

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

March 21, 2023

Online Only via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 9:05 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (in 9:11 a.m.;
out 10:12 a.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member (out 9:21 a.m.; in 10:47 a.m.)
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Lesley Milner, Senior Committee Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Analyst
Richelle Kawasaki, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tom Cook:

Jared Agtunong
Stacey Takahashi

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Kate Griffiths
Axel Beers

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tasha Kama:

Davideane Kama-Sickels
Evan Dust

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

Noelani Ahia
Sarah Sexton
Braedon Wilkerson

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Executive Assistant for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:
Dawn Lono

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:
Arthur Suyama
Jordan Helle

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins:
Laura McDowell
Susan Clements

Residency Area Office (RAO):
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Maria Zielinski, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor (BFED-22, BFED-24, BFED-16)
John Smith, Chief of Fields Operations and Maintenance, Department of Public Works (BFED-22)
Marci Sato, Accounting System Administration, Department of Finance (BFED-24)
Josiah Nishita, Deputy Director, Department of Management (BFED-24)
Scott Teruya, Director, Department of Finance (BFED-16)
Luana Mahi, Economic Development Director, Office of the Mayor (BFED-16)
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Faith Chase (BFED-16)
Junya Nakoa (BFED-16)
Jaycee Law (BFED-1)
Others (3)

PRESS: Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. Today is March 21st, and it is now 9:05 a.m. Welcome, everybody. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. As a reminder, when your name is called, if

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you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. So, at this time I'd like to say good morning to Vice-Chair of this Committee, Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. And I'm not sure what the greeting of the morning is, but you know, like most people, they just invent something. So, I'll just say guten morgen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's from when you were in Germany.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Must get the greeting for the day by calling on Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The greeting is from Singapore, just in case you plan to go down there over the weekend to go shopping, and the greeting is ni hao. Ni hao. I'm in my workspace alone, looking forward to your meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ni hao to you. Thank you, Chair Lee. Next we have Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Members, and everybody. And looking forward to today's meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Next we have Member Gabe Johnson from Lānaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers, Committee Members. Ni hao to all of you. There are no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office. I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have Member Tamara Paltin who's here in the Chambers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Broadcasting live and direct from the 8th Floor. We don't have any testifiers waiting to testify at the Lāhainā District Office. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Next we have...do we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez? I don't see her on the call yet. She'll be joining us. Member Shane Sinenci in the Chambers. Good to see you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes. Aloha and ni hao, Chair. And it looks like Staff has indicated in the chat that there are no testifiers at the Hāna Office. And then just as a reminder, I may need to step out a little bit to attend the CWRM meeting this morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, important. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And I'll be back afterwards. Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Congratulations on that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Member Sinenci is going to be getting...finalize your Water Use and Development Plan for the Maui Island, so congratulations, and thank you for representing us.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Ni hao.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ni hao. Good morning, everybody. Thank you very much for being here. Representing the Office of the Mayor we have our Budget Director Maria Zielinski; Department of Finance Marci Sato, who's the Accounting Systems Administrator. From Department of Public Works we have John Smith, who will be representing the Department. And also from Finance...I just got a note that also we have Director Teruya who will be joining us. From Department of Management, I believe is Josiah Nishita. Is Keku Akana joining us? I only heard of Josiah.

MS. MILNER: Chair, the Department let us know that either both of them will be attending or just Josiah. We'll let you know once they are logged into the meeting --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MS. MILNER: -- who is present.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, either the Managing Director or the Deputy Director will be with us. What an honor. Office of the Mayor we have Luana Mahi, the Director of Office of Economic Development. From Department of Corporation Counsel Kristina Toshikiyo. And I'd like to thank our Committee Staff who has worked really hard, not only on this agenda, but just getting our...our budget ready for the Fiscal '24 Year that we'll be receiving from the Mayor this Friday. So, Yvette Bouthillier, thank you very much, Committee Secretary. Lesley Milner, Senior...Senior Committee Analyst, as well as Kasie Apo Takayama, Richelle Kawasaki, who is our Legislative Attorney from...from OCS. I don't see her here, she must be online. And we have Lei Dinneen, who is out in the...helping us from Office of Council Services as an Assistant Clerk. Thank you, Members, for attending the meeting today. We have a quite busy and full agenda, so I look forward to having a productive meeting. Items on the agenda are BF...BFED-22, Resolution 23-100, Authorizing the Transfer of Unencumbered Appropriations for [sic] Balance within the Department of Public Works, Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. BFED-24, Bill 17 (2023), Amending...Fiscal Year '23 Budget, Department of Finance (Temporary Hazard Pay Related to COVID-19 Grievances). BFED-16, Bill 1, Amending Appendix A, Part I, Grants and Restricted Use Revenues, Fiscal Year '23 Budget, Department of Finance, and this is the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, also known as LATCF. Budget and Finance 1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for the County of Maui is the last item. Do we have testifiers? We don't have any testifiers?

MS. MILNER: Chair, there's no currently signed up to testify. If anyone wants to testify at the beginning of the meeting, please unmute yourselves or make your way to the podium in three...two...one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: Chair, we have no testifiers for the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. So, I'm not going to read this long instructions for testimony. And anybody who is interested in...in submitting written testimony, please do submit it to us. And I...I thought we would have an in-person testifier. Oh, Keani has just joined the meeting. So, welcome, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office alone on my side of the office, and we have our Community Outreach Specialist Zhantell Lindo on the other side of the office. No testifiers. Mahalo.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning and welcome.

**ITEM 22: RESOLUTION 23-100, AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER
 OF UNENCUMBERED APPROPRIATION BALANCE
 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
 FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET** (Resolution 23-100)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members, we have a full agenda, and I'm going to start off with Reso number 23-100, which I just read. So, at this time do we have anybody from Public Works, as well as our Budget Director, would you like to come up here? Thank you. Members, Resolution 23-100 amends Fiscal Year '23 Budget, Department of Public Works, Roads, Bridge, and Drainage Maintenance Program, Highway Program, by transferring 300,000 from Category A (Salaries) to Category B (Operations and Equipment) to cover a projected 300,000 shortfall in electricity expenses for streetlights. At this time I would like to ask Budget Director Zielinski to provide opening remarks on this item.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. Yes, this is a resolution from Public Works, Department of Public Works, and basically what they're looking at is...is just transferring from Category A, which is salaries, of \$300,000 to...to Category B, which would be for their electricity. Apparently electricity...and we've seen this with some other departments as well, that utilities have just really been extremely high. And in this case, they are looking to transfer some funds from A to B to cover the overage in the electricity or the utilities costs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is John Smith here to represent the Department?

MR. SMITH: Yes, Chair. I'm here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Would you like to say a few comments and introduce yourself? Thank you for joining us.

MR. SMITH: You're welcome. Aloha, Chair and Council. We...this is pretty straightforward. We project an overage, and we...we have the savings from vacancies, so we'd just like to make the move to cover those projected costs. It's primarily due to increase in fuel cost like everyone's seeing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. That's a lot of money. We must be one of Hawaiian Electric's good customers.

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MR. SMITH: I think so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time do we have any testifiers?

MS. MILNER: Chair, we have no one currently signed up to testify. If there's anyone who would like to testify on this item, please unmute yourselves now or come to the podium in three...two...one. Chair, we have no one indicating they wish to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, at this time, Members, you have any questions for the Department or Director Zielinski regarding this item? Yes, Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, my question is, what is the annual electric bill for Public Works?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good questions. Director Zielinski or...

MS. ZIELINSKI: I don't have that in front of me. I can certainly get it for you. I don't know if Public Works might have that more handy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Smith, do you have that answer, what is our annual cost that we have for electricity for the Department?

MR. SMITH: I have some numbers for the streetlights for this item, I don't have the entire electricity bill. Would you like that?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. SMITH: We've been averaging a little over 2 million per year for several years, and we're...we expect to be close to 2.6 this year. Those are ballpark numbers, we can get you more exact figures if you'd like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank...thank you. So, you're...actually, you're asking us for 300,000, but you're saying you need another 300,000? Did you say 2...did you say 2.6 is what you need?

MR. SMITH: We estimate the...at the end of the year to...to spend...the bill to be about 2.6 million. We have budgeted 2.3 million roughly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see.

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MR. SMITH: So, we just need 300,000 to cover that gap.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you for the clarification. Ms. Zielinski, do you have anything to add to that?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yes. Thank you, Chair. I'm just looking at a report that it does look like that was provided by Public Works that their year-to-date expense--and this was actually...this is actually not current, but it was 2.1, so it kind of underscores the need for the increase. Obviously this is...this hadn't been update...yeah, I see your...I'm...I'm sorry, I do see the...the projection that they're projecting 2.650, 2 million 650 on their...on this particular expenditure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Director Zielinski. Member Kama, that answers your question? Does anybody else...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, it does. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions for...I see Mr. Sinenci, then Mr. Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, mahalo, Mr. Smith, for that report. I was just curious if the Department has any efforts to...maybe some conservation efforts, or are we expecting to...to be at that...that rate moving forward?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department? Mr. Smith? John, did you hear the question?

MR. SMITH: Yes, Chair. Thank you. I think...there have been conservation efforts made in the past, but these are just primarily due to the...to the fuel increase. So, the usage rates for the streetlights are going to remain fairly consistent, so we don't project a major decrease in the future.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And just a follow up. And we haven't seen any reductions with the...with the more efficient lightbulbs?

MR. SMITH: I'll have to defer that question to our Director. I haven't looked at that myself.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Did you want us to send that question...Director...when you say Director, Mr. Smith, are you talking about to Director Zielinski or Jordan Molina?

MR. SMITH: Jordan Molina.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we can send him a question then. Okay. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Mr. Smith, does the County have solar projects or renewable energy generating facilities that they own? I believe the ones at the sewage wastewater treatment plants and the Kihei Aquatic Center are owned by other people, and we purchase the power from them. It seems like...it seems with the electrical consumption that the County has, it may be a good idea for the County to start installing its own generating sources. Do you know if that's planned at all?

MR. SMITH: I...I would be guessing, Councilmember. I...I don't have that information.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. ZIELINSKI: May I?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Zielinski?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yes, may I? Councilmember Cook, I do know...I'm not...I don't...I don't have all the specifics, but I do know that the Administration has entered into agreements with many of the departments, and I believe it's Johnson Controls relative to solar energy and in looking into mitigating our electricity costs. Specifically I couldn't give you, you know, specifics, but I do know that's a very large initiative by the Administration, and we do have an energy officer that's handling that. So, we can, you know, certainly address that if you...you needed more information.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for that answer, and it's encouraging. That would...seems like a good opportunity for the County.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Staff, maybe we can do a follow-up question for that because it does tie into the Johnson Control contract that's under review.

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair, we can prepare a letter for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Anybody else...oh, I see Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Deputy Director Smith. So, I have a question in regards...or...or Director Zielinski, I'm not sure who can answer it. But you took 300,000 from Category A, which is salaries. Can you go over the types of jobs that you won't be funding in this...in this upcoming budget?

MR. SMITH: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please go ahead.

MR. SMITH: Councilmember Johnson, thanks for that question. These are...these savings are from vacancies from expansion positions from last year that we have not yet filled. These are primarily laborer positions. We are working on filling them, but we not...we do not expect to fill them this fiscal year, so those are the savings.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do...do you have a number of how many laborer positions that will be going unfunded?

MR. SMITH: I don't have exact figures. It's approximately 30 to 40.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Zielinski --

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yes, just to address --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- you...

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- Councilmember Johnson's question. Just as a clarification, they are funded, it's just that they...you know, because of the vacancies they remain...you know, we don't have the expenditures related to those. But yeah, unfunded would just mean that we don't...we...we are...we are it sounds like from what Public Works is saying, they will...they do intend to continue to fund those, it was just that there's some difficulty to fill those positions, I guess, at this point in time.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Director, what should I...what's the proper term then? I don't want to mislead.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Well, it's that it would be unfunded, it would more just be that it's...it's...it's just as a result of vacancies, savings as a result of vacancies. I guess that would be the best way to...to characterize it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Ms. Paltin? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Smith. I just was wanting to clarify what kind of lights. Is it, the red/yellow/green streetlights, or is it the streetlights that illuminate the highways and roads?

MR. SMITH: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Traffic lights versus streetlights is your question. Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: Yes, we're talking about streetlights that...that Hawaiian Electric owns. So, it's the street...it's the lights on the street, not the...not the signal lights, although there are costs for that as well, but they're much smaller.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then does the County pay for the streetlights that line State highways, or just the ones that line County high...County roads?

MR. SMITH: Just the one that...just the ones that line County roads. These are just the County...County streetlights.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the ones that signal like if you're speeding, those are already on solar panels, right? Or is that only on State highways?

MR. SMITH: Most of those are on solar panels.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and we didn't look into doing that for our County streetlights to have the solar panel providing the energy for the...the individual streetlights like how those ones that indicate your traffic speed because it doesn't work so well, or...

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MR. SMITH: Well, we...we don't own the streetlights, so that would be --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. SMITH: -- for Hawaiian...Hawaiian Electric. So, it's just more of a utility bill.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, yeah. It wouldn't be in their best interest if we did it *(audio interference)* way. Does...is it...do you know if it's the law that they own the streetlights, or how that ended up to be?

MR. SMITH: I don't know the history on that. I know it varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but in Maui County, Hawaiian Electric owns most of the streetlights.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But they're in a County right-of-way, like the County owns the land?

MR. SMITH: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, anyone else have any questions? Seeing none. At this time then I would like to make my recommendation to approve for adoption the, "AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF AN UNENCUMBERED APPROPRIATION BALANCE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET."

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, made by Member...motion made by Member Kama, and who made the second? Member U'u-Hodgins.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hodgins.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, at this time I'd like to take a vote. Do you think we need to do a roll call vote, is this a...I think we can all...all in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

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COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It looks like nine “ayes.” Thank you very much, Members. This item has...

MS. BOUTHILLIER: Eight ayes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, eight “ayes.” Who...

MS. BOUTHILLIER: Member Sinenci.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I didn’t see. Mr. Sinenci is excused. So, eight “ayes” and one excused. The motion carries.

VOTE:	AYES:	Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and U’u-Hodgins.
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NOES:	None.
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ABSTAIN:	None.
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ABSENT:	None.
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EXC.:	Councilmember Sinenci.
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MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION:	Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 23-100 by C.R.
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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Members, for doing this item.

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**ITEM 24: BILL 17 (2023), AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2023
BUDGET: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (TEMPORARY
HAZARD PAY RELATED TO COVID-19 GRIEVANCES)**
(Bill 17 (2023))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And now we'll go on to the second item today, which is regarding...regarding Bill 17. So, at this time, Marci Sato, is Scott Teruya also going to be down here for discussion? No, just you? Okay.

MS. MILNER: Chair, he was in a meeting and was going to log on as soon as possible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. MILNER: And we'll let you know as soon as he appears.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, at this time then we're going to take up BFED-24, Bill 17 (2023), Amending Fiscal Year '23 Budget, Department of Finance, Temporary Hazard Pay related to COVID-19 Grievances. Members, as you know, this came up during our last Council meeting with Chair Lee. And since then we've had some additional developments, so I would like to have the Department discuss that. And so, I will defer to the Department for opening remarks at this time. Director Zielinski, please provide opening comments, and we'll go to Marci after that.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Okay. Yes. Thank you, Chair. This is an amendment that we're looking to amend the budget by increasing our Carryover/Savings in the General Fund by \$7 million. We did get certification from Finance on that. And then appropriating those 7...that \$7 million to the County-wide costs under a classification of temporary hazard pay, sorry, related to COVID-19 grievances. This ultimately...and this...in Bill 17, we would be actually...that...that action would actually increase the temporary hazard pay under County-wide from 20 million to 27 million, and this would relate to hazard pay relating to the UPW employees that would be made from...that's...I'm sorry, that was expenditures that were . . .(inaudible). . . I believe this was for HGEA if I'm not...yeah, it was for HGEA. I apologize for that. I should mention, as a...and I don't know if this is the place to say it, but we have...since we...we issued this...since this bill came...was...was generated, we do have a follow-up bill which I believe will actually supersede this one. I don't know if...I know Deputy Management...Managing Director might want to address that in his testimony. But there is something that will supersede Bill 17, so just as an FYI. And basically that will be to kind of move the monies just to go a little further to self-insurance, which is really where the settlements and...reside. They're all under County-wide expenditures.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. You know, I see also Josiah Nishita. I'm sorry, I didn't see you standing there. So, either Marci Sato from the Department, or Josiah. You want to take it first? Okay. Go ahead. Our Deputy Managing Director. Thank you very much for being here.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Committee Chair Sugimura, Members of the Committee, for having us here today. Apologize for being a little ninja-like there. Unfortunately, I guess our tables aren't big enough for all of us to sit there, so I'll be standing up here for you today. Obviously we, you know, are requesting favorable consideration of the bill before you. As Budget Director mentioned, we do have...to meet certain reporting requirements, we will be proposing an amended bill. Essentially it accomplishes the same exact thing that's before you here today, but would just provide better clarity in the reporting as indicated, I think, by auditors that we have dealt with previously. We do plan to post that for your Council meeting...your first Council meeting in April for consideration. And as I mentioned, the...essentially the substance of the bill is exactly the same as what's before you here today, just accomplishing a few different things for reporting purposes. The Council did appropriate \$10 million in the FY'23 Budget for hazard pay. Additionally, we came in for another \$10 million as an FY'23 Budget amendment, and we did indicate to the Council at that time that was for partial coverage as we're still going through the calculations and determining the payout to be provided. The 7 million we're requesting now as a FY'23 Budget amendment is to cover the remaining...remaining existing obligations that we have under the HGEA arbitration. And I'll be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you very much. I'm going to have Marci Sato say whatever you want to say, then I have some questions.

MS. SATO: Thank you, Chair Sugimura. Marci Sato, Accounting System Administrator. Yeah. So, Deputy Managing Director basically summed up the request of the \$7 million, and I can wait until your questions, Chair, for the transfer of the monies from COVID-19 to self-insurance and insurance programs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. SATO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You knew that was going to be my question. Okay. So, whoever can answer this, but I was going to ask if we are talking about...

MS. MILNER: Chair? Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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MS. MILNER: This is Lesley.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have to go into testimony.

MS. MILNER: Yes, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: We don't have anyone currently signed up to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody in the Chambers would like to testify?

MS. MILNER: Anybody in the Chamber or online, three...two...one. Chair, we have no one signed up to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, at this time then I'll go into my question and then the Members. Since this is temporary hazard pay, which is Category A for personnel, and we are changing it...or we're going to be redirecting these funds to insurance programs and self-insurance. So, either the...any one of you can explain why we're doing that and not keeping it in the temporary hazard pay Category A? It's going to be moved to B/C is where you're moving it to.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. Well, ultimately, I'll defer to Finance on the...the move to self-insurance. But essentially, it was originally classified as a County-wide cost under...I forget the exact title, but the hazard pay grievances related to the County's obligation related to that. I think subsequently from that, we...we did get an indication from our auditors that for reporting purposes, it'll be more appropriate to be listed as...under self-insurance related to the County's obligations to existing settlements or arbitrations. They...the essence of the matter is exactly the same. It's still, you know, the same amount of monies coming from the same programs. It's just that, you know, for reporting purposes, to accurately put it on the books, it has to be reflected as such. So, I'll defer to Finance if there's any further.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, does Marci Sato or...

MS. SATO: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. So, as the Deputy Managing Director said, it originally was appropriated under County-wide costs for the Fiscal '23 Budget under A category, which is salaries; however, upon consultation with our auditors, and at the close of Fiscal Year '22, we recorded this as a contingent liability as it was no, not happened yet, but the arbitration and the settlement occurred within the time period that we were finalizing our financial statements. As such, it would be more appropriate for us to record it as a settlement and a claim in judgment as opposed to salaries, as it was not part of a continuing operation. It would...for financial reporting purposes, it would skew the salaries

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and wages if we were to leave the 24.7 million in salaries. So, for...just for financial reporting purposes, we are reclassifying it as claims and judgments. It was also accrued as a liability in Fiscal '22, so we're just matching up the expenditures with the liability.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, to be sure that the...if...if we complete this, right, the 27 million, if we...when we do move it to...where it needs to be because of claims and judgments, do we have to specifically say that this amount is for the...is...is temporary hazard pay related to COVID-19 grievances, or does that not matter?

MS. SATO: Chair, you don't have to specifically state. Once we...you move that money from that category to self-insurance, we will pay it there; however, if there is concern about its use or...you can proviso it and add language for us to be able to just book that amount to settlements and judgments for that temporary hazard pay grievances.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Budget Director?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, just as mentioned, I did mention that we have another bill that will be coming that will supersede this one, and that actually does have the conditional, the...the...the specific language that earmarks it for the...that particular type of...the COVID-related --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- grievance. So...so, that would be in that new bill --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Perfect.

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- that will be...that will go to the Council on April 11th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On April 11th.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yes. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Perfect. Director...Managing Director, do you have anything you want to add to that?

MR. NISHITA: No. They summed it up perfectly. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Any of the Members have questions? Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. I have a question for Marci. Marci, you said the money is coming from the COVID-19 Fund; is that...that correct?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. SATO: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Okay.

MS. SATO: The County-wide line item for temporary hazard pay related to COVID-19 grievances.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. When you take that amount of money and put it into self-insurance, yeah, how much is left in the fund that you just took it from?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Budget Director or Marci, you...you're going to zero it out?

MS. SATO: So, we're just going to zero out that line item and take...so, right now there's \$20 million, so we're moving that \$20 million in its entirety to the settlements and judgments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Plus seven.

MS. SATO: Plus the seven (*audio interference*).

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is that the total liability? It just happens to coincide with what we owe?

MS. SATO: So, the total liability, the 24...the 20...\$27 million is the estimated liability because we have not paid out all of the HGEA members as of yet.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, the...I'm still not sure. You...you're taking...you're depleting one account that was set aside for hazard pay from the very beginning?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. SATO: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. SATO: So, we are just moving the appropriation from one County-wide cost category to another County-wide cost category for reporting purposes. So, we're not changing the amount that was appropriated, we're just moving it so that we're able to pay...record it out of the settlements and judgments category.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

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MR. NISHITA: Madam Chair, if --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Yes.

MR. NISHITA: -- if I may?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yes, Managing Director [sic].

MR. NISHITA: Just to clarify for everybody because it might get a little confusing. The bill before you today is just to add \$7 million from Carryover/Savings to the fund. What we're just relaying is that we are going to be proposing a bill to Council that's not before you today that would shift the money due to the...the reporting requirements that we indicated. So, I just...just to not make everybody confused, what's before you today is specifically related to appropriating an additional \$7 million. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have...Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director Zielinski and Ms. Sato. I was wondering if you can clarify the part about part one, increasing Carryover/Savings from the General Fund by 7 million. Is that from this fiscal year that it was carried over from...when was it carried over from, last fiscal year?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah. It is actually from Fiscal '22.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then we're moving it to the County-wide cost temporary hazard pay related to COVID-19 grievances. You folks don't have that other bill ready now? We could do that as Committee work, right, or...but it's not ready?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's not ready.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. So, just because of the nuance between Council being able to amend, you know, the budget as proposed by the Mayor essentially, budget bills have to be generated by us for amendments to our operations and programs. And so, unfortunately, it wasn't ready in time for posting, so, you know, we would ask consideration of possibly deferring the measure today, and then taking it up at a Council meeting when we have that bill ready for passage.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because the Council is not allowed to amend the Mayor's request to amend the budget outside of Budget Session?

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MR. NISHITA: Yeah, we'd have to repropose the bill to you with whatever amendments that, you know, we made or you folks made, and just due to the posting requirements, we couldn't get it done in time. And unfortunately, the, I guess, time frames that we have available, we...we will need kind of expedited review and approval of it for the Council meetings in April to make sure that we don't have to halt any hazard payments being made. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can I follow up?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the reason that you're not sure of the exact amount is because you have to calculate how many hours each employee worked in the hazard pay category by what the grievance settlement allowed them to claim for hazard pay?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin, for the question. Yeah, the...the calculations and the...I guess, coming up with the data can be a little time consuming. You know, for one, you have to...to generate the amount of time people worked during the time period. You know, you have leaves that were taken. All kinds of situations like that. Transferring within...within departments, changing positions, moving to new departments, being terminated, retiring. We have teleworking that isn't included as a part of the...the hazard payments, that has to be deducted from that. And then as a part of the arbitration, there are essentially three different...I don't know if you want to call it classes of employees that were set up, those receiving 15 percent, those receiving 25 percent, and then those we classify as hybrids, which are receiving 15 percent with the ability in limited circumstances or instances to receive up to 25 percent. So, there's...each employee's situation is a lot different, and so, there's a lot of calculations that have to go into that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you mind clarifying the difference in job duties for those in the 15 percent and those in the 25 percent?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Chair. In the arbitration, the arbitrator established only two classes of employees in the 25 percent category, that was Ocean Safety Officers and Driver's Licensing Examiners. Every...every other employee fell within either the 15 percent or a hybrid category, and that was all established either pursuant to kind of like a settlement agreement, or as a part of the arbitration itself.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And was it all the Ocean Safety Officers, or just the frontline, like the folks working in the office as well?

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MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Chair, Councilmember Paltin. It would be Ocean Safety Officers, those...essentially lifeguards and...and whatnot at the beaches, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And just last...last question was, if the Ocean Safety Officers or DMV folks didn't work during this time period, it's not...there is no penalty, they just don't get that additional 25 percent. If they took leave it's just straight leave at their regular rate?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah, they won't receive hazard payments for times that they didn't report to work.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And...and light duty, no, as well?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. The...there's so many nuances to this, so, of course, you know, it...it depends on kind of what you're meaning by that. But if they did report to a worksite, then they are eligible for hazard payments.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody else have any questions for this? Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'm curious, how much was expended for UPW as far as percentage of this? Actually, I have three questions, and they're kind of related. What's the total amount needed for HGEA, and has anything been paid out to date for that? And basically does this...does this increase cover all payouts related to temporary hazard pay, or will the Administration be requesting additional appropriations?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director [sic]?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's Deputy Managing Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Deputy Managing Director. Don't tell Keku I said that.

MR. NISHITA: Don't tell me you said that either. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. I think for your first two questions, Chair, just due to ongoing negotiations and things that are happening, I'd prefer that that be addressed in executive session if needed. The third item, does this include all hazard payments? It would cover all that have been filed to date. So, there are, of course, the additional...there's a grievance going through the process with SHOPO and so, this doesn't include anything related to other collective bargaining agreement hazard payments.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. That...that satisfies my concern.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. That satisfies your...all right. Members
(audio interference). Chair Lee, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I do, for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Then Member Rawlins-Fernandez next.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- the Deputy...Deputy Managing Director. My recollection, I believe, is that we set aside...we appropriated \$10 million in the budget for hazard pay; is that correct?

MR. NISHITA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, now we're moving 20...and that...that has been paid out, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who has that answer?

MR. NISHITA: So...thank you, Madam Chair and Council Chair Lee. Kind of as I stated earlier, just...and I apologize, we're just bringing it up for context, but really, what's before you today is just recognizing \$7 million in additional Carryover/Savings, you know, for the additional payments that are needed. As I mentioned in opening comments, the Council did appropriate, in the FY'23 Budget process, \$10 million for hazard payments. Additionally, towards the ending of last term, we came in for an FY'23 Budget amendment for an additional \$10 million, and we indicated at that time that that would be for partial coverage of HGEA's hazard payments. And now, we're here before you today for another \$7 million to cover the remaining amounts needed.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Could we just, at some point, get a breakdown of...of that \$7 million, where it came from?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Director (audio interference).

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You said Carryover/Savings, savings from...from what?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. It is. Budget Director?

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If that could be just sent to us, that information.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Okay. Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have that...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Lesley and Kasie, you got that question *(audio interference)*?

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions, Members? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I don't have a question. Mahalo, Deputy Managing Director. I understand what's being explained, and I'm supportive of the direction that you recommend. I just have a point of information and it's just a quick one. Under the Charter, the Council cannot amend the operating budget outside of Budget Session after the Council has adopted it, but not the CIP budget. Council can amend CIP budget at any time. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else? I see any more hand...Member...oh, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My question would be for the Deputy Managing Director. In your statement when you said defer and take it up on the Council agenda, would we discharge this, or I didn't...I didn't understand if we defer, and then the Council agenda would refer that other bill that you haven't gotten ready yet to this Committee, and then we would do it one time, and then refer it to the Council or...if you can clarify what you meant?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Paltin, what we're going to do today with this item is defer it. And I wanted to have a...a discussion on it and ask all your questions. And then on the April 11th Council agenda with Chair Lee, we're going to take up their new budget amendment, which will...which will take all of this action into consideration. So, that's our...that's what we're going to do today. We're going to defer this, and...so, Managing...Deputy Managing Director, if you have another thought on it, but that's what I was planning on doing.

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MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And just, I guess, to expound on that, we would just request the Council's consideration for waiver of Committee referral and report at that meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It'll be a brand new bill.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I guess I'm confused when you said take this action into consideration because we're not taking...is deferring taking an action, or would we ultimately file it once we take up the new bill on the Council floor?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I'm going to...what I plan to do today is get all your questions, get it answered, and then defer the item. And I'm waiting for this new bill that the Budget Director mentioned, which will take this into, you know, one bill which will be on...filed for April 11th Council agenda. And then what they're...what they're asking for is to defer Committee referral because we're having this discussion now, and I think that would satisfy the requirements of the Members based upon the depth of the questions and the answers that we're receiving today. And...and we'll ask the follow up to get more that the Members may have, but...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then later auto file it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, later auto file.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks for asking that question. Any other questions from Members? Seeing none. Okay. Thank you, everyone. So, I'm going to defer this item.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And thank you, everybody, for being here, Marci Sato. Deputy Managing Director Josiah Nishita, you are always efficient. Thank you for being here. I'm going to...10:00, I think Member Rawlins-Fernandez has to leave the meeting.

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ITEM 16: BILL 1 (2023), AMENDING APPENDIX A, PART I, GRANTS AND RESTRICTED USE REVENUES, FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND (LATCF)) (Bill 1 (2023))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time I'm going to take up the next item, which is Bill Number 1, which I think a lot of the Members have an interest in, and this is the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF). And if...if I could ask for Luana Mahi from Office of Economic Development, the Director, to come and join us on the floor. Thank you very much. Good morning, Luana. You answered my text, I...I don't know, 3:00 in the morning this morning, so thank you very much. So, this is Bill Number 1 (2023), Amending Appendix A, Part I, Grants and Restricted Use Revenues, Fiscal Year '23 Budget, Department of Finance (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF)) (BFED-16). This is the bill that we spoke about at the last meeting, and I wanted to continue the discussion and give you all an update because we received additional information from Corp. Counsel. So, at this time, if you don't mind, Members, I'm going to have Corp. Counsel first open and answer a question that came up at the last meeting. So, Kristina Toshikiyo, are you on? Oh, there you are. Okay. I see you now. So, thank you very much, Ms. Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: There we go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: At the last meeting that we had this item, when it came up, we asked you if the Council could amend this, and it was confusing because it's called fund, but it's a grant, and I wonder if you could then give us your...your analysis or explanation of what you came up with.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: About amending.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Thank you, Chair. And...can you hear me okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Oh, okay. Thank you. I wasn't sure if my mic was on. And I do want to apologize, I probably over analyzed and caused some confusion in my statements at the last meeting. But as Member Rawlins-Fernandez said, in the earlier item about Council's authority, which is to initiate changes to basically the Administration budget, per the Charter, they don't have the authority. And again, for the CIP programs, that would be allowed. So, in this instance, by proposing a condition which would be essentially amending something that's under the Administration's purview, that would not be allowed under the Charter.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we cannot condition this, and we're trying to do, right?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes. You would not have the authority to initiate the...the condition. That's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, therefore, I guess what...Lesley and Kasie, we sent the letter, which was what we said we would do to the departments with the Members' questions, the last meeting. And I think Luana expressed to me that she did answer it, but we haven't received a copy of it. How shall we proceed? Because we can't condition it.

MS. MILNER: Well, Chair, that will be ultimately up to the Members. If they don't want to accept this money without the ability to condition it, we can file this bill. If they want to proceed with accepting it, we could ask Director Mahi to provide more information on how the funds will be expended, and proceed with approving it. Or we can defer it to get more information at a further meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I think at this time then I'm going to ask Director Mahi to then explain information that you had submitted in that letter that we haven't received yet, so...

MS. MAHI: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. MAHI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for being here.

MS. MAHI: So, in the last meeting, I remember Councilmember Johnson mentioning he didn't want the funds to go for festivals, and we had...and I...I agree. So, we had \$320,000 that was set aside last year for economic diversity...diversification based on MEDB's CEDS report. And there was supposed to be an RFP put out last year, and I found out that it wasn't. So, I met with Chair Lee and got approval to instead do a press release instead, which we put out on March 8th. And so, I thought that with this extra 50,000, we can add it to the economic diversification with the hope that we'll have more than one application for dealing with economic diversification. Because MEDB wrote this report, their Executive Director Leslie Wilkins, I met with her on Moloka'i this weekend, and she mentioned that they already had an application ready to go. But there are...there were some other organizations that was also interested. So, if we have extra money, maybe more people can utilize the funds instead of all of it going to MEDB.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Member Paltin --

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MS. MILNER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- did you have a question? We have to do --

MS. MILNER: Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- public testimony.

MS. MILNER: We have a testifier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We do.

MS. MILNER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let's call for public testimony.

MS. MILNER: Faith Chase, it is now your turn to testify if you'd like to unmute and begin your testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Faith Chase?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Committee. I have some questions, but I guess I really...I understand that it must be a bit of a tap dance for a (*audio interference*) of Hawai'i, County of Maui operating under their guise to...it must be a tap dance not to be discriminative. And this is...when I go to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, I see that it's meant to be for tribal peoples, which the Federal Government has learned over the last two, three years now that when they see that, they mean the indigenous peoples of the place. And so, you all know that we are behind the ball in Department of Hawaiian Home Lands housing people, that my personal numbers and other grassroots organizations that do outreach, the numbers of home...beneficiaries and waitlisters that are houseless and struggling is in the 90s--is in the 90s percentage. So, I would...I would...you know, there's...I would make some suggestions. No offense to the economic diversity, but we're actually way more in a crisis mode. And while we have all these setbacks with...you know, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands can't...their...they've shuffled who their director is. We're behind...we are so behind in implementing any kind of real solutions. So, I would say my recommendation is...this is one of the policy recommendations to Department of Hawaiian Home Lands or the Governor to...for the allocation, the \$600 million that was...that was, you know, trying to be distributed fairly to get, you know, homesteaders on their 'āina and all this kind of things, but they're slow to the

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roll. So, meanwhile, we're still suffering on the...on the streets literally. And I would say one of the recommendations by the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homelands Association [sic] was to sprinkle a little bit of the wealth within each of the homestead associations. And while that's not perfect, that's the only thing I can see off the cuff that I...that...that...that would be fair about allocating these monies to...directly to tribes. Maui Economic Development, I...I'm...I'm...thank you for the work and for datamining and speaking to your...your Moloka'i...Ms. Wilkins on Moloka'i and everything, but it's...it's...it's...you're...we're losing...we're losing the...we're losing the...the direction that this money was supposed to go to. And we need trans...transitional is not the right way. We need culturally based housing solutions for our waitlisters and our beneficiaries now. And so, if there's a way to pocket that money where it serves this sector, it would be good on you, it would be good on everybody to...to figure that out. I...I...I need to sit and think about this a little bit more. And no insult, excuse me, to the wahine who is...is doing her best to try to, you know, find a vessel for this funding and for this disbursement. . . .(timer sounds). . . Thank you, though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Ms. Chase. Anybody have questions for her? Seeing none.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, not appropriate.

MS. MAHI: So, in the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Luana?

MS. MAHI: Hi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Luana?

MS. MAHI: If Miss...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Luana?

MS. MAHI: Hi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, usually testifiers, we ask the question --

MS. MAHI: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- so you can...

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MS. MAHI: I was going to make a comment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'll let you make a comment --

MS. MAHI: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- after when we talk about --

MS. MAHI: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the item. So, thank you very much.

MS. MAHI: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know you're always heavily involved, so appreciate you. Members do not have a question for Faith Chase. And maybe I would just like to add that you probably want to relay your strong comments to the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands or the State agencies that truly can...you know, can take that deep dive to...to express what you're saying to us. So...

MS. CHASE: I'm in the meeting right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're...okay. Very good. So, thank you very much. And do we have any other testifiers?

MS. MILNER: Chair, we have an individual signed in as Guest 62. If you would like to testify, please unmute yourself now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Guest 62?

MS. MILNER: Okay. They have not unmuted. Chair, no one else has indicated in the chat that they would like to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: If you would like to...

MR. NAKOA: Yo, I like testify. Yo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: Chair, Junya Nakoa would like to testify on this item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Nakoa.

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MR. NAKOA: Yes. Yeah, listening to Faith Chase, yeah. Yeah, you guys talking about tribal for all this money. Put this money for the Hawaiians, brah. Yeah, I know, Yuki, you said go talk to the State and all that stuff. This weekend I just went talk to our...our...whatever, representative in OHA, Keoni Souza. We had one deep conversation. And no worry, I talking to the State level too. But any way we can make sure you guys use this money for the Hawaiians. 'Cause like the one project that's happening over here in Lāhainā on Keawe Street, you guys went open 'em up to everybody, and that land is Hawaiian ceded lands. So, I no like see...and I know the County went support 'em, all these people went show up to this blessing and all that kine stuff, and they got misconstrued on how the...how the availability was. And some thought was going be the Hawaiians was going get...be first preference, but that's all bull crap. Okay. So, all I like say at this part, in this meeting, and this County meeting, is that you guys got to watch what you guys do with our Hawaiian homelands. We watching, I'm watching. I talking to the developer of that project in Keawe. He's got...he's trying to work to...work with me and couple other community guys to get Hawaiians on that...on that property. Because it was the State and the County who went screw up and give these people, the FHDC [sic] or whatever letters you guys like call 'em, these guys the land for build on 'em. This kine stuff gotta stop. You guys going use the money for this tribal things or whatever you guys want to call it, make sure you guys take care of the Hawaiians because I going to tell you, we going take action soon here in Lāhainā. We tired of the County and the State screwing us Lāhainā people up. We going stand up and fight hard, hard. Okay. That's all I wanted for get to you guys on this point. Okay. You guys have a great day because...and be prepared because I'll be...I'll be on hard. Take care, you guys. Shoot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for Mr. Nakoa? Seeing none. Thank you very much, Mr. Nakoa. Any other testifiers?

MS. MILNER: Chair, we have no one else who has indicated they would like to testify. If you would like to testify, please unmute yourself or come to the podium in three...two...one. Chair, we have no additional testifiers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Written testimony will be...continue to be received. So, at this time I'm going to close public testimony with your approval.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And we...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No objections.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And now we'll continue with questions. So, Luana Mahi, did you have a comment that you wanted to make?

MS. MAHI: Sorry. Yes. Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to point out that in the MEDB CEDS report, there is a section for obtainable housing and construction. So, anyone is welcome to apply for this money to be used for housing. Whether it's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, or if there's an organization with different homestead associations, they can also apply. It is not just exclusive for MEDB to apply, it's open to everyone. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions for the Administration? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Mahi. I just was wondering if that was the only option, if you would be open to working with OHA to distribute the money for either housing or economic diversity because they work with Hawaiians. Or it seems from the testifiers, you know, the preference for this particular 50,000 goes to Hawaiians, and I just was wondering if that is an option. We cannot put it as a condition but we wouldn't want 50 grand to be not accepted. And just was wondering if...if you guys are open to working with OHA to have the 50,000 be directed to Hawaiians, as opposed to everybody?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Mahi?

MS. MAHI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah, absolutely. I am also a beneficiary in Hawaiian Home Lands, so...and of course, I...I feel for all of our Kānaka. And absolutely, the money is there, we need people to step up and apply for it, and put in an application that we can work with, with real goals, measurables, and budget. Because we're talking about \$50,000, so that's not a lot of money to...to do anything significant in housing, but absolutely, we can do something with our Hawaiians.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And to clarify, when you said...at one time you said housing, and at one time you said economic diversity. Is it either/or?

MS. MAHI: Well, the...the study that was done is based on economic diversification. So, there is several different sections that comes under that. And so there's agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, obtainable housing and construction, creative industries, eco economy, energy, Hawaiian knowledge and culture, health and wellness, science, technology, innovation and efficiency, visitor industry, Hāna, Lānaʻi, and Molokaʻi. So, any one of these parts of this study can be applied for.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, then say we...we accept it, and we...we just don't condition it, but mention that we'd like it to benefit Kānaka organizations, and

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then we go out in our respective communities and networks to these Kānaka organizations. How would we direct them to...to this process?

MS. MAHI: So, our grant application is on our website. You could type in OED grants Maui. It's for fiscal year...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, can you repeat that?

MS. MAHI: You can type into Google OED grant Maui, and it'll come up as the Fiscal Year '23 grant application, and they can fill that out. There's also a handbook that they can download. And they can also call the office and ask for help.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And how soon would you anticipate...if we pass this out of Committee and then pass it at the Council, I guess two readings...does it need two readings?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It'll need two readings.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Two readings.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, after we pass it out of Council and the next two Council meetings, at that point community can already apply for the money?

MS. MAHI: So, we put out a press release for this monies on March 8th, and the deadline is March 31st at 4:00 p.m. because that day we open up the 20...Fiscal Year 2024 grant applications, and since this is '23 funds, we need them to be applied for by the 31st.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that's on the County of Maui social media, or the press release?

MS. MAHI: And the Communications Department sent out a press release. I've seen it on *Maui Now*, *Maui News*, and Facebook, and...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we would then just kind of urge some Kānaka organizations we know to go and apply for it by March 31st, and then so on and so forth?

MS. MAHI: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MS. MAHI: You're welcome.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody else have any questions? Member Kama? Sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I'm trying to figure out what the question is so I don't just go on and...well, what I really want to say. So...so, Ms. Mahi and Ms. Zielinski, have you gone onto the LATFC [sic] website? Okay. So, if my understanding is correct, as is a couple of our testifiers, that these...this \$50,000 actually is for tribal governments. The fact that Hawai'i does not have a tribal government, so whatever the government is that controls the lives of the Kānaka Maoli, that's the government that we have to abide by. But this 50,000 has really no restrictions except you cannot lobby with this \$50,000, but you can do everything else and anything else, and you don't just need to only do economic diversification, or housing, or whatever, whatever, whatever. We've got homestead associations out there and community associations out there on all of our islands in our County that languish when they want to do things like the taro festival, or a Kuhio Day program, or celebration of Queen Liliuokalani's birthday, or...or and or and or, and they lack funding, or they miss the deadline, or stuff happens and it doesn't get in on time and then you can't get reimbursed through the grant system, right. But we got to fix that, and we will. But in the meantime, can we not just give the money just like that to these Native Hawaiian organizations that have been doing these kinds of things for years and years and years, and come up with the same problems that we know that they're going through today? You know, I know Moloka'i had theirs in January, and they're still hanging on and waiting, and Paukukalo is still waiting, and you know, all these homestead associations that don't...or have difficulty going through the grant process that we have. Because okay, here's the notification, here's the grant, oh, here's the guidelines, here's the handbook, read them, fill them out...oh, by the way, you got to do them online. Okay. So, you know, for us, some of those things are barriers to some of our people and some are not, but we have to make it easy for our people to access. Even if it's just \$50,000 and all the...the 12 homesteads associations on Maui get is maybe \$3,400, but it's a lot more that they have today than they had yesterday. And I just want to make sure that...that however it is that we give our people a hand up, that we give it to them without going through so much drama to be able to get these. And it's just manini kind money, it really is. And if my understanding is correct, that...so, all of our counties got the same amount of money except for Big Island because they have the most amount of Federal land that are not taxed, right, so they get a bigger chunk, but the rest of us get 50 grand. I don't know what the other islands are doing with their money, but we should figure out how to get it from the Feds 50 grand directly into the hands of our people without having some intermediary take a percentage off for administrative fees. And that's where I'm going with this conversation, Chair, and that's what I'm just wanting to share with everybody. It's not a lot of money, but it sure beats not having any at all. So, thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Kama. So, are you asking if the money can be just given directly to these organizations without going through the...the RFP process? Is that what you're...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, I think there has to be some process for that, I just don't think that it has to be one so full of hoops that you have to jump through and climb through and crawl through that then it becomes a barrier for even them to apply for it. I just want to make things easy for them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Ms. Mahi, do you have a comment on that?

MS. MAHI: Thank you for your question, Councilmember Kama. We are currently working on and hoping to get approval from our Corporation Counsel person for a microgrant process within our office. So, it'll be one page, one and a half page instead of everything that you mentioned, the hoops and...and jumps. The other thing that I've had constructed, all the people that work in my office, is that I want everybody to know how to fill it out so that we can help people when they walk into the office. We did it on Thursday and Friday on Moloka'i, and a couple of weeks ago we had somebody from Kahikinui who didn't have a computer come in and I helped her handwrite it. So, we are willing to do that as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Mahi. I'm really excited to see that one...one...one and a half page, one and a half. I hope it's one.

MS. MAHI: Sorry, thank you. I'm waiting for direction from our Corporation Counsel person.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It could be one page, two sides. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Mahi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Any other questions? Well, this is...thank you very much, Miss...Ms. Mahi. Nice to hear that you're trying to conform to some of the needs of the community that way. Thank you for helping Kahikinui. I think that was one of the grants that I had put in the last fiscal...or this fiscal year budget. Thank you for helping the community with their axis deer and wild cattle and watersheds. So, at this time, if there's no other questions, I'd like to ask for this bill to be approved, Members. So, at this time...wait, let me read this. I'd like to recommend passage on first reading, Bill 1 (2023) and I read it before. Do I need to read it again? No. Okay, good. I need a motion and a second.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So move.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I think that's Member Kama and second by Member Cook...is that who I heard? Oh, Member Johnson? Okay. Thank you very much --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Johnson. So, motion made by Vice-Chair Kama, and second by Johnson...Member Johnson. Members, I think this is a voice vote. All in favor say "aye," raise your hand.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And who is missing is Member Sinenci. Okay. So, that's...

MS. MILNER: Chair, Member Rawlins-Fernandez had to log off as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, that's seven "ayes," two excused. The motion carries.

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

ACTION:	Recommending FIRST READING of Bill 1 (2023), CD1, by C.R.
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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. And I think your concerns have been heard, Members. And I appreciate OED and Director of Finance for applying for the grants and then trying to make some changes. Thank you very much.

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ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI (Rule 7(B))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, now Members, it is 10:17, I'm going to start this next item and then I am going to take a break so you can read the document that I have, which is going to be about processing the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget that we are to receive from the Mayor this coming Friday. As you know, tonight is his State of the County address, which we'll look forward to hearing from him as to what may be in...or what will be in the documents that we'll receive on Friday. So, my opening comments on this is right now, the Members have received an online version of...of what Yvette is passing out in the Chambers. And Members, we have spent time in recent years discussing the need for economic diversification and less fiscal reliance on tourism in Maui County. We are looking at many different options for what...for what form this diversification may take, but at the moment, tourism is still a significant economic factor for the County. In correspondence dated March 8th, 2023, the Council on Revenues informed Governor Josh Green, M.D., that it expects visitor spending to plateau in the coming months due to higher visitor costs and a weakening U.S. economy. I think we are all hearing that and reading that in the news. Taking these effects into account, I hope that we can take a fiscally responsible approach on the Fiscal Year '24 Budget process, and work together to create a document that serves the need for everyone in the County. Staff has distributed or uploaded to Granicus a memo detailing the proposed procedures for the Fiscal Year '24 Budget process. And Members, at this time I'm going to call a recess so all of you can read the document, and when we come back again we will reconvene and we can discuss further. I'm open to hearing what your comments would be and suggestions, but I look forward to taking a deeper dive into the budget, which I'm excited to receive this Friday. So, Members, at this time it is now 10:19, and I'm going to call a recess, and we'll do it until 10:35. Thank you. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:19 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:38 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. We're now on the last item on the agenda, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for the County of Maui. I read you my opening remarks. Thanks for letting us all take a brief recess to allow you to look at my memo. And it is now 10:38 and we are back in session. So, do we have any testifiers?

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair. Faith Chase has signed up to testify on this item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Ms. Chase? ...Ms. Chase?

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MS. MILNER: Chair, it looks like she's disconnected from the meeting at this time. I will do a final...oh, Jaycee Law would like to testify in Chamber.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Mr. Law?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. LAW: Ohayo --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ohayo gozaimasu.

MR. LAW: Good morning, everybody. Aloha kakahiaka. I'm...I'm going to...I don't like to be on...sound like a broken record, but, Ms. Sugimura...Chair Sugimura, Kagiwa (*phonetic*) Sugimura, thank you for doing all you did for Upcountry and stuff, and you're doing just a fine job as Budget Chair. And I just want to keep on hammering, I was like...I didn't have any nightmares about it or anything, but like somebody said we're really behind and I'm thinking...I don't have like a good speech ready or anything, but waste management is maybe 10 percent of the problem. If we're going to fix the problem and turn things around from going to...I read an article in National Geographic one time we're in a race, it was probably five years ago, as compared to a horse race where you either have a winning horse or we're going to have a losing horse the way the climate and everything is going. So, I just wanted to keep on talking about the waste management process, and we need some kind of a start on this. Instead of just putting all the plastic in a pile in the ground, we have to use it for...we're going to have to it ourselves. And trying to rely on...like we're going to have to contract, I guess, and bring somebody in and then have some guy...I volunteer. I'll even do it for...I can't say free, but if they just feed me and stuff, then I'll work there. But the waste burner plant, the one with the gasification and all that good stuff. Okay. Madam Chair, I'm...the bus is like second, and then the waste management thing. So, you're really good at...like I mean I don't know if you got all As in high school and stuff, but one of the things--and God must have put me here to help you--but the recycling stuff. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done?

MR. LAW: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Any questions for Jaycee...is it Law?

MR. LAW: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Law?

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MR. LAW: Yes, Law, L-A-W.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Law. Jaycee Law. No questions. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for being present. Any other testifiers?

MS. MILNER: Chair, Faith Chase has reconnected to the meeting. Ms. Chase, it's now your turn to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Chase?

MS. MILNER: Chair, she is muted on her end, so Staff is not...unable to unmute her for testimony. Ms. Chase, are you able to unmute, or are you having technical difficulties?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can't hear you, Ms. Chase.

MS. MILNER: Chair, she is not yet unmuted. I will do a *(audio interference)* testimony, if there is anyone wishing to testify, please unmute and...or identify yourself in the chat in three...two...one. Chair, we have no other testifiers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Ms. Chase, I'm...I'm...I know you know our process, so, I hope to hear from you again. You can also submit written testimony and BF-1 [sic] will be our item that we'll have as we review the 2024 Budget that we are soon to receive from the Mayor. So, at this time I'm going to close public testimony and receive any written testimony. Members? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. So, this memo...everyone has received a copy of a memo, which is basically the Budget Session procedures that we are going to discuss and take as we go through the Mayor's Budget which all of you know we're receiving on the...this Friday at 8:30 in the morning before we have our Council meeting. And by the Charter, we are mandated to receive the...the fiscal year budget...the proposed budget from the Mayor on March the 25th, but because that falls on a Saturday, we'll be receiving it on Friday the 24th at 8:30 a.m. There's a press conference called, and I think all of you got an email asking us if you would like to attend. It'll be in the Mayor's 9th Floor Conference Room. The Program Budget, Budget Details, budget bills and relevant appendices will be available for pickup on the 7th Floor at the County Building on March 24th for all Councilmembers and residency area offices. OCS Staff will notify the Councilmembers via email when the copies are ready to be picked up. All the offices ordered additional copies. So, those will be...which is being

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prepared by a third-party vendor, and the documents, when ready--which will be early next week--an email will be sent to the Members and EAs for pickup on the 7th Floor at the County Building. After Staff is preparing a request for the civil service salary information--as you know, that's...it's a document that we receive that is given to us provided during...we got it from previous budget sessions, and Members have...will be contacted individually to arrange for delivery of that information. It is something that is not shared, it is something that is given to each office, and you have to sign for it and return it. Independent budget review. From March 24th to the 29th, the Members will be able to review the Mayor's Budget proposal on their own...on their own without the need to attend any BFED Committee meetings...or residency area meetings will begin on March 30th at 6:00. So, that...next week, Thursday, will be...the first residency area meetings will be in Lāhainā, and then on Friday will be on Moloka'i. That will be the start of the residency area meetings, also called district meetings. During that time, Members should compile questions for departments. The Department questions are due at 4:30 p.m. on March the 30th, which is next week Thursday, and please submit it in Microsoft Word format area to the BFED Committee at bfed.committee@mauicounty.us. Additional details on departmental questions are included below. So, after listening to discussions from the previous BFED meetings, it was requested last year that any questions would be about...with the funding items that start from \$25,000 or more. So, if you see something that's like 2,000 or...or 25...less than 25,000, we are asking that you not include that in a question because it's relatively small in...in relationship to the total budget. Questions drafted due...during this time can cover items in the Budget Program narrative, Budget Details or budget bills and appendices. So, Members, you're going to get two big binders, one is the program book and one is the Budget Details by department and...and as well as the bills. But you will...you will see that that has a lot of information, so, if you have questions on it, you know, please use those documents and submit in Word your questions to the BFED Staff by 4:30 on next week Thursday. For all questions, please indicate the budget document you are referring and...as well as the page number. So, it'll be important because once you get the binders you'll see that they're very different, but your specific questions, if you could reference what...what document it came from, as well as the page numbers. And there are examples here for you. Questions from each Member will be compiled by Staff, and letters will be sent to each department. Similar questions from several Members will be combined into one question. Administrative heads will be asked to respond to the written questions during their scheduled review with the Committee. They will also be asked to transmit their responses in writing by the end of that same day. All documents will be relative...will be received electronically. Correspondence will be uploaded to Granicus and made available via Legistar, and testimony will be available on eComment. As a courtesy, departments that are scheduled on April 3rd, which is the first day that we're having deliberations with departments, will have until the end of the business day on Thursday, April 6th, to submit their written responses to the Committee. At the meeting, each department will be

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asked to provide brief opening remarks before receiving questions from the Councilmembers. Each Member will have an allotted amount of time to ask questions and allow the department time to respond to the questions. After the timer has sounded, the same process will be...will be...will continue for the next Member. If there are not enough...if there's not enough time for the department to respond to all of the Councilmembers' questions, a follow-up letter will be drafted with the remaining questions. Any additional questions must be stated on the floor or submitted to the BFED Committee, bfed...B...bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by 9:00 a.m. the following morning. In other words, if you have questions that you didn't get answered by the departments, please submit your questions the following day, and the Staff will then send it to the department. And we're only sending one follow-up letter to each department so we don't have individual letters from each...from nine of you. So, we ask that we can work in...in unity. Now, here's the part that you probably are interested, priority proposals. So, as our process, during deliberations, Councilmembers may ask the departments questions about the priority proposal they are considering. The priority proposals from you will be due 4:30 on April the 14th. So, we are not asking you to submit your priority proposals before we hear from the departments. So, we wanted you to ask the questions you wanted to get answers to, and to strengthen your priority proposal or confirm it. So, we are asking the proposals, which will be due 4:30 on April 14th, which is a Friday, and submit it in Microsoft Word format to the bfed.committee@mauicounty.us. Each Member may submit a maximum of three funding priority proposals--one priority proposal for multiple residency areas, and up to two may be for separate...for a specific residency area. So, in the past we've had discussions on what is County-wide, and it has been defined by previous BFED committees that it's probably fairer to address it with two or more districts for a specific residency area. So, you get two for specific residency areas, and one for multiple residency area, so that's three. Priority proposals must be for additional funding or limitations, conditional language, funding...funding priorities should be specific and include line items, additions, or increases to the operating budget, excluding transfers to revolving funds or CIP. Revolving funds will be taken up separately, and that will be taken up on April the 20th. Each Member may make one conditional language proposal related to revolving funds--revolving funds will be discussed on April 20th, as I just said--and up to two conditional language proposals for County grants will also be permitted. So, if you wanted to have a...a certain nonprofit to be conditioned to a pot of money, that is now in...a lot of them are in the Office of Economic Development, you will be allowed two additional condition language. So, that's what that is. Funding for priority proposals do not include funds for each residency area's economic development, environmental, and cultural programs. So, as you know, all of the residency areas has a pot in the Mayor's Office, Office of Economic Development, for \$140,000, and this is where you can submit existing nonprofits and what their programs are and how much, up to 140,000. In the past, Members have not provided any of it and just left it up to the Office of Economic Development.

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That's one method. Or you can proviso...submit your...what we're asking for is to...to submit whatever your conditions are for that 140,000. So, it is a pot that you control, and that if it's...if it's not used then the Office of Economic Development, you can ask for them to get back to you before they use it, or give them full ride as to, you know, what to do. So, Mr. Sinenci, you have a question about that?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, just a comment, Chair, on that section. If...if you...if you want to proviso the actual nonprofit as part of your district funds, yeah, Councilmembers would want to speak with them first. Because if they don't try for the money, then we...it has to come back for a budget amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, sometimes it's easier to just leave it blank if...if they're not sure that they're going to go after the...the grant funding. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, that seems to be an important point. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I had a few clarification questions. When it says each Member may make one conditional language proposal related to revolving funds, that's related to all the revolving funds, not one conditional language --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- proposal for each revolving fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the other clarification is up to two additional conditional language proposals for all County grants.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the three funding priority proposals, you would need five votes to get a priority proposal --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Passed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- approved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there allowance for an alternate if...like what if you have three priority proposals, and none of them pass? Is there room for like one alternate one in case your three all don't pass or something like that, one alternate?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, in the past, my experience has been that...and I...I look forward to other Members joining in who have, you know, participated in this process, but the priority proposals are there, and again, two from your specific residency area and one from multiple, two or more residency areas. And I believe that...my experience has been that...and sometimes there's a duplicate. Like I think last time...last term, Chair Lee and I had similar ones, so we dropped it. But to make up for that, what we also are including...what I am including in this is that each Member can add conditional language and...on for revolving funds. So, there's other ways of you getting your proposals in...involved. I do also hope that...by experience that the Members have had who...who have worked on budgets before that you do talk with the...the organization so that you have the depth of your proposal. You can have data so that you have to convince the other Members because it will be a majority vote as to whether your proposal makes it or not. So, there...there are some...there's some homework involved in that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just...the other thing I was wondering, you know, every single year I've asked for pedestrian improvements to specific areas where people have gotten killed or injured, like intersections and like that. And nearly every year they don't get done or like, you know, maybe one or two of them gets done. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Highway Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, it's usually coming out of the Highway Fund, and like I find money to offset it or whatever. But if it's a priority proposal and it...there's no way to have it get done if the Administration doesn't want to do it. So, you could put money there, and they would be the ones that didn't do it, but at least you can tell your Committee it's not our fault, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's a very good example, right. The budget, as you know, is a suggestion of what...what the community can anticipate for the future, right? So, the Mayor is going to give us his proposal on Friday, and then we take it department by department, deliberations, and then decisions. But we...we...we basically look at...look at everything under a microscope and figure out what is our priority. And you are going to be brought into the final decision making of what's going to be in the budget. What Tamara is talking about--and Tamara, you can correct me--is that I think we need to find out from Public Works then what are their priorities in terms of streets and crosswalks or sidewalks that need to get done. I have a really good example. In Kula, Kula Highway, we have this one intersection, Omaopio, it's a State highway so this is kind of an example, but

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it...it really drives home what Tamara is talking about. So, that particular highway, which is owned by the State, over and over again, Representative Kyle Yamashita has put in using highway funds to create a stop sign or put in a traffic light there. But what the Department has told me is because of other priorities, they use that money, highway funds, for other things. So, that must be...may be what Tamara is experiencing with her example. Although it's important, there may be a bigger picture of something that the Department is doing that therefore, they will not use what we are asking them to do, they will use their best judgment. And if you talk to the departments, their main thing is safety, you know, and public safety and control for our residents. And so, for some reason, Tamara's example is what may happen. And there's some...that's why I'm saying, there's some homework that needs to get done in your priority proposals to maybe get it passed by us, as well as maybe the Department will do it. Tamara, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And just to follow up on that. I was wondering where finding money or moving money around falls in it? Like how highway funds are running kind of short because of electric vehicles and work from home and stuff like that. And I think Director Molina had made a...a good point that, you know, rather than transferring funds from the General Fund to the Highway Fund, about being able to fund bus operations with General Fund as opposed to Highway Fund. So, if the budget were to come down to us where the bus was largely funded by highway funds, and we made the suggestion to say, like for example, fund it with General Fund so that there's more highway funds to fix roads and stuff like that, how would that be interpreted as a nonmonetary change because it's just moving the source of the money?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, because I had Department of Transportation over all the years...no, not my...my first, the last four years, I will tell you that in your example, if I could, I don't want to take us up...away from what we're talking about, but just so you understand the process, is Department of Transportation uses the Highway Fund as matching funds to get the 11 electric vehicles that we just got, but that's how they...they justify using some of the source of funding. So, the Highway Fund is not only used in their case...you know, in their case it's used to expanding the transportation needs of our community. So, some...we...we need to look at that in terms of...I mean I support the Department of Transportation to use the highway funds for what they need to do, and I...I believe we need to provide more transportation for our residents. Okay. Wait. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The question...the question wasn't specific to that. Like so, then say we propose to transfer general funds to the Highway Fund, it's not adding or decreasing, it's just a proposal to change the source, whether it's highway, general, or water, or whatever it may be. I was just wondering how that

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would be...if there's a limit on that, or if it's just you make a proposal and if it...you get the five votes you can do it as much...like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or like how sometimes CIP funds, one year we said oh, move that to bond funding if it could be, and like that. Is that not a limited one, it's just you're putting it out there to use a different source --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Source of funding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- so it's not limited?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to ask the expert. Lesley?

MS. MILNER: I believe we have reached out to the Administration about changing the source of the funds, and it depends on the project. I know for some of them they really prefer . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . they're fully funded by highway funds. So, I think that may be something we need to discuss with the Budget Director and the Administration representatives on the floor when those changes are proposed. Chair, it would be up to you as it sounds like it would not change the overall balance of the budget if you would consider that a priority proposal or not.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wait, say your last sentence again.

MS. MILNER: It sounds like what she was proposing, it will not change the overall --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: -- balance of the budget --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

MS. MILNER: -- so it will be up to the Committee to decide if that would be considered a priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: *(Audio interference)*. Okay. I'm going to...I'm going to finish this, and I think I see Chair Lee. So, priority proposals will be compiled and organized by department, and a copy will be transmitted to the BFED Committee at the end of the business day on Monday, April 17th. If during the departmental review, a department requests an increase to their own budget, the request will be tracked and revisited for a vote during decisions week, because that sometimes happens. Rarely, but it does happen. Additional amendments to the budget proposals that do not increase expenses are permitted by anyone--and that's what you were just talking about, Tamara--additional requirements to the budget proposal that do

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not increase expenses are permitted by anyone, and will not count against a Members' allotted priority proposal. At the start of each meeting, Staff will distribute the draft budget for the department covered the previous day, and also confirm the changes made with the Committee and with the Budget Director. So, what...what this is saying is, whatever we discuss today, you're going to get an accounting of it tomorrow so you can see the impact of the changes that we discussed the...that...the previous day. And Chair Lee, you had a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I have a question. I...I'm hoping that there's going to be some flexibility involved with the...the rules because sometimes we run into situations where, as was said earlier, some people pick the same projects. So, you know, we need to be able to...to make changes. Secondly, I...I strongly believe that some of the problems we've had with the Highway Fund is...keep in mind, the Administration, whatever...almost all the money that is in the Highway Fund, they...they designate it almost all. So, whatever we come up with is...we don't have too many choices because very little is left over for the Council. So, you may want to consider...and there is a problem taking General Fund and putting it into these special funds, like Highway Fund. But there's no problem with using general funds for the Department of Transportation, for example. So, this is an area, I believe, that, you know, we could have a lot more flexibility if we took...we use general funds for not all, but a lot of it, the general funds for transportation. And then you can still have your matching funds, but the source will be a little different. But again, I'm...I'm hoping that we'll have flexibility when the time comes because sometimes, during the process, we find out oh, that the Administration just received notice that they're going to be receiving grants or additional funding, yeah. So, when these changes come up, we might have to make adjustments as well. As...as long as, you know, you agree to that, because when it comes down to it, it's five votes, right? If...of course, your recommendation is...is very significant, but, you know, if...if we have the five votes or the majority--six, seven, eight votes, whatever it is--I...I think you would take that into consideration, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. I think we all --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- experienced that before. And I think that was your question last year too, Chair Lee. You're very consistent.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, it's pretty much always my question. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And I...I just want to...through this process, I just want to really extend a great appreciation to the Budget Committee Staff as everything that we're just talking about, when you go home at the end of your day, they're still working. In fact, to get this document prepared, I think I got this...I don't

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know what time it was, but the Staff works really, really hard. So, everything in here that when they're asking for the questions, or asking for our priorities, and every time there's a unified effort to...to give us one voice, they're the ones that put it together. And I...I can't even tell you how grateful I am to Yvette and Lesley and Kasie and the backup Staff also, which is Ana and James...James Krueger. Yay, James Krueger. So, that's...that's the memo. I do want to say that I also know that some of us are sensitive to the...how long the budget meetings are going to go, and so here we talk about the daily schedule and we're going to start at 9:00 usually. Morning recess will occur around 10:30 a.m. Lunch breaks at approximately 12:00, and afternoon recess at 3:00. And if we have a dinner, it'll be at 4:30. I do not want us to have to go late into the night, but when we come to decisions week that may be a time that may take us a little longer. The departments that we have scheduled, you have received, you know, what the department schedule...you will receive the department schedule and so, you can prepare for them when they come up for discussion. And every department is going to be...will be given the questions that were...were submitted by Member Sinenci's office, Member Paltin, and some of you that had general questions that we'll give to every department. And those were questions that we ask all the time. So, we thought...I was talking to my Vice-Chair Member Kama, and we thought well, how can we make it so it's more efficient. And one of the ways that we thought we could do is to have these predetermined questions go to the departments so they know, number one, we want to know what is the difference between Fiscal Year '23, which is today, in comparison to the proposed budget. What are your vacancies, right, what is your Carryover/Savings. And Member Sinenci had very detailed questions about personnel, and those were the questions that do come up every year, and in fact, it came up today, right, we're talking about the Public Works Department using 300,000 from the A Account and he moved it to the B/C Account to cover their shortfalls in...in the electricity bill for the traffic...no, streetlights. So, those kinds of questions we thought we would submit it ahead of time. And we are going to also allow, and maybe this can be up for discussion, like five minutes per Member for questions when we talk to the departments. And then for second round, two...two minutes. So, five minutes and two minutes, with your approval. Of course, if we have a department that has hardly any questions, we don't have to have five minutes and we'll, you know, play it by ear, but if five minutes could be the maximum so that we...we know that, you know, your questions will be asked and answered. And if you don't get that, at the end of the day we'll take all your questions that were not...you did not get to ask and we'll send it to the departments the following morning...or if you had more questions by the following morning. So, Members, does that all seem okay? Yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering if --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Alice Lee, not done.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you could consider for the dinner break maybe moving it back half hour, hour because...or...and how long it would be. Just because if it's a standard hour and a half or hour, that's...that's kind of early for nonsenior citizens to eat dinner.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, we'll take it...we'll...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 5:30 or 6:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...5:30, okay. If we have to go long then, and I will...I will also commit to at some point pulling Member U'u-Hodgins providing dinner...can...no, not you to provide dinner, I will provide dinner. You can bring your fruits.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do a potluck.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, potluck. Well, I will commit to *(audio interference)*.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is it...that correct, it's going to be hour-half dinner...or hour?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hour and a half. Is that too long?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, not for me, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- just, you know, like just 4:30 is really early.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Early, so you want 5:30 --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That would be great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for dinner?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That would be great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh. They can ask it. Are we...sorry, Member Johnson. Okay. Member Johnson...Member Lee first, and then...Chair Lee first, and then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I guess you didn't finish your question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I just want to make two points. Number one, the Chair's Contingency Fund will take care of the...the district meals, like Lānaʻi, Molokaʻi, Hāna, et cetera. I think...yeah. And then Lāhainā and Haʻikū, so...but...but not the meals that are in the Chamber. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I'm not...I think we need to get that clear because Chair's Contingency Fund doesn't have that much money for every meal. So...so...and then the second thing I wanted to mention, Chair Sugimura, is that you may want to...you and your Staff may want to consider making proposals throughout the Budget Session, such as we just experienced having to go through a transfer of funds from A to B for Department of Public Works for \$300,000. You may want to consider allowing up to \$500,000 can be done, but with strict reporting guidelines or requirements. Then we don't have to have a special meeting, and then Council meetings, first reading, second reading for a transfer of \$300,000. So, you may want to consider those kinds of changes as you go through the process, the budget process. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. So, you're saying...is that different, a ceiling threshold then for certain actions to be taken. Is that...I see...

MS. MILNER: Chair, we could look at that when we review the general budget provisions --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MS. MILNER: -- to see if that's something that the Members would be amenable to.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. That's creative. So, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know, last budget we had five priorities, and this year we have three. No one's brought that up, but I figured I'd bring it up because remember, Members, we have a new Administration, a new Mayor, and there's been a lot of people that I've been speaking with, and I don't know if you folks have, but I know you speak with people before the budget that are asking for...for funds for their preschool or this and that, whatever...you know, across the board we get a lot of people asking. I don't think that there...my...my...my understanding is a lot of people have been trying to meet with the Mayor before budget, and they...because of just the new Administration and the workload, they haven't been able to get in front of the Mayor. And so, I mean even myself, I...it took me a while to get in front of the Mayor. So, I think if we were to add a...maybe one priority for the whole Maui County to make it two and two would be like a proposal I would like to, you know, float before the Members because we...all the things that I just mentioned. So, that's kind of the things that...that . . .*(inaudible)*. . . pops up is, you know, can we get more priorities because last year we had five, we have a new Administration, I want to help them maybe...you now, help carry the load, and...and that's kind of my take on it. So, is that...maybe you can speak on how you reached this number, but that's...that's my...my suggestion, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah. So, how I reached this number is what...what I'm looking at...actually, if you...if you brought in that perspective, that there are three that will come from you. And also on this is, we're as...we're adding that you can do one from the revolving fund, so there's four. And also that you can make one conditional language proposal related to...well, I just said that. That will be due on April 20th, revolving funds. And two additional conditioned language proposed for all County grants. So, that is three...four...five...six. Last year we had five. So, that was my thought process. Instead of having it just five, I thought I would break it down to...to where, so now we have six.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, could we --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- add money to the...thank you, Chair. Could we add money to the revolving fund then?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to recommend not. I'll tell you why. So, when...when the Mayor looks at the budget and the revolving funds...and in this case, let me talk about the Affordable Housing Fund, that's a popular one because all of us want

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more housing. And who can make the decisions about what is going to go into the...or what be approved for the revolving funds is the Administration. Lori Tsuhako with Department of Housing and Human Concerns, the projects go through her Department, she makes the recommendations to the Mayor, the Mayor adds it to the revolving funds. And I would imagine because they have fiscal responsibility and...a fiscal responsibility, that there is an amount of projects that they want us to help with Affordable Housing Fund. So, I know...I...I would not like us to just say okay, we're going to add X amount of dollars to the Affordable Housing Fund and not have projects because in order to meet that X amount of dollars, we're going to have to raise property taxes. And in my opening speech, what I...what I had said, and I'm really serious about this, is that I want us to be fiscally responsible, so we walk in step with the Mayor and the Administration for what projects are going to be done. We're going to hear it in our Committee with Member Kama, as well as the items that you take up in your Committee, Member Johnson, that affect housing. But we need to build housing, and I just want us to...I just want to say that in general, you know, I'm using the Affordable Housing Fund as an example, but I do not want us to be able to just add any amount to the revolving funds and for us to take a responsible perspective for putting the budget together. So, for your first question, we had five last year, this year I say...I'm looking at we have six, and I just broke down those priorities, conditional language, and, you know, one to the revolving fund, and that I'm also recommending that we do not add money to the revolving fund. We can wait to see what the Mayor is doing with, you know, his budget, but I think he's seeing the same picture that we are. And I...I know that we campaigned for more housing, and our policies have been directing that, but when...when we see the budget, let's see, you know, what their perspective is, where are they going take us, and how can we work together. So, I don't want to add to the revolving funds is...is my summary. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. I...thank you, Chair. I understand that. I...you know, I respectfully don't agree. Revolving funds revolve, and next year we...you know, we can spend it next year if we don't spend it all this year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I...I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- just think, you know, we want to make it a priority and we want to push, so that's...that's kind of --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- what I...I wanted to kind of...you know, Bill 107...

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, because of...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Go ahead. No, sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I was just going to say, Bill 107, you know, was really helping, you know, making housing truly affordable, and we're going to need funds for that. So, that's...that's kind of where I thought revolving funds is...yeah, if we added money to it, if the Administration doesn't have capacity, at least it carries over for next year. So, that's where I was standing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Johnson. And I will also let you know (*audio interference*) get my calendar that on...on the 19th, we're going to get...we will receive from Finance Director Scott Teruya the real property tax assessments. The next day he's going to...he will be presenting to us, as he has in the past, of what's available for real property tax rates because, as you know, that's a significant part of what our budget comes from. And then also, in the afternoon on that same day, we will be talking about each revolving fund and looking at what the balances are and...and what it is. So, I want us to take a special look --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- at the revolving funds. I just want...yeah, and --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: (*Audio interference*).

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that's how I figure we can focus on it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if you'll allow me just to say a final thought?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, raising property taxes, sure, it adds money to our revolving funds to...to help with the affordable housing, which is a crisis, it helps with all the...the important things that we need to fund, but it also de incentivizes [*sic*] this crisis that we're in is...is like using homes as a...as a...as a way to make...to build your wealth, you know. So, I...I think raising property taxes on people who are investing in our...in our houses just to make money is a way that we...we kind of de incentivize [*sic*] that. So, I...I --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- just think of just that's...that's my take on it. Thank you. I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. I think we're all same-same. Oh, Member Sinenci and Member Paltin, you have something? No. Okay. So, did I miss anything? No? All right. So, dinner break at 5:30 on a daily schedule. I will tell you that I feel sensitive, or am sensitive to the meetings not going on all night, but during decisions week, if we have to go a little bit longer, I hope you will allow us to do that because we will have to make some tough decisions. I look forward to all of you...all of you...working together with you, and I realize that we are experiencing a change together with new Administration. We have some new Members. I welcome you to this process. And I would like to meet with you individually if you want just to kind of go over what you think is important and how we could help you. We have some really talented Members of the...of the Council that can also help in...in many different ways. So, at this time I'm going to be ending my meeting. It is...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I got one more question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you have a question? Sorry. Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, when you say the district funds don't count towards (*audio interference*), does that also include like district park funds? Like...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's talking about your economic development district funds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- we were to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the 140,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If we were to say like West Maui park funds...because a lot of my proposals in the last budget, they said that they'd do it, but they took it out of West Maui park funds, and then they never did it. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What? What do you mean? They said they're going to do a project, but they never did the project?

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MS. MILNER: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, it was included in the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Lesley will explain this.

MS. MILNER: Sorry, if I can clarify. Councilmember Paltin had priority proposals last term that were to be funded out of the General Fund, but the Administration informed us that there were park assessment funds that were available --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: -- so that general funds did not have to be used.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: So, they were included under the Park Assessment Fund. But it sounds like even though they were included in the budget, ultimately the projects didn't happen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the question is, if it's not coming out of general funds...like I think Member Cook and myself have good-sized district park funds in comparison to other districts. So, it's money that's there, and it can only be used...it can't be used for maintenance of your parks, it can only be used for new projects. Does that count? Because that money is there, it can only be used in your district, and in the case of me using a priority for it, it never even...the projects never even got completed within this fiscal year. So, just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I think....

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- wondering if that counts?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, to me, that's a separate priority. Lesley, what does that sound like to you? It look...it sounds like that would be a specific priority.

MS. MILNER: Yeah, I think that's a determination for the body to make, but I think you could look at it either way, as one of your priorities or as separate. I would also add that we can send a request to the Administration to request the current balance of those funds if the Members would like that information as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That would be good.

MS. MILNER: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if we could add to that request, maybe the status of previously approved projects, if they're still in the works or they just ignored it or...like, you know, because there was a lot of work and requests from the community to make it be a priority item, they didn't use general funds, they switched it out and used the district park funds, and then they didn't do like the batting cages or like that. And I'm still getting the complaints from the community about our parks and things like that, that how much revenue the West Maui brings in, but everybody else's district parks look way nicer. So, I mean there's that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can...

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair, we can include that in the letter.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, does that...can we also ask that request for all the district parks?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All...all district parks. Anything else? Seeing none. Okay. All right. So, Members, see you today in front of the County Building for the State of the County Address. Yes, Mr. Sinenci, you want to say something? Until 5:00....5:00, I think. What time...what time is the State of the County?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: GREAT Committee meeting...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's right, we have a GREAT Committee meeting at 1:30. Sorry. Sorry about that. Member U'u-Hodgins, sorry, I don't mean to dismiss that. All right. So, at this time I'm going to adjourn the meeting. It is now 11:27. Thank you, Members. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

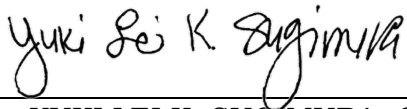
ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

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ADJOURN: 11:27 a.m.

APPROVED:



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

bfed:min:230321:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 55 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 12th day of April 2023, in Kula, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck