED, 18.2, and on our Open Space, 3.8. Lastly, at the bottom of the slide here, I wanted to point out the $20 million to restore the Emergency Fund. Next slide, please. Oh wow, that one jumps up. Yeah. This

slide is going to take us on a different topic here briefly. This is regarding our Johnson Controls contract. I have been assigned by Mayor with my team to oversee the Johnson Controls contract. There's a couple of phases in this contract to identify savings over the course of 20 years. Some of the savings have already been realized. Approximately $300,000 of savings have been realized. There are some successful rebates that have been awarded from this project. As I oversee this contract, my…you know, I have a couple of priorities on them. I mean, I want to make sure that, as a County…I want to ensure that we save. I want to make sure that communications is sound in our outreach and engagement with the community, and I want to make sure that we can maximize and leverage the savings opportunity through this contract. In conclusion, I just want to mahalo all of you for your attention. And I want to, now, just go ahead and hand this over to Mahina, who will carry the presentation forward. Mahalo.

MS. MARTIN: Aloha. Thank you, Chair and community members, Councilmembers. I'm going to talk a little bit about the addition of Public Affairs through a heightened attention from the Office of the Mayor. In 2023, my position was Communications and Public Affairs. In light of all of the degree of the unprecedented conditions that we faced last year with the disaster and the current demands of our public, it was…appeared necessary to give our community as much attention as we can with the work of Public Affairs, which really focuses on community engagement and strengthening our disaster recovery efforts. It allows us to broaden and deepen our work without disregarding the non-disaster-impacted communities of Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, and the remaining areas of Maui. It also allowed for Communications to continue to have the attention it, too, needed. So, Communications has not changed. The focus has always been and continues to be accurate, responsive, and relevant information, as particularly in this day and age of…I…I don't know how to put it, but the…the intense hunger of our community and the different technology and methods that information is disseminated, I think we owe that to our public. They expect it, so our capability should match up to that. So, they continue to focus on media, producing public information materials, and dealing with the different County websites. And that role has gone on, as we had previously announced in February, too, the new Director of Communications, Laks Abraham. But I want to talk a little bit about Public Affairs because it's a little bit different, and folks don't really understand typically the difference with it. What Public Affairs does with its focus is it allows us to really work in a proactive way with our communities, rather than waiting or reacting. It provides an avenue that gives attention to emerging issues that need that attention, that guidance, that support, that connects government to the community. So, it values that engagement at a higher level. Together, we continue to serve 17 departments today, 21 in the upcoming fiscal year with the additional new departments, still focused on three islands and, of course, many, many residents through the different methods of communicating to them, whether it be through public engagement, community engagement, or through traditional communications

tactics and the work that we do. In Public Affairs, you will see us do a lot of the things we've always done. It's just that we want to be able to continue that and do it in a quality way and a way that is proactive. So, you've seen this in action through the Lāhainā Disaster Community Meetings that we've been holding every Wednesday in Lāhainā. We did Kula as well. So, we're doing two a week. We were able to handle a six-month tribute and memorial specific for the disaster, and it's an event like the Alelele Rockfall last year that required us to reach out to the community of Hāna, Kīpahulu and Kaupō. It put a lot of attention into making sure that we were present and working with the community. And, of course, there's our Administration's initiative called the Holomua Kākou. You see here the photo of our Hāna Community meeting where had pretty close to about a hundred folks that came out for that. I'm talking about Holomua Kākou because it's a new initiative. You know, it…folks don't really see the work that goes behind it unless you're part of that rural community. But it's intended to give more access to those communities that either have to catch a plane, a ferry boat, or drive, you know, miles…15 plus miles to come to County Government. And it puts our people there in their communities. So, it's Mayor Bissen's commitment to be present in East Maui, Molokaʻi, and Lānaʻi in a very focused and initiative manner. So, for two days, the Office of the Mayor's staff operate a drop-in center. It's quite busy. We were really pleasantly surprised that in Lānaʻi, Hāna, and Molokaʻi, it was a constant flow of folks coming in. It could be everything from just a water question, an infrastructure, a pothole, or something pretty significant, or they really wanted understanding about a particular policy that the County had or the Administration had. So, that was helpful. For two days we ran it. We also hosted right in the middle of the two days an evening community meeting. And it was an open forum. So, in each of those meetings for Hāna, that we held in Hāna, Lānaʻi, and Molokaʻi, the attendance was pretty high. Very good turnout. And it was a chance for everyone to ask questions. We stayed for a couple hours at a time. Some of those, we had to shoo them and make them go home, so I'd like to say it was a pretty successful engagement that we held. And since we were in those areas and our employees who work in those rural areas are also part of the community, it's important that we reach out to them as well. So, we spent time going to the different base yards, offices, just making sure that Mayor Bissen and their department head and/or director if they were available together, or just one of them, were able to sit down with the employees and talk story, find out from their perspective how things are going, do they have any questions that, you know, our team could help with. You see on the bottom photo, that's a photo of the crews from the Department of Water Supply of Molokaʻi. The middle photo is one of our drop-in centers. It was pretty active. And the top is the community meeting from Lānaʻi. On the previous slide, you saw Hāna. We also spent some time visiting a few non-profit sites within the area, again learning what are the priorities of those communities, as reflected through their…their local non-profits. Next, I'm going to talk a little bit about Public Information Officers. Multiple departments have asked for additional employees, or additional staff positions for this. And, in looking at what the

Department needs were and what the current Communications staff is able to do, it really does bolster and give us a chance to make sure that there is a consistent focus on proactive information but information that's accurate, relevant, and timely, and gives the public what they want. Right now, it's…it's in a queue and it just gets triaged and with the disaster also being a priority, it's been very challenging. It gives the Department a chance--you know, I always say that I would never try to build a bridge because I'm not an engineer, so I would never ask an engineer to figure out community engagement or public information. It's just not what everyone does best. So, if you have particular departments, especially the heavy external-facing operations, with divisions, with operations focused on that, they will do better and the public will get their information cleaner. So, in Fiscal Year '25, with 21 departments, you know, it allows us to make sure that there's a better and a broader internal coordination going on. And, at the end of the day, it's going to allow our public to make informed decisions, knowing what is going on with all our different departments and their operations that impact their day-to-day lives or their lifestyle. When we think about public information officers, or PIOs as we sometimes call them, we look around the State of Hawaiʻi to see what the other counties are doing. And here you see the numbers for…there…there's…they're distinguished by whether they are part of a staff, the Mayor's Communications Office, and you'll see that in the far right column, and then the Department PIOs. And generally, when you see two, they are almost always going to be Police or Fire or some version of law enforcement because those are rapidly changing incidents that happened, especially with public safety. With the County of Maui, you know, with 17 going to 21 departments, it'll be served currently by five communications staff, but at the other counties as are…as active as ours. For Kauaʻi, of course, they have three in the Mayor's Office, one for County of Kauaʻi and four in City and County of Honolulu, which seems less than Maui, but is boosted by the Department PIOs. So, layered on top of that are the needs of the disaster response and recovery that are a large percentage of our work, and not just based on meeting the needs of the survivors of Kula and Lāhainā, but all the outside agencies, media, and just our community in general, just hungry and interested in information and wanting to help all survivors and knowing what the recovery process is going to be or the response. So, that's why we have some departments, but not all, requesting for Public Information Officers. It gives them that chance to be more proactive and allow for them to do a good job of helping our community understand what is going on and…and what parts of their services or programs they should be aware of that's changing or adjusting. I'm going to turn this over to Patience to move on to Community Development Block Grant. And I…Patience, I don't think the clicker works. So, just let me know and I'll move the slide.

MS. KAHULA: Aloha, everyone. Konnichiwa. Mahalo, BFED Chair and Committee Members. I am Patience Kahula, presenting on behalf of the Community Development Block Grant Program. We…we're a small office. It's just three of us. It's myself and two CDBG specialists for now. And I'm going to provide a

brief background about CDBG, or the Community Development Block Grant. Okay. So, CDBG was created by the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. And in…in real brief summary, the act basically created CDBG and allows grantees now and…and communities to make their own decisions as far as community development projects, providing of course that it meets national objectives, which I'll get to in a few slides. CDBG funds are granted to the County of Maui directly from the Federal Government. And also, CDBG funds, excuse me, are allocated annually by the…by HUD on a formula basis that is also established by HUD. And the formula speaks to and is calculated based on a county's population, poverty, and housing overcrowding statistics. The primary objectives of CDBG is the development of viable urban communities by providing sustainable living environments, decent housing and expanding economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low-to-moderate income. I'm sorry, next slide. Oh, there. Okay. Yeah. Thank you. CDBG Program rules and regulations state that in order to be eligible for CDBG funding, the projects must meet at least one national objective and the objectives are there. And it's primarily to benefit low- and moderate-income persons or families, aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight, or meet an urgent need. So, as I mentioned earlier, we…CDBG is…and the County of Maui receives an annual allocation. And this is for Fiscal Year 2025. And in CDBG, we refer to it a year back as Program Year 2024. We have not received formal announcement of funding, I've…and we anticipate and were directed by HUD, Office of Community Planning and Development, to anticipate an allocation that is similar to last year's, so at about $1.8 million with about 1.4 or almost 1.5 awarded to projects. I'm sorry, next slide. Oh. So, for Fiscal Year 2025, we have proposed projects that were actually submitted, or transmitted, excuse me, to Council in the resolution and it is still pending the support and…and approval of the Maui County Council. There are two projects that were selected and approved by Mayor Bissen, the first being for support to the Senior Affordable Rental Housing Units. And here, we are proposing to fund $100,000. And this is going to be considered an annual obligation, meaning that it would continue likely in the…in the future years to support the operations of the units acquired for income-eligible kupuna displaced by the Maui wildfires. The second project and activity is for the acquisition of a…of real property for a Resiliency Center that would provide, or would be dedicated to…I cannot see that slide; I'm so sorry…dedicated to serving the survivors of the Maui wildfire. So, the center is going to create space for mental health counseling, healing activities, and wraparound services for Maui wildfire survivors. And that we're pinning at about 1.3, almost $1.4 million. And that's the end of my presentation. Sorry. Handing off to Luana Mahi of OED.

MS. MAHI: Aloha, everyone. So, starting off with, let's see…is that the right--there we go. It's coming. It's a little slow. Here we go. Starting off with our Workforce Development Program, which we have been involved with, and we have the Federal program agents that work in my office. The WIOA Program is designed

to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market. It's also designed to match employers with skilled workers needed in a thriving economy. I need to learn to press this a little earlier. It comes from our Federal Government, down to our State agencies, workforce development boards, our local workforce development areas, and American Job Center and service providers that works out of our Kahului Service Center office. Our project partners is Goodwill Industries of Hawaiʻi, who handles our WIOA Adult Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs; McKinley's Community School for Adults for adult education; and Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Workforce Development Division, partners Wagner Peyser. Department of Human Services and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation also is included as our partners. Excuse me. We have other workforce system partners with…providing services to veterans. The University of Hawaiʻi also does career and technical programs; MEO with their Community Service Block Grant Employment and Training Programs; Alu Like Native American Programs; Hawaiʻi Job Corps with our Maui Corps Center; our Unemployment Division; and Department of Human Services Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF. The Community Workforce Development Board with the County of Maui is committed to continuing developing and supporting of the workforce development system that values business engagement and increasing our Maui County partnerships. Our ultimate goal is to meet the needs of job seekers, employers, and local partners. And as a tri-isle County, a high priority is to prioritize our services to the vulnerable populations with barriers to employment as described under WIOA, including our veterans, individuals with limited language proficiency, unemployed workers, at-risk youth, individuals with disability, homeless individuals, and our Native Hawaiians. Our American Job Center, as I mentioned located at the Kahului Service Center provides a variety of services, a one-stop shop. Those looking for employment training, they get help with their resumes. Our project partners, American Job Center and Goodwill Industries, is located in this space as well as two of our team members. We recently held a job fair on April 5th…4th in Lāhainā. It was a Career Fair and Pop-Up Mākeke. They had a lot of participants, both employers and those looking for jobs, which was quite successful previously. They had held a Maritime Career Expo at the University of Hawaiʻi Maui campus, and we also have an ongoing virtual job fair. We have an upcoming career fair hiring event April 19th at Maui High School. And also, within the County of Maui, I know the Department of Personnel has changed some of the minimum requirements to include high school graduates. So, as you know, we're a little short-handed, so we need to hire everybody we can. I included a success story. I'm not going to read it. You guys can read it at a later time. But we have had many. Our Goodwill partners have been really great in sharing a lot of these success stories with us. Our Chief of Staff, Leo Caires, mentioned our Johnson Controls; I have that there. American Microgrid…we are still working on a couple of different projects for them to finish in Phase III. OATI, they continue to do work for us for our charging stations, one right out front of our County building here. Eddie Tam Memorial was completed, Kīhei Aquatic

Center, and they also just recently put up a charging station at the Kualapuʻu Rec Center, which was an actual request because there are several electric cars there and one charging station that's managed by an outside entity, and it was not working. So, we were grateful to them to jump in and do that for us. Of course, our Environmental and Sustainability grants are listed there. We also were awarded the REPI grant through the Department of Defense. We will be starting on that program July 1st. We also recently applied for a grant through EPA for CPRG, working on biochar, compost and containers and hoping to continue to meet the Mayor's goal of planting a million trees. We continue to work on the CARP plan, our Mayor Speaker Series, our contract with Stantec. We also have the Mayor's Millennium Fellowship, which is in partnership with UH Maui College. And they are actually in Lāhainā today. One of the things that we have instituted this fiscal year with Fiscal Year '24 funds is Resiliency Hubs that we will be standing up in Lāhainā, Hāna, and Molokaʻi. And those would be rapid deployment resilience hubs, more for emergency efforts only. Also working on Green Job and Manufacturing, Hawaiian Language and Culture Integration Initiative with our addition of a new staff member, who is our indigenous innovation specialist. And Resilient Housing, this…there was a $100,000 item for this. We didn't have anybody apply for that grant, but we are going to be using it to help pay for those entities that will be standing up our resilient hubs. So, in Kahului, as I mentioned, our Business Resource Center, besides the things that I mentioned, as far as job seekers and employers, they also assist with DCCA portal to help businesses register, apply for a GE Tax license. They also work with small business support groups, such as Maui Business Brainstormers. They have financial classes and workshops. So, here's pictures from our recent one with the Ululani Shave Ice owners and Kihei Café. Part of the Maui Business Brainstormers and some of the other organizations that we have that utilize the conference room there at the Kahului Service Center really gives them an opportunity to gather, share the space, share experiences, explore new opportunities. They've been much busier recently, after our August wildfires. On Molokaʻi we have the Kūhaʻo Business Center. Not only does our crew there manage our Molokaʻi grants, but they also do job training, they help with educational program, client engagement, and they also held 20 mini grant workshops. These were direct to each grantee. They also started a collaboration with Hui Malama Advisors, aimed at enhancing financial literacy amongst Native Hawaiian entrepreneurs. So, in our Grants Management Program, in the budget item that was mentioned earlier about 18 million, this is a combination of OED and OIS grants. In Fiscal Year '24, we received 209 grant applications, 26 of them was transferred to the Department of Agriculture, 30 was for our OIS Grants, 13 were denied, 2 applicants withdrew, 80 total grants were managed from the previous…multiple previous years prior to '24. And right now, they're currently…they currently work on 242 active grants. We have seven people. We also launched a grants management software system this past fiscal…March of last year, so it's been going for about one year. We have conducted 12 one-on-one grant workshop classes, both on Maui and Molokaʻi, and we also have a training

video on our website and are currently working on another video for the reimbursement, invoicing, and reporting that's necessary to be compliant. We are also taking Fiscal Year '24 grant applications to use up the rest of Fiscal Year '24 funds, as well as accepting Fiscal Year '25 grant applications. And the deadline for both is the end of this month, April 30th. These are some of the categories for grants management that is in our office. Don't want to go through all of them, but there are quite a bit. And these are for grants that were actually applied for, executed, and awarded. Maui County Film Office, our previous Film Commissioner retired in December, so I proposed to our Mayor and Chief of Staff that our new commissioner would be a subcontractor. And so, with an agreement with Maui Economic Development Board, since they also create the CEDS reports that covers creative industries, they have taken that on for us through a grant that's an expansion of their CEDS grant. And they are now taking care of the financial or fiscal aspect of our Maui County film office and so they officially started, well Brian Kohne was officially hired April 1st. And I did mention that we can have them come back at another time to do a presentation, as well as a presentation after budget season for our Maui Economic Recovery Commission. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done?

MS. MAHI: Yes.

MR. CAIRES: Yes, Chair. That concludes our presentation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. CAIRES: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, do we have any testifiers? We do. Okay. So, what we're going to do now, Director, we're going to…after I take testimony and then I'll close that down. But I'll take Liquor first because I imagine Liquor might have less questions than you, and then I'll take you after. Okay. So, all right. So, maybe you can change out as I'm reading my testimony. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the lobby, join the online meeting via Teams link, or call in to the 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 eComment link at mauicounty.us\agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise your hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone's star 5 to raise and lower your hand and start 6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you have logged in under

the…or the last four digits of your phone number when it's your time to testify. At this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item and you have thirty seconds…thirty seconds to complete beyond that. Thank you very much for your testimony and once again, we…if you're…if you're done testimony, if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us\agendas. We will do our best to take each member…each person up in an orderly fashion. We will now call testifiers wishing to testify. Is there anybody?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the first individual signed up to testify is Charen Kepler, to be followed by Tasanee Cogliandro.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Kepler.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. KEPLER: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers. Yes, my name is Charen Kepler, and I'm here on behalf of the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Program. I'm the Executive Director for that Program. I would like to share with you the profound impact our program has had on our community and request your support for its inclusion in the Mayor's Budget under the Office of Economic Development. Ka Ipu Kukui is a cornerstone for leadership development in Maui County, shaping individuals who not only excel in their fields but are deeply committed to the well-being of our land and our people. The curriculum is meticulously designed to nurture a sense of kuleana, ensuring our fellows, as leaders, are equipped to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. Perhaps nothing speaks louder to the value of Ka Ipu Kukui than the selflessness and the heroism displayed by our fellows during the tragic fires of August 8th. As flames threatened our lands and our loved ones, Ka Ipu Kukui alumni were among the first to spring into action. Ka Ipu Kukui alumni coordinated rescue and emergency response efforts, provided shelter and necessities to those displaced, and offered support to those who lost everything. Their actions were a beacon of hope in our darkest times, embodying the leadership and community spirit that Ka Ipu Kukui instills in each of its participants, many of which are still on the front lines and helping with recovery efforts. But our commitment is not just to respond to a crisis, but our responsibility is to Maui County, recognizing the importance of sustained leadership and community engagement. We have developed an alumni program to continue the development and growth of our fellows. This program ensures that our leaders keep evolving and contributing to Maui County in significant ways. Moreover, we are addressing a critical need in our community, the retention of our talented youth. We have initiated a Career…Youth Career Exploration Program designed to anchor our keiki to Maui County by showing them a path to thrive and survive here. This program is not just about career

guidance; it's about fostering a deep-seated connection to our land and our culture. Our fellows will serve as mentors to these youths, providing the relationships and connections that are crucial for feeling rooted to this place. Through this mentorship, we aim to create a sustainable cycle of leadership and community engagement that ensures our youth not only want to stay in Maui County, but are also prepared to lead it in its future. Therefore, I respectfully request the Maui County Council's support in securing funding for Ka Ipu Kukui within the Mayor's budget. This funding is an investment in our collective future, ensuring that we have well-prepared leaders who are not only ready to address the immediate challenges, but are also committed to nurturing the next generation. Investing in Ka Ipu Kukui means investing in the heart and soul of Maui County. It means building a future where our keiki can not only imagine a prosperous life here, but can actually achieve it. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of leadership, mentorship, and community service . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . cultivated by Ka Ipu Kukui continues to enrich our island and our generations to come. Mahalo for your time and consideration. I am now open for questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Kepler. Anybody have questions for her? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Tasanee Cogliandro.

MS. COGLIANDRO: Aloha all. My name is Tasanee Cogliandro. I am a high school student in the 11th grade from Kīhei. I am providing testimony in support of Ka Ipu Kukui's proposed funding in the FY '25 Mayor's budget under the Office of Economic Development. I'm here on my own time to talk about my experience with the Youth Program. As an alumni of the Stay Maui Nui Youth Program, an expansion program of Ka Ipu Kukui aimed at career exploration for Maui County high schoolers, I can personally say that this program impacted me significantly. The Stay Maui Nui Program was an invaluable experience providing insight to current opportunities here on Maui. The careers were explored, including…included government, health care, environmental conservation, environmental sustainability, construction, media production, marine biology, social services, and agriculture. We also visited with several organizations on island, including UH Maui College, the American Job Center, the J. Walter Cameron Center, Maui Digital Bus, and Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. For me, as I was interested in governance, Stay Maui Nui connected me with mentors in that capacity. My generation is about to enter the workforce and the community as vote…as voters and contributors. Knowing this, it was inspiring to hear and understand current issues and their future solutions with community leaders and furthermore, to connect that with real ways that we, the youth, could get involved now and in the future. All the…all of this opportunity was provided to us by Ka Ipu Kukui Stay Maui Nui program. Thank you for your time. I'm open for questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much for being here. And next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there is currently no one else who has signed up to testify. I can do a last call. If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know, or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call. Three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, at this time then, do I have Layne Silva? Do you want to come up here for questions? Sorry about that. So, Liquor Department, you can situate yourselves, and then the Members will ask you questions.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, would you like to close testimony at this time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes. Please. At this time then, I would like to close public testimony with your permission, Members. And we can always receive written testimony. Thank you. Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I want to start off with Member Uʻu-Hodgins, go to Member Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, for round…for the first round of three minutes and then the second round of two, and if necessary, we'll do another round. All right. Thank you, Director. Member Uʻu-Hodgins.

DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for being with us today. I only had two questions on our…on the things that we submitted to you folks, and I saw that you guys had answered them, so thank you very much, and I have no further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, very good. Okay. Next, we have Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I did speak with Mr. Silva during the Mayor's State of the County address about the WASSP Committee receiving the naloxone ordinance from…from the other counties. And I was just wondering, does he…or does the Department require any fees or funding to…to go ahead and administer this program?

MR. SILVA: Yes, thank you for the question. As of this time, I'm…I received your correspondence as well, and I'm still researching how we…we may be able to

participate with that program. My understanding is the majority of the funding and supplies would be provided by the Department of Health, the State Department of Health through their program that they're already operating. But yes, I…I do…I'm in the process of researching your request for a response and I…I…I expect to have a response to bring to Committee at…at that time.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great. Thank you for that update, Mr. Silva. That's all I have right now, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Just a couple of real quick, easy questions. How do you know when a violation occurs? Like, if it's underage drinking, somebody serving, or people are opening and selling liquor before or after the time, and stuff like that?

MR. SILVA: Ultimately that is one of the main responsibilities of our Enforcement Division. But there are numerous ways that the Department can be made aware of violations that are taking place, either on view, when we're actually there to see it happening and through…because it's a quasi-judicial process through our Adjudication Board and it's based on the preponderance of evidence. So, we can also follow up and investigate reported violations that come to the Department from outside.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, that means…oh, you actually…you actually have to see stuff, or somebody has to see it happening and report it to you folks, or do you folks actually have to see it?

MR. SILVA: It can be reported from other than inside the Department as well, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, you actually have people that go out to the bars and places like that and actually hang out and do stuff like that?

MR. SILVA: Well, you know, to be honest with you, we get complaints and reports through various and numerous sources, not just people that are at the bar. It could be through police source investigations as well, possibly through a…a DUI arrest or something along those lines as well. So, there…there are numerous sources.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And then the other one was, you know, you had mentioned about how you are taking some of the LCO IIIs and a couple of IIs and Is and putting them into the LCO as a trainee. So, does that mean that those positions are going to be training positions and then from the training position they become, what, LCO IVs?

MR. SILVA: Somewhat, yes. What it is, is when the higher ranking positions become vacant, our first attempt is to promote from within --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MR. SILVA: -- or advance from within. So, those higher ranking position numbers would then revert down to either a lower level of a LCO vacant position or a trainee, which also…in today's climate, it allows a wider range of applicant to become qualified and able to apply for the job.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, so you actually end up…people from within get promoted. Do you have…oh, you only have 4…4 vacancies out of 25. That's pretty good. It means people must love working for the Liquor Department, if you only have four vacancies.

MR. SILVA: I…I like to think so, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I want to…I would like to think that, too. Either that or you're a good boss.

MR. SILVA: I like to think that, too.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Let's all think like that, then.

MR. SILVA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay? I think…and I think I only had…oh. So, your estimated balances of June 2024 . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . okay, next round. I got that. It's going to be easy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But I like talk to you again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, next we have Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi. Hi, Mr. Silva. Sorry about your Dad. Where do we get most of our monies from? Would it be the hotels and restaurants in the resort areas or just a mixed bag?

MR. SILVA: First of all, thank you for that, Chair Lee, about my dad. But I'd like to

answer that question. You know, it…it…it varies. And recently after going through the pandemic with COVID, at that time it seemed like our retail sector was where the bulk of the money was coming from. But, you know, it…it depends on the climate, you know, now…now that we're kind of getting past the pandemic situation, now we're faced with the challenges of the wildfire. It…it does seem like it's kind of balancing out a little bit, but, for the most part, it usually seems like the retail sector is where the…the bulk comes from.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, thank you. I have no more questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair, before my time starts, can I say my disclaimer?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, you may.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It applies to everybody.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're on a three-minute timer, so if I cut you off, I don't mean to be rude. I just have a plethora of questions, and I just want to get every last one in. Okay, you can start my clock. My first question is, how many of the 36 licensed premises destroyed in good standing or rendered inoperable have begun the temporary or relocation liquor license application, and how many has been granted?

MR. SILVA: I believe…well, they're in various stages. I have communicated with quite a few. I…I don't…I can't put an actual count on it. I believe there are three that have actually taken up paperwork and are in the process. And we have, as of Wednesday, I believe, issued our first relocation liquor license.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, being that there's 36 less…or maybe now 35 less premises licensed, do you see the need to maintain the LCO levels or is that part of the reason why you're dropping down to trainee, so you can bulk up by the time everybody is able to rebuild?

MR. SILVA: Honestly, I don't know that the…the losses came from a pretty isolated area. So, as far as the responsibilities of the Enforcement Division, they…they haven't changed a great deal. The reason for the recycling, I guess, for a better way to refer to the positions, is to allow for entry-level people to be able to come into the Department and gain their experience that way and training that way.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then I was wondering, like, you answered in the questions, which was awesome…I love when the questions are answered

before you come. How do the monies get returned to the licensees? Do you just divide whatever is carried over by all the licensees and cut a check? And then, being that, you know, there's 36 lost licensees, do you expect a drop in revenue? And then, so that Carryover would…or there might not be Carryover?

MR. SILVA: Well typically…and I do expect there to be Carryover. I guess the simplest way to answer that question is just to real briefly give you an overview of the formula that is used. Every year, the liquor license…all liquor licenses in Maui County expire on June 30th of every year. Every liquor license is expected to renew beginning April 1st, so we're in our renewal process right now. Every license has a basic fee that they're assessed. So, we combine the basic fee that we collect from all renewed license, combined with the Carryover/Savings, whatever it was from the prior fiscal year. And using those two totals is how we dictate what the percentage fee is going to be that is assessed back to the licensee. So, the monies aren't physically returned. They see the return in the percentage of the following year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, possibly . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . a new licensee could benefit from last year's licensees?

MR. SILVA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, wow. Poor thing those 36 guys, then.

MR. SILVA: They…they going to do pretty good, too.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. All right. That's probably…that was…Mr. Silva was so efficient that that's probably all my questions, and my condolences about your father as well.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Johnson, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'd like to echo the sentiments; I'm sorry for your loss. So, my questions are in…are straight out of the book. And I'll give you the page number. We have page 504 in the Program Budget. So, why does the Department anticipate $151,500 or 149.1 percent increase in services in FY 2025? What services is the Department seeking? Is it software?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, maybe she --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. So, part of that is a line item for professional services for $90,000 for investigative services for investigations ordered by the Liquor Commission involving Liquor Department Staff. It was felt that it was not appropriate to have the staff investigate themselves. So, budget has been included for outside services to ensure an un-biased investigation.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That…that's the 90,000 I see on --

MS. MILNER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- on page 505. Okay. Thank you for that. And the…and the rest of that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: The remainder is for the replacement of antiquated reporting and --

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

MS. MILNER: -- licensing database systems.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Got it.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for that. Thanks for that clarification. So, the next one is in regards to your goals and that is on the page right before that. Please explain the declines in success measurements for goals 2.1, 3.1, and 3.2. Why is the Department estimating to conduct less certification, education, licensing, and permitting in FY 2025?

MR. SILVA: Okay. To answer the…that question, the…the Department has moved to a…a digital process, where the certification exam as well as the education source is being given virtually. So, the Department in and of itself, we are no longer giving educational sessions that we used to do, when we were doing the certification exam in-person. That was implemented during the…the pandemic.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. SILVA: So…and…and it's kind of misleading because technically, if you do go online, you register to take the certification exam, you receive a…a study guide, basically, which we would consider the current version of our education course, or classes. But it…it kind of skews the numbers because if we say every exam given gets a class, then we're going to be looking at something like 3,000 classes

and it…it just didn't read right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. SILVA: So, we're just giving you a…a more accurate number as to what we're physically doing in the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, the lessons of COVID . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . taught you that we could do it online, and it's ended up kind of working out better?

MR. SILVA: I…I believe we've evolved.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, interesting. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Liquor Control. My condolences to you and your ʻOhana, Director Layne. Mahalo for that last comment about evolving. I love evolving. It's the best. I just have two questions and e kala mai if you've already been responded to these. I've been juggling a couple things here. So, one, I know you're really excited about the software to be able to digitize everything. Has that been implemented yet, or you're waiting on purchasing it first?

MR. SILVA: Yes, thank you for your condolences and thank you for the question. We are still in the process of trying to purchase the collective data that we did discuss last time we were here. That…that is still one of the things that's on the front burner, as close to the front burner as we can have it considering everything else. You know, we…we kind of got a monkey wrench thrown into the works after August 8th, but we are still on track, I believe.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And then, is there an update on your folks' Admin Rules. Is that updated?

MR. SILVA: That…also, I…I…I have to say it has kind of been overlooked. I…I'm hoping, and that is one of my goals and it's been expressed to me by our Commission Chair that that is something that we do need to accomplish this year before he terms out.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Mahalo for those two updates. Those are my only questions. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for Director Silva…and first, I want to thank you and your entire Department for Kalama Village, how it calmed down. We had extensive discussions about it, and the complaints have been much less. And I think that the general oversight has been very thorough, so thank you…success story. So, I'm curious, when a restaurant…when somebody buys a restaurant, like a pizza place, and then they apply for a liquor license, they…they basically are starting all fresh, they get a new liquor license for that establishment. Is there any ballpark time that it normally takes? Or I guess, what are some of the challenges to get a liquor license for a pizza place?

MR. SILVA: I would say, best case scenario is four months because of the hearing processes, to go through the process and be approved by the Liquor Commission. Although some of the…the roadblocks, which we are working closely with Public Works and some of the other departments that…that we interact with as far as finding creative ways to expedite clearances, a lot of times the clearances are…are what does take the longest. And of course, it…it is not a simple process by any means. So…and I believe it is that way by design. I personally believe that liquor license is not for everyone. So, I…part of the challenge of obtaining it is…kind of also measures the type of business that is…we're going to expect to be what, when they open. But I would say best-case scenario is about four months.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. What are some of the…the other departments, the term used, their conditions, like for Public Works, what would a condition be?

MR. SILVA: Well and granted everybody is swamped and…and that's not a new story. But part of our requirements in order to receive, say, a liquor license is a miscellaneous inspection, a…a certificate of occupancy if they don't have one, fire clearance, wastewater clearance; so, they go through all the departments.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Real basic stuff that they have a legally operating facility before you let them start serving liquor. So…

MR. SILVA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. No. Thank you. Your…you answered our questions very thoroughly, and I don't have any other questions and just thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. So, Members, the Liquor Department is in, just for your information, under Bill 60, is page 12, which is pretty basic. Appendix A, part 2, Special Revenue Revolving Funds, Liquor Education, which is going to be my question, is on page 44. Appendix B, Rates and Fees, is in pages 21 to 23 and I don't see any changes on that. But on the…in the Liquor Education Fund,

which is…I just said is Appendix A, part 2, Special Revenue Revolving Funds. I think you have $22,000 in there. And can you explain who received it and what the program is for underage drinking prevention?

MR. SILVA: Yes, thank you for the question. The grant is…we provide funding for the grant. The grant is through the Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

MR. SILVA: I believe MEO was the ones that were granted the 22,000 this year for their underage drinking program. That money is earmarked…10 percent of the education fund is earmarked for…to participate in grants that provide for underage drinking programs and prevention, as well as enforcement operations regarding underage drinking and prevention.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. So, it's still being administered by Department of Housing and Human Concerns, the grant process, right?

MR. SILVA: Yes. The Department in and of itself does not have a grant division, so we…we piggyback on the…the grant process through Housing and Human Concerns.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. So, under Rates and Fees, Director, which is listed, Members, and it's on pages 21 to 23, Appendix B, there's no changes. Do you have any comments regarding your rates and fees?

MR. SILVA: Thank you for the question. That was also a discussion earlier today in the…in the Commission meeting. But there…there are no changes at this time in our rates and fees. And ultimately, I believe it's because right now, our…our…our overhead hasn't changed. And ultimately, our operating budget really stays pretty close to the same annually, so there really is no urgent need to increase at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, one last question, and then we'll go to round two, is the last time I went to visit you, you had the desk that you were holding it together with scotch tape, or masking tape. Do you still have that same desk? I'm curious.

MR. SILVA: Yes, thank you for the question. I do have the same desk. And I hate to say it that I probably got to keep that desk forever now. That was my…my dad's desk, so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. SILVA: -- yeah. I'm not looking to change my desk at this point.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah. Ah. Okay, very precious. So sorry about your dad, and I…I didn't know that. I will stop asking you that question.

MR. SILVA: No, it's absolutely okay. I know that he would expect that question to be asked. And thank you for your condolences.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. He was quite a man. Ah. He had a statewide convention at…I think it was at the Grand Wailea or one of those big ballrooms and he ran it. He was so funny. I mean, he kept this could be boring subject and he had everybody laughing and, yeah. He was quite a man. Okay. Round two. Anybody need round two? I'll just go down the line. Member U'u-Hodgins. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. We talk about this all the time, but I'm going to ask anyway on the blue carpet. Our antiquated liquor laws…so, you cannot dance with alcohol in your hand. You cannot have arcade games with alcohol. Are we going to see an update to some of those rules? Don't let me remind you how much Korean bars we have. And we still cannot have arcades and alcohol.

MR. SILVA: We…we actually have a lot less than…than we had.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good.

MR. SILVA: But that…that's neither here nor there.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It's not. But when you have kids, and you can only go to one and not the other, it does matter to me.

MR. SILVA: You know, we definitely…because we are in the process and we definitely do want to take a close look at our regulation. I think I mentioned earlier that we're evolving. So, I don't expect that we're not going to try to evolve in…in every aspect.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. We can continue this conversation. I appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, good. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I have no more questions for the Department but ke aloha nui ka ʻohana Silva, as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, now Mr. Layne Silva, you now have a legacy desk that you might need to keep for your next generation. So, I was looking at the…your revolving funds, it said the estimated balances of June 30th of this year is $272,480. So, and those…that's the fund…that's where you get your fines from; that's where it all goes, right? And that's what you use to…to fund the…the underage drinking education. What kinds of education programs do you folks fund, or is it just underage drinking?

MR. SILVA: That is where that money comes from. The…the…the Education Fund is derived by fees --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Fines.

MR. SILVA: -- fines that are assessed by the Adjudication Board. And as of right now, that…the funding in the Education Fund can only solely be used for educational purposes to either the staff or the licensees. Ten percent of that fund is allowed to be used for underage drinking prevention programs --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. SILVA: -- which we provide towards the…the grant with Housing.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. So, where would you put the other 90 percent, if 10 percent goes to underage drinking education? What does the other 90 percent…where would it potentially go?

MR. SILVA: That basically covers when we do…when we have to reprint rulebooks, or things --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh. Operations.

MR. SILVA: -- things of that nature, training for the…for the staff of the Department, training for licensees, and things that we provide for them for education.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . materials. Okay. Okay. Thank you, Chair.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Just a quick one. What about the rest of the

staff's desks?

MR. SILVA: Yes, we are updating...we're going to attempt to update everybody else's desk.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. SILVA: Yeah. We're trying to get modernized workstations for the rest of the staff.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...the sit-stand kind, or...

MR. SILVA: I don't think we went that far into the research.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, everybody like to sit? Yeah. Okay.

MR. SILVA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All right. And then vehicles. Vehicles is all good right now?

MR. SILVA: Right now, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. SILVA: That may be a discussion we have in the near future.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then hybrid or gas, all that?

MR. SILVA: That'll all be part of the discussion I'm sure, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the Boards and Commissions, the Liquor Control and Liquor Adjudication, you guys are the one that oversee that or convene it?

MR. SILVA: Yes. We provide staffing and we provide the location. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How you liking our candidates we handing over to you guys?

MR. SILVA: I...I waiting for see um.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, never get um, yeah?

MR. SILVA: Yeah. We need some.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Okay. All right. That's it. Just was talking

story.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're done? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're done.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I…I'm just curious about the travel budget. It's…it went…now it's 69,000…69,385. Can you explain your travel budget going higher?

MR. SILVA: Yes, thank you for the question. I believe there was something along the lines of a $3,000 increase, and it's just a preventative, estimating current travel prices and expecting the increases that we're going to be facing towards travel. It's just to ensure that we have the funding we need to travel.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Your actual 2023 was 40,558, adopted was 63,000 and now your proposed is 69,000, so it…it just…in general it's going higher and higher. Are you traveling more? Is it just that's the cost of . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. SILVA: Well, in comparison, yeah. To compared to when COVID was happening, the…there was almost --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. It has gone up.

MR. SILVA: -- none. And then, it has been gradually increasing as…as we've been able to staff up --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MR. SILVA: -- we're doing a lot more outer district, like we're on your island more.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MR. SILVA: We're on Moloka‘i more often as well. So, the…it…it's just a preventative measure for the increases, to be ahead of them.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Member Cook. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No further questions. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'm just…my question…what…do you have any challenges that you'd like to bring to our attention?

MR. SILVA: Thank you for the question. We have plenty challenges, but I don't think there's any that we cannot handle internally within the Department. If that ever does become a…a issue, I'm going to remember you asked me that question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: You get my number. Thank you, Chair.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. So, Members, if you have no other questions, I think we're done with Liquor. Are we all good? We're good, right? Okay. This is the Department that's kind of fun because you're…you're self-funded and you come to us and you know we cannot change anything and affect you, but you answer our questions. So, thank you very much.

MR. SILVA: And…and thank you guys for the questions. We appreciate the opportunity to be before you today. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for being with us. So, Members, it's now 2:40 and we have the Office of the Mayor. I'm going to start off with Member Rawlins-Fernandez for questions. Oh, you want to…okay. We can go recess. You want to take a ten-minute --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take a break.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- ten-minute recess. Okay. So, let's come back at 2:50. Thank you, then. You can change out, Mayor's Office. Thank you. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:39 p.m.
RECONVENE: 2:51 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee, and it is now 2:51 p.m. Members, welcome back. We're going to start with the Office of the Mayor. During the recess I heard that Director Mahi was thinking we were going to end by 4:30, so let's see, Members. It's all in our control.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There's a Lāhainā Community Meeting at 5:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's right. So, you have to go, right? And so does Tom go, and you have to leave. So, okay. Everybody we'll lose quorum, yeah? Okay. So, first round, I'm going to start with Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then go to Cook, Uʻu-Hodgins.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha Office of the Mayor, Chief of Staff, Directors, all the Directors, sorry I can't see you all on screen. But mahalo for being with us and mahalo for your presentation and opening remarks. Okay. I want to start with grants. Okay. And I can…I can help contribute to this not…us getting out by 4:30. Okay. REPI grant. So, right now I know that the OED Office, so I guess this would be Director Mahi, regarding the Readiness Environmental Protection Integration grant with Kristin, I forget her last name, Thomasgard, or something like that for the DOD REPI grant. I know that you have been working with them on a grant regarding water because they had the fuel spill on Haleakala. And so, this REPI grant is associated or in response to, you know, negative impacts associated with the military. And so, my question is, have you spoken with them or thought about a grant for the coconut rhinoceros beetle work because the military brought it in to Hawaii?

MS. MAHI: Wow. I didn't know that. So, our grant application for REPI was in regards to caring for the ʻāina from mauka to makai. They mean with the area below Haleakala, all the way down to the ocean in that ahupuaʻa. So, starting with reforestation as well as flooding mitigation using technology for awareness and then including wetland work. And that will be from, like I said, Haleakalā above the Tech Park, where Air Force and Space Force is located down to the ocean.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. MAHI: But in regards to CRB --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, in response --

MS. MAHI: Oh. Just --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Go ahead.

MS. MAHI: Just in regards to CRB, the Department of Agriculture is taking on CRB as part of their kuleana in their department.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right, exactly. So, the County is paying

for that…well, I guess we're getting grants through State Department of Ag for education. So, Department of Ag is going to spearhead that and EP&S is also…also got a $300,000 grant through the Department of Ag that Director Kali Arce helped to…to get for us. So, when I asked them about the REPI grant, they responded that OED is working with the REPI folks. And so, that's why I'm asking you.

MS. MAHI: Yep. That…yeah, so, our office was awarded the grant. We are…we have a project manager who is our environmental specialist from OIS, and he's working with specific project partners, like Haleakalā Ranch, Kaʻonoʻulu Ranch, all the way down to Pili Koko . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So…but…but since you folks are working with the REPI folks, will you…will you folks help to facilitate that with Department of Ag so that we can prevent an infestation of coconut rhinoceros beetle in Maui County? That's my question.

MS. MAHI: Absolutely. Absolutely. We'll make all the --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MS. MAHI: -- introductions --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect.

MS. MAHI: -- as needed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Okay. Thanks. I heard the timer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, round one is four minutes, round two will be three, so we'll get you on the second round for more questions. Next, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. And my question for…regards to Open Space Fund…in FY 2024, the Council approved $5 million appropriation to acquire wetland parcels in Kīhei to support the implementation of the Kīhei Drainage Master Plan. Department of Public Works is in negotiation with the property and awaiting appraisals, so it's unlikely the acquisition would be completed by June 30th, 2024. Will the conditional appropriation carry over to FY 2025?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Per the Charter, allocations under the Open Space Fund do not lapse.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay, so my next question is the 3.8 million in the Open Fund…Open Space Fund for 2025; is that the total new amount available?

MS. MILNER: Chair. Thank you, Chair. That's the total amount that we have conditioned for acquisition. There is more funding available if the Council has additional conditions that they would like to add under that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. That's all my questions for now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Member Uʻu-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'll pick up where Member Cook what was…he was talking about, which was the Open Space Fund. So, where are we getting our maintenance, or do we…how do we maintain the open space lands that we buy with this fund? I've read some of the language regarding the fund, and it doesn't include maintenance. So, how do we plan on maintaining the open space that we buy with the Open Space Funds, considering what we've been dealing with, with some of the open spaces?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for that question regarding open space. So, I can tell you in relationship to the maintenance, it is a collaboration with public, State, and private entities to maintain the open space. So, as the open space is…as we're getting ready to acquire, right, the question about maintenance comes into play. Once we begin the acquisition, then we come up with a maintenance plan.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, we don't have any dedicated funding?

MS. LALLO: There is no dedicated funding for maintenance that I am aware of, no.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Which basically means every year we've got to figure out where the money is coming from instead of having some sort of dedicated funding when we have a dedicated fund. Not anybody's fault, but probably something we should work through. Okay. Can you please explain how all the PIOs for, I think it's Parks, Water, Wastewater, as well as the new VI position in the Mayor communications salaries that you have listed, how are they going to work together and how will that dynamic work? I appreciated the…the matrix you showed from the other counties and the various positions and who's in what department. Like, Big Island, I think has one in the Mayor's Office, but they have nine departments. So, can you explain how they are going to work together? Does the PIOs for the departments have to still run their information through the Mayor's Office and how will the information be disseminated?

MS. MARTIN: Great. Thanks for that question, Councilmember Uʻu-Hodgins. Ideally, in different structures for Government, the department PIOs will be very committed to their department's information. The venue for pushing out

information goes through the County Communications Office, which is the Mayor's Office, partly to ensure that it's reaching as far out as possible. Now, in some municipalities, including ours, there are some departments or divisions that have active single access social media accounts, like Police, Fire. So, this is on top of that, you know, they'll have that single source. So, the way it would look in reality is…for CIP projects, for example, you know, I would desire to have the department PIO at the table with the lens of what the public needs to know and the timing of that. And then, they could work with the communications team to find out how best to leverage it. So that again, it's not just siloed, just within a department, but if we're having a…a general community meeting or Holomua Kākou, we should be talking about that. But the Department PIO may not know. So, it just kind of adds to it and drives it a little bit deeper. So, it'll be a very coordinated approach, but it definitely will give the departments far more reach than…than ever before.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. For OED, excuse me, Director, I know we talked about this before, but the Pāʻia Clean and Safe Grant was 232 and it was transferred out of the Mayor's Office . . .*(timer sounds).* . . into…oh, I can save my question. I can wait for a second round because I only got halfway through. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: She knows what I'm talking about, though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have a round two.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But we can talk about it when we come back. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci, then Member Kama, Lee, Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And thank you to the Administrative staff for your presentation this afternoon and answering our questions. It's…I too have questions and we're just…it sounds like we've been hearing a lot of the questions from the community as we go through our budget hearing. So, some of your questions stem from that. I do appreciate the Holomua Kākou series, as well as your public affairs and community outreach. I think we got a small semblance of it last…this past Monday, while in Lāhainā, and I…and I understand you guys continued to have this Wednesday meetings. We did hear clearly about more homeless camps that are coming up on the West Side, including at Cut Mountain and…and of course, just kind of the general feelings, you know. There's still some hard feelings. A lot of people feel like, hey, we'd rather just camp on the beach than leave Lāhainā or…or look for housing in Central. Or…so, those types of…kind of resonated with me on Monday night, so

are there…and I know you guys been busy…but are there any movements in the budget, particularly in the departments to address some of these…the homeless camps that are starting to…to come up in anticipation of the impending deadline?

MS. MARTIN: Sure. I can help with that. You…you know, these are very difficult conditions. You know, there's a lot going on. So, I…I guess when you look at the West Side and the encampments that are happening…and I appreciate the question and the attention to it. The budget, as far as I know and…and maybe Cynthia can also correct me on this one, it does reflect work and movement and our intention is to address the competing needs. There are clearly quite a bit of folks who want ability to return safely to the beaches, as well, and restore that. And at the same time, our need to meet the needs of our houseless here in our community, which has really reached and escalated point, you know, with the fires, too. So, I do know we're having internal discussions about it. As far as an increase in our budget, it's all absorbed within both the Department of Housing and Human Concerns and Mayor Bissen has a designated home…houseless solutions individual who reports to…on his team…and have been really working closely as part of the executive assistants staff. Cynthia…she may be able to expand that a bit more.

MS. LALLO: I would just add a few more things. We're looking at a collective program. So, it's not just the response in West Maui, right? It's also in Pāʻia. It's also in South Maui, right? So, we need to make sure that we're addressing it with dignity and grace, but that we are indeed addressing it. So, to Mahina's point, all of that is absorbed in DHHC as well as Mayor's.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Mahalo for that. And then, I did see that you did share a picture of the…the Civic Auditorium in the back of Civic Center. We got to kind of hang out in that space on Monday as well. And I do see, Ms. Mahi, on page 580, Lāhainā Town Action Committee, 70,750 . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . is there monies for like a Fourth Friday for Lāhainā to, you know, to have at the auditorium? Maybe we can wait until second round.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're going to wait? You're fine? So, we'll have you continue with that on second round. So, Member Kama, then Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, if Member Sinenci doesn't mind, I'd like to know the answer to that question since it's fresh on their minds and I know they're thinking about it, so let's…let them continue with that, if you don't mind, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. MAHI: So, in the current fiscal year grant '24, I had the Lāhainā Town Action Committee do a budget reallocation because they lost everything. Their offices were there. So, we had them do a budget reallocation to change their scope of

everything. No more boat day, Halloween, all of that. In…in the upcoming fiscal year, absolutely, if that's something that they have the capacity to do and want to do, we can absolutely fund that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh. Okay. Very good. Okay, so on to my questions. I'm on page 580 and 581 of the Program Budget. And so, under the Economic Development Initiative, and right under there is the Economic Development. So, for '22, '23, '24, there's nothing for '25 proposed for 600,000. But for Economic Development, you had for '22 and '23, you have some numbers there, nothing for '24 and nothing for '25. So, what is the difference or are those the same things under different names?

MS. MAHI: So, the reason we added economic development initiatives, was there's a lot of times when people apply for grants that didn't fit into one of our categories and we had to deny applications. And I don't like doing that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, it's a catch-all.

MS. MAHI: It's a catch-all.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay.

MS. MAHI: But we want to make sure that it's still, right, in regards to economic development.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. I…I like that. That's great. And then, on the other page, 581, under Sports and Events…and so, I couldn't figure out who we were talking to. I was looking for it on the following pages and all it says was sports will be used…funds will be used for sports and events including workshops and promotions to help support economic development for Maui County. So, who or who would be the potential applicants for this funding? So, I went from 581 to 584, in the middle of the page of 584.

MS. MAHI: So, we have a couple of different grantees that received grants under Sports and Events, Unda Kava, which was Maui High School, Makahiki Championship --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, good.

MS. MAHI: -- Hui O Waʻa Kaulua for their O Waʻa program, Basketball Maui Sports Camp and Maui Classic Tournament, Kemper Sports…which was Maui Gym --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MS. MAHI: -- Invitational, which --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MAHI: -- they returned…Tradewinds Events, Aloha Classic, Valley Isle Road Runners for the Maui Marathon, and No Ke Aloha O Molokaʻi for the Annual Christmas Parade in in Hoʻolauleʻa. And then other provisos, Friends of Molokaʻi High and Middle School, ʻAinapaʻa Wrestling Team, Hammah Girls, and on Lānaʻi…and this section was because of the condition that was put in for monies for specific spots and events for Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi travel. And then, we came back for a budget amendment to include not just sports, traveling, right? For --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. MAHI: -- for whatever use needed to travel.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. Right.

MS. MAHI: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: For sports and events. So, so if somebody had a rugby team that was just kind of like just neighborhood kids, stuff like that, and they were going to go and challenge another team on another island, that would…they could actually apply for this and it would --

MS. MAHI: As long as they were compliant.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. So, yeah. So, the compliance is they got to make sure that all their forms and all their docs, right?

MS. MAHI: Absolutely.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And documents. Okay.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have, let's see, who…well, I'm sorry, Chair Lee. Sorry about that. Chair Lee, then Member Paltin and Johnson. Do we see her? I don't see her. Oh, she's not there? Okay. So, we'll come back to her. Member Paltin, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'd like to give the same disclaimer not word for word, but you get the gist, limited time; I'll cut you off and I don't mean to be rude. My question is in regards to the slide from Director Mahi on the

DLIR-UI Division, State Unemployment Compensation Programs. Is there any efforts being made with, you know, I mean obviously choke folks lost…lost employment in Lāhainā because everything burned down. Is there any effort being made to connect folks with all of our vacancies that lost their job, like a comparable job? If they worked front desk at a hotel or something like that?

MS. MAHI: Absolutely. That's why we had the job fairs that we did recently in Lāhainā and our virtual job fair that is ongoing, and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are we seeing success with that, or is it resulting --

MS. MAHI: I think of a couple of…a couple of them that was brought to my attention that just happened on the 4th of this month, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, I guess, you know, one of the big needs, like, majority of our preschools and like that burnt down. I think there's Kapalua and maybe MEO Head Start right now. I know of at least one PATCH-certified childcare provider still in the hotel and, like, she was kind of, like, Aunty Babes, but next generation, you know?

MS. MAHI: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if we could get her into a home somewhere that allows for her to have childcare, that would, like, you know, kill two birds with one stone. And I'm not sure if people are connecting those kind of dots. You know, I…we were on the ferry to Lānaʻi and I ran into a Lānaʻi refugee, or Lāhainā refugee, that have to move to Lānaʻi. He was saying how the Red Cross workers told him, get rid of his dog, and move off the island and all kinds of stuff. And so, now him and his family had relocated to Lānaʻi and they were not…not happy with how they've been treated. Luckily, on their own, they found jobs over there and housing and like that, but are we, like, trying to solve problems with, like, win-wins like that? Like, I can give you her name if you want and then, like, if we can set her up with a house that can accommodate children then, you know, maybe we can help five, ten other parents get back to work by being able to have that early childcare situation addressed.

MS. MAHI: Yes, please, share her name and I will put her in touch with the right people and we can probably even provide a small business grant for her.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that would be awesome, yeah. Okay. I'll…I'll get your…I'll get you her contact information. I did want to clarify, too, about that resilient green building housing. I…when you presented it, I didn't understand if that money is still available until April 30th for somebody to apply because I do have somebody also asking me about that.

MS. MAHI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And…okay, so just send them your way, as well.

MS. MAHI: Send the application --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. MAHI: -- in by April 30th.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll get you all of their contact info because I don't know where it is. And then, I'm not sure who this is for but the 20 million to restore the Emergency Fund, what we had used, my understanding from last time was we're only allowed to put into the Emergency Fund what is Carryover/Savings. Is that still correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you. Yes, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And are we okay with how that is, given that, according to the general accounting standard thing that they want us to have 20 percent of our operating budget. Is it, like, a Charter thing, or is it something that should be changed by code or Charter, if, you know, we don't want to overestimate what our Carryover/Savings is, but we do want to hit that 20 percent?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. I can't remember off the top of my head if it's the Charter or the Code . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I know it's one of them, so I will double check that and get back to you and we can make the necessary adjustments, if we feel we need to. I can also try and do some math how long it would take us to reach that 20 percent if we do full Carryover/Savings, based on what we've had the last couple years.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do we need James to write than down for me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you write that down, James and Kasie?

MR. KRUEGER: We have it noted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I see Miss Toshikiyo raising her hand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can she answer as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I didn't see her. Go ahead, Miss Toshikiyo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We can't hear you, Miss Toshikiyo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nor see you.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Oh. Okay. Is that better?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you. Oh, now we can see you.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Okay. Great. Thank you. I…I think Member Paltin may be asking about Charter Section 9-14 about the surplus in reserves that move over to the Emergency Fund. And if that doesn't answer her question, we can do some more research.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Miss Toshikiyo. I guess we got to propose a Charter Amendment there, Ms. Uʻu-Hodgins, if…if the Budget Office says that's what…

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you got your question answered. Okay. Next, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. This is going to be for OED. At an ADEPT Committee Meeting, it was noted that the Office of Economic Development Program is short-staffed and having difficulty in keeping up with the workload, resulting in communication delays and dissatisfication [*sic*] among grantees. It appears that total grant funding of…for the Office is responsible for managing will increase in FY 2025. Does the Department have the capacity to successfully manage all these grants?

MS. MAHI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Wonderful. So, the follow up question is, is what's your opinion about moving seven of the environmental grants from OED to the EP&S, the environmental ones, seven of them?

MS. MAHI: I…I believe that our OIS Grants Management Specialist can take care of

that. Well, she's been some support from our other staff members.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Great. Thank you for that. I'm going to jump to a question that I'm really curious about. This is about the feral animal control, page 587, Program Budget. Please justify the reduction for the feral animal control and explain why goats, pigs, turkeys, and cats are not included in the funding. What projects were funded in FY '24 and what was the total amount requested by all applicants to these grants? Can we legally include funding ammunition in our feral animal control grants? Is this the first time we are funding bullets? That's new to me.

MS. MAHI: So, I'm going to answer your last question first. I don't believe we've ever paid for or reimbursed for ammunition. And I don't know if that's something that we can legally do, so we're going to leave up to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. And on page --

MS. MAHI: -- Corp. Counsel.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 587, it says, deer management, equipment, and supplies, i.e., bullets, cameras, headlights, blah, blah, blah. So --

MS. MAHI: Yeah, so…so in all of the grants that we've received up until this point, nobody has ever purchased ammunition.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. I…I know that…just to let you know, farmers, or hunters on Lānaʻi, if they knew that they could buy bullets to hunt deer, or get bullets from you guys, because they tell me that the ammunition's prices --

MS. MAHI: Very expensive.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- is ridiculous --

MS. MAHI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- like, going off the charts.

MS. MAHI: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And any hunter will probably tell you the same, not just Lānaʻi, but folks who are out there hunting axis deer, I think that would be very popular. I just never heard of us doing such a thing, so that would --

MS. MAHI: Me neither.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We should ask --

MS. MAHI: But --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We should ask --

MS. MAHI: -- we'll find out if that's something we can do. So, some of the grantees that received feral animal control money was Pulama ʻĀina Feral Pig Management, Maui Food Technology Center, which is paying for, through DLNR, Axis deer traps, as well as aerial hunts, Molokaʻi Hunting Club, and Accurate Venison Solutions on Molokaʻi as well, with Axis deer mitigation. I know for Lānaʻi, we had the cat sanctuary listed the year before, but that was moved over for a feasibility study, but we should be putting that back into the budget for Fiscal Year '25.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. Lesley?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Those funds were removed in Fiscal Year '24 and it was our understanding based on the conversation on the Council floor that Lānaʻi did not need feral animal funds because they did not feel there was anyone to ask for them. So, the Lānaʻi Cat Sanctuary was funded under the Economic Development Funds, the $140,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Director. I'm going to…talk about justifying the environmental grants cuts, including 600,000 for a DOH-approved watershed management plan . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I'll wait next round. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Lots of questions. Okay. So, I'm just curious. So, OED, when you do your grant review process, do you have a committee? And what is the process when…why don't you just go through your process when people apply.

MS. MAHI: Sure. When the applications are received, the grants manager will divide up the categories, as well as the district funds to different grants management specialists. They in turn select other people outside of our office to be on their grant application review committee. They have a scoring sheet. They are all added up together. They put it on a large spreadsheet for me to review their recommendations. And during fiscal…the previous fiscal year, I went with a lot of their recommendations, or if Mayor Bissen had a recommendation for anything specifically.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, maybe we can get your tally sheet and…and review what you're doing…very good…because it has such a far reach. I'm…I'm wondering about MISC because…can you tell me if MISC is in OED and if it's in other places in the budget that…how much are they getting and for what purposes?

MS. MAHI: So, the line item for Maui Invasive Species is within the…our budget for…well OIS, which is in my office. They are…our hope for them is to focus on coqui frogs, Miconia, and little fire ants and they…I believe there was a discussion about coconut rhinoceros beetle that we are leaving to the Department of Agriculture, who had said that they would be focusing on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And not you, then.

MS. MAHI: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are they listed in…in any other departments in the budget, Ms. Milner? MISC. So important.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. MISC is not specifically line items under any other departments --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: -- but they are eligible to apply for funds --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- under, you know, the coconut rhinoceros beetle line items in others.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so primarily it's with OED then, correct?

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair. There's 2.8 million in the budget for MISC under OED.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And so, as we all know during COVID, there was a lot of funding that came in for small businesses. And now, with the August 8th wildfires, there's…there's a lot of businesses that got heavily impacted, but didn't receive the flow of, you know, revenue support from Federal, State, as it did during COVID. So, what is the rationale for reducing the small business promotion appropriation when so many of our small businesses need support in this time, which is Budget Details, 15-42? And are you planning doing anything special or focusing on small businesses in this time of need?

MS. MAHI: So, that was with the creation of the Economic Development Initiative. Sometimes small business promotion was very limited in its reach. And with this particular pot, I don't like to call it a catch-all but it's primarily what…what that use is for.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're saying you got them covered?

MS. MAHI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that's small --

MS. MAHI: And then they also have the opportunity to apply for the bridge grants that came out in November, those that were directly as well as indirectly impacted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And…and are you . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . planning on funding it more? I will wait. Okay. So, round two, three minutes. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Member Cook, Uʻu-Hodgins, Sinenci, and Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. Director Mahi, do you have any concern about moving the MISC grant to Department of Ag?

MS. MAHI: No, I don't have any concerns about that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Awesome. Okay, let's see. And then, for the County…the properties that County leases, such as, like, One Main Plaza, do we have a list of that, like how we have the leases for who leases land that the County owns?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. If you could send that request in writing, I've already put in a request to the Department of Finance to start working on that, so can provide that to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, great. Thank you so much. Okay. So, if…Chair, would Staff be able to include that in the request?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They are nodding their heads, got it. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Staff. You're amazing. Okay. I'm sorry if this question was already asked. For, I think this is for Chief of Staff. There's six positions being proposed. Did you explain the intention with the new six positions, the one PIO, which I think Ms. Martin, Director Martin, covered, the two EAs, the two Admin Assistant and the one Secretary?

MR. CAIRES: Okay. Just, you know, the way…addressing that question. Thank you for the question, by the way, Councilmember. You know, the needs have continued to have evolved subsequent to just what we have gone through as a community and so, Mayor has seen needs in certain areas that have arisen through some of the just community needs that we face. And so, from a high level, you know, a lot of these adjustments and needs are…the rationale comes

from a…a response to community needs and areas of focus that we need to pay more attention to and address more efficiently with better resources.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief of Staff. I'm going to ask for a little bit more clarification on those positions. I know, like, they're going to just, like, kind of help with lots of things, it sounds like. But…but…so, we have the Office of Recovery. And the Office of Recovery is going to be responding mostly to, like, Lāhainā and Kula stuff. So, these new positions would be . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . filling in for things outside of Lāhainā? Is…is that the intention?

MR. CAIRES: Thank you for the question. For Office of Recovery, specific work falls under Josiah Nishita, who oversees the Office of Recovery, as far as that position. On specific positions, if there's anything that I need to follow up on, just, if you don't mind, you can send it over to me. I can get you details in writing for you, not a problem.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Ms. Milner --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- has a comment.

MS. MILNER: Sorry. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Just to clarify a little further. The Office of the Mayor is only asking for one new position this fiscal year. The positions you see in communications salaries; that's the decision of a reorganization within the Department. So, those aren't new positions. They're just being moved from the Administration Program over to the Communications Program.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Mahalo for clarifying that. Mahalo, Chair. I heard the timer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook, followed by Member Uʻu-Hodgins, then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, clarification of the PIO examples. Would that be…I'm going to use the Family Life Center and Hope Village as an example. It's basically has…it's a…it's a privately-funded nonconventional temporary housing unit that's being done in Kahului. And there's been…so the community…would…would this PIO basically be someone from the Water Department, someone from Public Works, someone from Transportation, like, different departments having a representative that knows what's going on and can communicate with each other?

MS. MARTIN: It's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. MARTIN: Is this on? Okay. Sorry. It's possible. It just depends on what those discussions are. If it's specific to a project being developed or infrastructure being put in, those will likely be left to the engineers and the project managers. If they're policy discussions, obviously, department leadership would be there. I think the role of a PIO in engaging with projects like those two would be at the point in time when we need to coordinate dissemination of information. Maybe it's the opening of it or announcing if there was a hurdle that the County needs to address. So, it…it'll almost be on a case-by-case.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. That's a classic example.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That's a classic example. And I guess that my…my question with the PIO…I…I'm potentially excited about it if it enables the County, the departments, to communicate sort of fluidly the department working, what's going on. People are working on it; they're not having to stop working on it. And then, people are asking questions. And it's, like, what about this? And this person knows it, and this person can talk to the other person in another department. It's not as siloed, and cross-check. Because that doesn't…that doesn't happen now very much. And I am not blaming anybody. All of the departments, everybody working; keep it up. Do your best.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: But there is a…this was just brought to my attention recently. It's a major miscommunication and I'm still sort of tripping over it. And it's people who don't mind moving from Lāhainā to a city area, not out in the kabonks *(phonetic)* and where they have to commute to try and get to a store and all privately funded; State, County working together, but it's not jiving. And for probably a lot of…a lot of good reasons because people are doing unconventional stuff that's not totally legal or recording to the books and outside the lines. And it's a bunch of reasons why it's not flowing. But I'm hoping that the PIO could help . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . in the communications. That's it. Thanks. That wasn't much of a question, I guess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, Member Uʻu-Hodgins, then Sinenci, then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Okay, I'll pick up where I left off. So last year, the Pāʻia Clean and Safe was transferred out of the Office of the

Mayor, Management Office to Economic Development. And I really appreciate your help with that. It has been quite successful. We heard from the community last week Tuesday, so thank you very much. Except this year it wasn't in the budget. So, where can we get some money for that program?

MS. MAHI: So, we already have determined that we have funds available --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yay.

MS. MAHI: -- in our OIS Professional Services, and will create a line item for Pāʻia Community Association for the Paia Clean and Safe Program.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. I really appreciate that. Okay. Second question for this. I think this'll probably be my only other last question. But on Budget Details, page 15-4 and 15-3, for EAs, we see a significant increase in pay and I'm wondering if you can provide a justification for that. There are three. I think that's for whoever can answer that question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Uʻu-Hodgins. The Mayor sets the salaries, as you all know. It's not set by collective bargaining agreement. Now there are some instances in here where it says, increase pursuant to collective bargaining agreement. The Mayor's Office has not recently unionized, but the Mayor does try and keep parity with some of the other positions in the County, so tries to follow the percentage increases dictated by those collective bargaining agreements, so that's why that is in there. As for the large increases, I do see them. That could be different individuals in the position with different qualifications, but if you want to send us specific position numbers, we can certainly get back to you on that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure. To clarify, I'm not saying anybody is or isn't worth it, but it's a quite…it's a big increase in pay, so I would just like some clarity and justification. So, thank you very much.

MS. MILNER: We appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Sinenci, then Member Kama, Chair Lee…is Chair Lee not at the meeting? I'm…just excuse her, then. Okay. And then Paltin after that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair. And…yeah, I guess, continuing the lines of questioning for Ms. Mahi, you…you stated they're kind of like the catch-all grant programs and we get a lot of testimony, either their non-profit weren't fully funded or not funded at all this year, but the…the budget Chair

has…has given us an opportunity to probably put some conditional language for some of these grants. So, I was just wondering…I…I…and I see that some of them are already named specific to non-profits, but like the small business promotion, I do see cultural…cultural arts and program…cultural and arts program, as well as the environmental protections with…with funding in them. Are these specific to non-profits, or are they a competitive for…for non-profits who want to apply for it?

MS. MAHI: So, the grants in the various categories, culture and arts, sports and teams, small business, all of that, they are all competitive grants and they are available for non-profits as well as for-profit.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, and…and for…and, right. Thank you for that. So…so, if we did add language, and it's not to…we understand it's for multiple non-profits, so it's…it's not to, like, empty out or anything like that, but just for small…I…I…I know some non-profits, you know, ask for additions or anything like that, but I can…I can send them to the…to your Office for…for the application. Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank…thank you, Chair. Okay, so I don't want to speak to Ms. Mahi again because I think we've had so much conversations with her, I'm sure she'd feel nice if we talked to someone else. So, I'm going to talk to our CDBG people. You can say thank you, Luana.

MS. MAHI: Thank you, Tasha.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: You're welcome. Okay, so I was looking at the CDBG, you're…on page 598 of your…the program booklet. So, do you have any idea as how you going to spend the 1820…the $1 million, $800,000 that you have proposed for your '25 budget?

MS. KAHULA: Thank you, Member Kama for that question. We do. It was on one of the slides and I apologize if I just kind of glanced over it. We are proposing two projects. And those have been transmitted in a resolution to the Maui County Council.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's the two apartments that we bought? The two condos; is that the two condos that we…we approved earlier, or this is two different?

MS. KAHULA: Okay, so we've had many resolutions before --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. KAHULA: -- the…the Council in BFED Committee. The…I think, are you…you're talking about the proposed projects for incoming funds, yeah?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. KAHULA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. KAHULA: So, those are a two…one resolution --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. KAHULA: -- speaking to the proposed projects. There's actually two, $100,000 to support the acquisition of units and then the second project is to fund the acquisition of a resiliency center. And that's about 1.3 almost 1.4 million. So, those are the two proposed projects for incoming funds, Fiscal Year 2025, program year 2024. And again, it's…it will be before the Maui County Council and we're hoping of course for favorable support.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, it's the resilience…resiliency center. Have you ever looked at places, haven't looked at places, do you know where it's going to be, you know, or have some idea as to location?

MS. KAHULA: So, thank you again for that question. We are actually speaking with two different potential sub-recipients. And the…the problem right now is we can fund an acquisition, which is…could be defined as the purchase of a property or a long-term lease. And…and that's currently in the works. So, we have basically two options. We'll fund one of them. Both can have similar purposes. *. . .(timer sounds). . .*

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: You can finish your answer.

MS. KAHULA: Okay, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I just can't ask you anymore.

MS. KAHULA: Okay. So, both resiliency centers would have similar purposes, to provide professional mental health counseling services, possible distribution of resources and provide some spaces for different social service agencies and maybe even mobile, you know, dental, dentist, and…and medical.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, we…so…so, CDBG funds would be used to create the structure or the building or whatever, but the things that go inside, whatever those services might be, would come from other people --

MS. KAHULA: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- or are we providing that? Okay.

MS. KAHULA: Correct. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I got that. Thank you. I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Paltin, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Shoot. I just was distracted by something. I guess it looks like all your, all kinds of grants got five percent cut except for the tourism grants. Is that…is there a reason for that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: OED.

MS. MAHI: No, we…when we submitted our five percent reduction, we did it straight across the board. So, if something else happened after we submitted to budget, I'm not sure why that was that. But I know that one of the questions that was submitted was including, like, smart tourism initiatives. There was also the question about the condition for not doing promotion or marketing. So, we do still…would like to do marketing and promotion because we are being screamed at regularly about the need for tourism to return, but we also want to educate people about how they return.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. The next question I had was regarding, I guess, previously we had heard that the Mayor directs where the clean up would go to. And I've been having some calls from folks in Kahoma Village, where they say that everybody in that subdivision has submitted their ROEs. There's more standing houses than burnt. And, you know, if they…they have heard from ECC Rodney that the County is the hold up. They're confused why it's being prolonged that they need to live near burnt down houses and they don't feel safe to return until those are cleaned out. Does anyone know what is the hold up with Kahoma Village debris removal, or who they can contact to get more information? Because apparently Rodney with ECC has no idea.

MS. MARTIN: So, we can definitely address that. I think we need to be clear about the reasons for it, so we'll…we'll check on that. All I know…I do know Office of Recovery is before the Budget Committee in a few days as well, but outside of that, we'll take a look at it right away.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, and --

MS. LALLO: And I'll just add, if you want to give me Rodney's contact information, I

would be happy to follow up with him specifically about Kahoma Village.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I can give you the homeowner in Kahoma Village's number that was asking about it. I don't know Rodney's number with ECC. But, okay. And then, I guess, you know, following up on the REPI situation, if they're giving money every year, maybe at some point in coordination with the Department of Ag, we can work on some sort of bio-security plan because . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . that'd be helpful.

MS. MAHI: Yes, we can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And…and from Councilmember Kiaʻāina, they said that there is a plan that's just been sitting on the shelf for a long time and all the coconut rhinoceros beetles came in through that, I don't if it was at Hickam or something like that and spread up and down the Waiʻanae Coast and so, more damage than good, military no good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'm really concerned with the cuts that we've been seeing with the environment and climate change and a lot of the grants that include our watershed management plans. We know the fire was caused majorly by the climate change, the invasive grasses, the drying up of our…our ʻāina. We should be addressing that because that…we…summer's upon us and you see how the dry grass is right there. I…I think we…we are making a big mistake if we're starting to cut, I'll give you an example, 600,000 for DOH-approved watershed management plans and implementation of these plans, $100,000 cut in funds to Maui Nui…Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and a cut in funding for the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project. Tourism, like we were saying, Tourism Management Grant Fund got boosted, 9th floor got raises. EAs on the 9th floor got big raises. The quote that I keep hearing in my mind is, "Don't tell me your value. Show me your budget and I'll tell you what you value". That's my concern with this budget. I think that I'd like to find out why we're not focusing on our watershed management plans. When we have a watershed management plan, we can reach out to Federal funds to help manage those watersheds. Feds often ask, you don't have a watershed plan? You don't get the funding. Right? So, that's why I really think that that's such an important part of this budget is that we start addressing long-term problems, invasive grasses, land that's not…that's just left in fallow. The water issue, the watersheds; all that stuff needs to be addressed and then we're giving ourselves raises and then we're going over here and giving tourism industry…oh, that's…that's kind of…I'm a…I have concerns. Do you guys want to speak on that?

MS. MAHI: So, in regards to the watershed management for Fiscal Year '25, we would like to reallocate the 600,000 because the watershed management plan that they

previously received ended…I believe the performance period ended in October. That was for fiscal year '23 funds. They didn't apply for Fiscal Year '24 funds…I'm sorry. They did apply for Fiscal Year '24 funds, but they didn't turn in their final report until December. So, we couldn't issue a grant to them right away. We actually have a meeting coming up with them because we have a hope that when we are issuing out these grants, 30 percent is set aside for their salary. And in this particular program, almost the entire amount funded to people to do this job. And so, that's why we've been in regular --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MAHI: -- communication with them about --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can I --

MS. MAHI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, go ahead. . . .(*timer sounds*). . . That's a OED policy, the 30 percent rule? It's…or is that across the board?

MS. MAHI: Across the board.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: EP&S does that as well?

MS. MAHI: No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Or I'm --

MS. MAHI: I…I don't know what they do.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, EP&S, they might not have that. I don’t --

MS. MAHI: Yeah, I'm not --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't…okay.

MS. MAHI: -- aware of their grant policy.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. My time's up. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, I have a couple questions. Details page 15-47, and this is Kohala Coast Urgent Care. And my question is, why is this in Economic Development instead of Human Concerns? And we saw this, I don't know how many years ago, a couple years ago, where we tried to do Axis deer and Human Concerns and it really belonged in another department.

So, I'm just concerned that this important work is maybe in the wrong department, should be in Human Concerns.

MS. MAHI: So, I believe in the last fiscal year, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez had set aside 50,000 for Moloka‘i Urgent Care. We had contributed another 250,000 for operations there, knowing that 50,000 wasn't really going to take them very far. We also attempted to get them additional funding from outside sources, but if the Department of Housing and Human Concerns feels like they would like to take this on, we are more than happy to pass it on to them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MAHI: We're all about sharing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, I haven't asked them that question, but I just…it just looks like something that is almost like a steer thing that we're trying to do in reverse. But I will ask Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So, you mentioned earlier that the film industry is being moved to MEDB and that there is funding transferred from film industry promotion, Details page 15-22, to economic diversification for…if the reason is for expansion in funding is to promote the film industry, and you're changing this. So, what is the impact of now the Film Commissioner being part of MEDB…I think you said, as you did your opening statement…what is the impact to all of this important work?

MS. MAHI: Why, I believe that with the film industry, because MEDB created or produced the CEDS report, creative industries came under that report. And so, the film industry was a very natural addition to their grant. And so, instead of keeping that operations funding in our Office, we transferred that for a grant to expand the amount of money that MEDB was receiving for the CEDS plan and implementation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And to include the film industry?

MS. MAHI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, what is the dollar amounts that you're doing?

MS. MAHI: So, for this particular fiscal year…oh, I'm sorry, it's Fiscal Year '24, their grant will probably be executed sometime in the next month. It's to carry *. . .(timer sounds). . .* them over until, I believe, the end of this calendar year, which is an additional $100,000. And what we're focusing on is workforce development. We want our local residents to get these film industry jobs whenever there are jobs done here on Maui, instead of having to bring in people from O‘ahu. We…I feel that this would provide better livable wages for our local people. And by selecting Brian Kohne, who has done a couple of film projects

here…and the two prior projects that he did, in one, he hired 30 local people. In the other, he did 200 local people. So, you know, that's a considerable amount of local people getting introduced into this film industry and maybe finding a path forward that they are really interested in. And then, he's also the Associate Professor at UH Maui Help *(phonetic)* Campus teaching our…the students this line of industry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. We'll send the question just to inquire the impact of that move, as it is workforce development. Okay. So, round three, Members, starting with Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Cook, Uʻu-Hodgins, Sinenci, and then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry about that, Chair. Okay. All right. Where am I? I lost my place. So, can I…can I go back…can I go after…who's after me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep, Cook. Do you want to go after Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Tom Cook? All clear. Yeah, please. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, then Member Cook, then Uʻu-Hodgins, if not Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. I know this has been touched on a bit, but I'm still confused. What's the difference between economic diversification, page 15-25, Budget Details, and economic development initiatives, page 15-45, Budget Details? Can you give some example of grants that fall under each category?

MS. MAHI: So, for economic diversification, originally, when this came out in Fiscal Year '23, the money was earmarked specifically for the creation of an implementation plan from MEDB CEDS report. And, in reading the CEDS report, we found that it covered a couple of different categories that we didn't usually fund. So, at the time, we didn't realize that all 320,000 that was earmarked for them was needed for MEDB, so we only gave them a portion of it. And then the others, we had opened it up via a press release that we held March of last year and received probably eight applications. And so, some of them ranged…let's see…we had people, Fuzz Box, who does theatre work. And they do…they work with children, teaching them. They…another organization I can't remember the name of, they also were teaching kids about filming using their iPhones, teaching them the whole production process. There was another group called, I believe, Theatre Maui, that also fit into the CEDS report for economic diversification. And then, the economic development initiatives, like I mentioned, I don't like to use the word catch-all, but a lot of times we received applications that doesn't fit into

one of these categories, but they do have a great idea for a project, program, or event, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . so we'd like to fund it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, are you ready or shall we go to Uʻu-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, mahalo. Sorry about that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No problem.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think I just have one last question and that's regarding the funding for grant software. I love software that will make our lives easier. Would…would you please share a little bit more about that? And if you did, I'm sorry I missed it.

MS. MAHI: I did not share about our submittables [*sic*] program. It's…is not necessarily easier, unfortunately. And I did tell…so, this budget was in our…in our operations budget prior to our Administration. So, when I saw it there, I asked them what it was for and they told me they had…they had discussed it and it had been included. So, we looked at a couple of different companies who provided us a demonstration. We selected one. I told my…my grants management staff that we're going to try it for at least two years. It doesn't seem like we're going to keep it beyond this year because it has not provided the ease that I thought it was for the grants management staff. I believe I've heard from a bunch of grantees that they like it, so it made it easier for them. But we also may have plans to put in a grant application process countywide. So, you know, if something like that happens, then we have those funds there for that purpose.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, I did have one more question and I'm sorry to hear the feedback about the software. That's a bummer, but good luck on finding a better software. I think I remember the grantees telling us about the…the software and how it was easier for them. So, hopefully it can be a win-win. So, if, you know, our office is benefiting and the grantees, everyone's lives are easier. Mapulehu Glass House, there isn't funding for it this year, but I wanted to see if there was any update in the completion of that ʻāina that's under our care. It…it's on Molokaʻi.

MS. MAHI: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't hear what you said. Glass house?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mapulehu.

MS. MAHI: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, Mapulehu.

MS. MAHI: I think --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(timer sounds).* . . So, there's a professional services contract. And it…it's because the Glass House is a historic building. And…and so, we had…the County had acquired that land. And there's a lot of iwi in that area, and so there was a contract to get a plan for taking care of that land and the Glass House.

MS. MAHI: I'm sorry. I'm not aware of that project.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And…and if you have no --

MS. MAHI: Yeah, I'm not --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, good. Okay.

MS. MAHI: I'm not aware, but Program Director Kahula just mentioned that it used to be in CDBG a long time ago, so --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I don't think it's under OED.

MS. MAHI: -- we'll fund it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think…I think it was under the Office of the Mayor, so I don't know --

MS. MAHI: Okay. We'll…we'll follow up, for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --who would have ended up going. It's okay, though. I'll…I'll check again offline. So, mahalo. Mahalo, Chair. I heard the timer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, next we go to Member Uʻu-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama, Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I only have one question and then one statement. Sorry, Director Mahi, these are for you, though. Okay. So, on page 15-18, I believe it's probably…probably the Economic Development Specialist III that changed to II that says proposed position reallocation is probably the Film Commissioner. So, he's still in your budget under your Office but he's being contracted out. Can you explain how that's going to work, if he also still works for the college, as well?

MS. MAHI: Oh, so this position we changed it from a III to a II.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. MAHI: He is not a salaried person in our Office.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. MAHI: He is completely funded through this grant with MEDB. But we still have the position. We're going to be using it for something else.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh. Good to know.

MS. MAHI: We…we need a grant writer.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, okay.

MS. MAHI: Bottom line.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, okay. Okay. Let me write this down.

MS. MAHI: Right now, we have one and we are managing, like, eight Federal grants which takes a lot of time. So, we need someone to help write, as well as manage grants.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. MAHI: That's what that position will be used for.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much. And then, my statement really is, the last time OED was here, I definitely expressed some confusion and frustration related to the reporting. I understand…for line item reporting…I understand it's not you, that this is just how things have been going, where those line items that are in the budget don't necessarily need to provide reporting according to the report card that we got where there's 35 grantees that scored zero and we still gave them money. I understand that that's just from, when speaking to one of your directors, that's business as usual. But I'll explain something, why this bothers me. Growing up, unfortunately my dad was my coach . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . for a lot of things. And I was always expected to be the example and never the exception. And so, I feel like, when we provide these line item grants, they should be exemplifying why they are included specifically. So, I just hope that we can continue expecting those reports and ensuring that we get them so that they can ensure that they are continuing to do the good work that I know they're doing. But definitely I would expect some reporting.

MS. MAHI: Yeah. I'd like to comment on that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Please.

MS. MAHI: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. MAHI: And they do have to report. It doesn't matter if they're a line item, a proviso, or a competitive grant. Everybody has to turn in a quarterly report, everybody has to turn in a final report. Unfortunately, sometimes, including one of them that Councilmember Johnson just mentioned, they don't. And they fall out of compliance. And then they don't have any communication. And we constantly follow up with them to the point where it becomes very frustrating in working with these. But they come up again as a line item, and we unfortunately have to give them the money, even though we don't want to.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I hear you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Sinenci, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just following up on Director Mahi. I do see the funding for 2025 for the MISC, Maui Invasive Species, and MoMISC. And I was just curious. I know that their…the…our fiscal calendar doesn't always jive with their calendar. So, have…has their 2024 grant items been executed yet?

MS. MAHI: No. Their Fiscal Year '23 grant will end the beginning of June.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. MAHI: And then, they will get an extension, so that we can then prepare and execute Fiscal Year '25 monies for…to hopefully start July 1st, so we can bring them back to the regular fiscal year term.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it. Okay. Thank you. Thank you. I…I know it's been a problem trying to get all these timelines to…to match up. So, I appreciate you working to…to help them get their funding. Chair, I didn't have any questions, but I did want to mahalo for the Administration for their continued support of our district economic development and cultural funds. It means that we can continue another year of our cultural festivals, as well as our arts and afterschool programs. So, we appreciate your support of the district funding. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Sinenci. Next, we have Vice-Chair Kama, Paltin, Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, Luana, I got to go back to you. So, I was trying to wrap my head around what we did with our Film Commissioner and the position now…now that he's at MEDB, the position that was going to be Film Commissioner, you're going to make into a grant writer?

MS. MAHI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I got that. Okay. So…so, what is…what is his job at MEDB?

MS. MAHI: To promote Maui County for filming opportunities, commercials, but primarily like I mentioned, I really went in…in speaking with him, really want to focus on workforce development, training our local people, even our kids. He has the Creative Industries Program at UH Maui. It's a two-year program. There is a follow up program at the East O‘ahu Campus or Kapolei, campus within that they can get a four-year degree. But then, once they get that degree, there's not a lot of jobs for them unless they go to California or beyond. So, we want to try and bring more opportunities here.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm…I'm trying to think about how to…to bring that…that industry to be planted here. To actually have it that we have a film studio and we have all the things that would attract big production companies to come here. And I understand the workforce development portion, in terms of employing of our people. But at some point, you don't want them just to be actors, and…and…and those…you want them to be the writers of these shows. You want them to be the producers. You want them to be the engine of the industry and not just be the workers of the industry. And I'm trying to figure out how, because I think the film industry is a . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . great industry. And how…how do we make this industry become greater than just providing jobs for our people? How do we make this industry what I really believe that the tourist industry should have been? We should have been the drivers of that industry. We should have been the owners of the airlines, the owners of the hotels. We should have been that, but we weren't because we were on the back end of it. So, now we have another opportunity to create another economic engine that we can be on the front end of the engine. And we can be the drivers of this car. So, how does that happen?

MS. MAHI: So, when you start any job, you have to start somewhere. So, Brian Kohne share with me this story. When he was doing, I believe it was “Kuleana” and this young man, I believe he was probably 18, 19 years old. And he started off as a production assistant, which means getting coffee, whatevers, right? And he was there. He showed up every morning. There was other production assistants that didn't show up as much as he did, but he came every day. And that led him to move up, and learn, and adapt, and now he owns his own business that now Brian Kohne told me that he can no longer afford him to help him in productions here, which is great, right? And so, I just thought, like, that's kind of like where

we all are, right, when we start. We start at the beginning --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Actually --

MS. MAHI: and we work our way up.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: - not really. Do you know where we want to start at, not by having to work your tail off like that, but to be able to come in already equipped with all that you need to be so that you're the guy at the top hiring the guys at the bottom. Because starting at the bottom and working our way up is kind of backwards to me. Is that where we always want to be on the bottom working up. We all got to start someplace.

MS. MAHI: Well --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I get that. But I think that we have to be a lot more, I mean, creative in our thinking about how can we take this industry because now it's ours. And we can own it. How do we build it and how do we make it become all of ours and not just for a select few or a select type of industry, right?

MS. MAHI: So, I know that there's screenwriting classes that these people take. That doesn't necessarily mean that they're going to come out and somebody's going to take one of their written scripts and create a movie --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. Right.

MS. MAHI: -- unless you have your own money, or you have someone who's going to fund you to do that. Then you can be the producer, the executive producer, the director.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, maybe that's what we should be funding.

MS. MAHI: Maybe we should.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Those types of things that we should --

MS. MAHI: We'll need a bigger budget.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- we fund these things and…and have those things because…because we've been doing the same old, same old with this Film Commissioner for years and years, and we haven't gotten to the place I think that we really want to be. I just want to get…when…when are we going to get there? Or is it the intent not to get there, but to just be?

MS. MAHI: No, definitely we want to get there.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: We want to be there. Yeah, we want to get there. We want to get somewhere. We want to take our people somewhere.

MS. MAHI: And then, you mentioned film studios. So, there was a study done that MEDB put out and it was found that Maui didn't need a film studio. I didn't quite agree with it, but one of the things that Brian mentioned is, when people come here to film, they're…they're looking at our beautiful beaches --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MAHI: -- the palm trees --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MAHI: -- all of that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: The setting.

MS. MAHI: So, what we do need here is a sound stage.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MAHI: Right? So, there has been productions that was done here using hotels, using . . .(*timer sounds*). . . Maui College classrooms. So, we could still do that and maybe find some money to do a sound stage.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Let's go do that sound stage. How much is that?

MS. MAHI: I don't know. I'll let you know.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you. I heard the bell twice.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I'll try be rapid fire. The old film position that's going to be the new grants writer/manager position, will that be a civil service position?

MS. MAHI: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, the madeinmauicounty.com website, it's not supposed to be live right now, right?

MS. MAHI: It is. It's constantly live, but I think you guys may have typed it in

incorrectly. It's madeinmauicountyfestival.com.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. MAHI: That…that site is live. So, I did answer that question. And then, they also have social media available that was, I think, turned in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I think the Program Budget just said madeinmauicounty.com, so that's the --

MS. MAHI: Maybe never fit festival.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, too much ink.

MS. MAHI: Maybe ran out of ink.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, in regards to the Maui County Data Book. I think that it got a five percent cut, minus 3,500, which usually we give them the same amount every year and they create the Maui County Data Book. Did we check with them that they would still be able to create that data book without that extra 3,500?

MS. MAHI: Yes, but the increase that they always have year after year is in the cost of printing. So, I did jokingly tell Wayne just print less --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. MAHI: -- and make it more available digitally, electronically.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: When I looked at the digital site, it has digitally, like, years from maybe four years ago or two years ago, but not, like, 2023 or 2024. I only found it online from --

MS. MAHI: '22, I think.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- many years past. Yeah.

MS. MAHI: '22 I think was the last one, but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. MAHI: -- it should be available for 2023. They…they just passed out --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The book.

MS. MAHI: -- the 2023 one --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, so then --

MS. MAHI: -- just in the last month or two.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, so when they pass out the print version, then they update the digital.

MS. MAHI: Yes. I did jokingly say we should save . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . some trees. So…

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not opposed. So, then it would be even less if we don't print it out at all.

MS. MAHI: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, we let people, if they need it printed out, print out themselves.

MS. MAHI: Right. I just hope Wayne Wong is not watching this right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know. He does such good work.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I will tell him if you don't tell him.

MS. MAHI: Love you, Wayne.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. The Chair submitted some questions to your Department. And on page 8, it was number 14, they said what are your top three departments…or department priorities for FY 2025 and how does your Department's budget reflect that? The top three priorities, according to you guys, was building upon relationships with other counties, agencies, and communities to ensure resources are leveraged. Okay. Maximizing opportunities through the Community Development Block Grant Program to accelerate recovery goals that require critical funding and reenforcing communications and public engagement activities to support Lāhainā recovery in ways that are inclusive of our diverse community. There's no climate change. There's no resiliency as a priority and that's what got us in this mess. You know, this burn…this town…we lost a town because of this. The…the Sister Cities Fund only has $14,000 in it and I don't just…it's not a money thing. I just don't think we look at, like, relationships with other counties or other sister cities or…it's just a…it's not being used the way it could be. You know, like, exchanges of education, exchanges of professionals, exchanges of cultures could…I get that. I

would agree with you on that. But would just…I think that's a missed opportunity. The CDBG Block Grant Program, page 94 of the Program Details doesn't include Lānaʻi and I wonder if that's because of that 51% low and moderate income. Maybe we're getting priced out of paradise, as they say. There's enough millionaires and billionaires living on Lānaʻi that we're not 51% of that low and moderate. Maybe you can speak on that but I don't want to erase Lānaʻi poor folk. They're there. I…I…I know them well. They struggle to live in Iwiole and The Courts and the low-income areas. They're there. The last one I don't really understand that word . . .(*indiscernible)*. . . part where it's reenforcing communication. It just…it's…these are your priorities? And it reflects in your budget? I . . .(*timer sounds*). . . don't see that as a question being answered. That's number 14 on page 8, if anyone wants to speak on that or if my time's up. But that's…that's my concern.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any comments?

MR. CAIRES: Just mahalo for the comments. Well-noted. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, all right, Members. This is…we're done with round three. And if Members have any more questions, we'll be done, or…okay. Go ahead. So, you want round four, two minutes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering in looking at your slide presentation, all the districts had…looked like they had money for resilience hubs, but not West Maui?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MS. MAHI: For the Resiliency Hubs that we're putting up with…we're putting out for Fiscal Year '24 right now a resiliency hub in West Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh you're putting in money this year.

MS. MAHI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, that's why there's no money for next year.

MS. MAHI: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. MAHI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just double-checking that because, I mean --

MS. MAHI: No worry, we got you first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- a lot of our hubs, we…we just . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. MAHI: Yeah. Yeah. No. We…we chose Lāhainā first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. MAHI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I got…I got the contact infos.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, you can pass that on. All right, Members. So, if there's no more questions…anybody who has questions, you can send it to Staff and we can send it to Departments by 9:00 tomorrow, if you could send the questions to Staff for today, Office of the Mayor or the Liquor Department. Okay. So, we're done with questions. You're fine? Okay. So, you're…Member…Member Milner.

MS. MILNER: Not again. Thank you, Chair. Just really briefly, I wanted to say we will be transmitting our answers to OM-2 this afternoon, so you can probably find those in Granicus this evening.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. Do you have any more…any more answers you're submitting to us, any more departments that's sitting on your desk?

MS. MILNER: I'm waiting for some revisions for at least one department. And as soon as I have them, I will get them to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Okay. So, Members, that completes all the questions for the departments today. And I know everybody's trying to get off to the West Maui meeting. We already had Member Cook leave. Member Paltin is packing up. So, we're going to lose her. So, Mayor's Office, thank you very much for being here. Mahina, please go off to the West Maui meeting. Thank you very much…yeah, Dr. Caires. Thank you very much for being here.

MR. CAIRES: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, to everybody . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Everybody and Luana Mahi, we don't mean to pick on you, but it's just…you do --

MS. MAHI: Oh, come on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- such important work.

MS. MAHI: They love picking on me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You even brought snacks. Okay. She's prepared. Okay, so we are done today with the departments, so Members…do you want to pass out the memo? Okay. So, you have time to stick around for this, or do you want to cover this tomorrow? I know that Tamara is dashing off and Member Cook left and others may be leaving because of the time. It's 4:20 and I'll just try to go through this really quickly. For…oh, okay. Okay. There's a memo that's being passed out from Yvette. And…and basically, for Fiscal Year 2025 budget session procedures, this is an update. Thank you. And I'd like to just take some time to discuss our procedures for priority amendments to the Mayor's Fiscal Year '25 proposed budget. You're right now receiving it. Staff is distributing a memo with my proposed update procedures, along with an updated budget session calendar. So, you got the calendar too? Both, right. Can you send it to Keani? Online. And Chair Lee. I guess Chair Lee is gone, but --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Don't forget Shane.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: and Shane Sinenci. Thank you very much. Did you get it? Okay. Do you guys want to take like a five-minute break, so you could read the memo or shall we just continue? We're getting papers. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Luana. Thanks for working hard. We have to hear more about this film office. Members, do you guys need a break to look at this? So, basically, Members are asked to submit two priority amendments to Staff by 4:30 on April 15. That date didn't change. Also due at that time is a conditional language for the economic development, environmental and cultural programs line items, which is $140,000 with your respective districts. Members are also…can also submit conditional language propose related to revolving funds…a conditional language proposal related to revolving funds and up to two conditional language proposals for the County grants. Staff will compile the amendments and provide it to the Committee on April the 17th. Other amendments that result in cuts or…or are non-substantive in nature, will be taken up during decisions week as well. Members can submit those in writing or propose them on the floor as we go through each department. So, when we do go through decisions, Members, we will take it up based upon Bill 60 which is…starting from the first department and just go department by department, line by line. And if a department's request…if…if a department requests an increase in their own budget during their department review, the request will be tracked and revisited for a vote during decisions week. At the start of each meeting, Committee Staff will distribute a proposed draft for the departments covered the previous day and confirm the changes made with the Committee and the Budget Director. You can

contact, you all know our Committee Staff, if you have questions, James Krueger, Kasie Apo Takayama, Jarrett Pascual, Clarissa MacDonald, Yvette Bouthillier. So, that is what we're doing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, that's going to be on Granicus, too, right? Those memos?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the calendar.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we just distributed it to the Members via email --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: -- but, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: We'll be uploading it to Granicus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the changes that we talked about are also on the calendar. So, all right Members. Anybody have question? If not, we will adjourn this meeting. Okay. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And I know we had this discussion earlier about possibly…I…I don't if we, you know, we're talking about raising taxes or…or fees. So, would…would the…the Chair be open to…instead of making cuts maybe in some much-needed departments, can we also try and propose revenues in…in some of the…I…whether it be rates and fees or taxes? Would that be a consideration for our amendments?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Sinenci, was it this morning or yesterday, the RPT rates…the proposed rates and the range and the tiers were posted. So, when we…I think that's what you're talking about, right? So, that's already…we will talk about it. And it will come up and…but in this case, based upon the process that we'll take up, we'll just go department by department ad I'll start off with Department of Agriculture, in alphabetical order or whatever…however it appears on…on Bill 60 and start off with the department. So, it will be Member Johnson, who has Department of Ag. He'll take that first and we'll go through and see if we have any questions or any changes. And if there are cuts --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, no --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- or changes, it'll come through that process, I believe. Based upon --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- based upon what I've heard you all ask through the departments, there are going to be some changes. And we look forward to having that discussion and vote as a group.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Appreciate it. Okay. Any other questions? All right, Members. So, at this time, then, I'm going to adjourn this meeting. I guess everybody's been leaving to go to the West Maui Community meeting. So, at this time it is 4:26. We're leaving the meeting and adjourning at four minutes early. Meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

ADJOURN: 4:26 p.m.

APPROVED:

Yuki Lei Sugimura

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:min:240410:ch Transcribed by: Charlotte Hunter

CERTIFICATION

I, Charlotte Hunter, hereby certify that pages 1 through 70 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 26th day of April 2024, in Wailuku, Hawaii

Charlotte Hunter

Charlotte Hunter