

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

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 9, 2021**

**Online Only via BlueJeans**

**CONVENE:** 9:02 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

**STAFF:** Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst  
Kasie Apo Takayama, Legislative Analyst  
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst  
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney  
Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary  
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson  
Keisa Liu, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Gabe Johnson  
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Davideane Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya King  
Michelle Del Rosario, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly Takaya  
King  
Sarah Freistat Pajimola, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani  
N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci  
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

**ADMIN.:** Michele M. Yoshimura, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Layne Silva, Director, Department of Liquor  
Sandy Baz, Director, Department of Management  
Josiah K. Nishita, Deputy Director, Department of Management  
Tyson Miyake, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor

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Joann Inamasu, Director, Office of Economic Development, Office of the Mayor

Alex de Roode, Economic Development Specialist III, Office of the Mayor

Makale'a Ane, Economic Development Specialist III, Office of the Mayor

Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:**

Farron Cabral

John Dobovan

Mike Wildberger

Warren Watanabe, Executive Director, Maui County Farm Bureau

Kyle Caires

Lucienne de Naie

Leah Rothbaum, Trust for the Public Land (lobbyist)

Lana Coryell, Deputy Director, Hui No'eau Visual Art Center

Leilani Pulmano

Alison Wright

Noelani Ahia

Gay Sibonga

Jana Hoehn, President, Maui County Veterans Council

Sherry Duong, President, Maui Visitors Bureau

Scott Crawford, Ke Ao Hali'i

Doug Spencer

Lynn Britton

Keith Ranney

Odie Odell

Adam Radford, Maui Invasive Species Committee

Shannon VanderHeuvel

Pamela Tumpap, President, Maui Chambers of Commerce

Mike Fogerty

Autumn Ness

Rod Antone, Maui Hotel and Lodging Association

Anny Bruch, Vice-President, Hawai'i Farmers Union United

Tamara Sherrill, Executive Director, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

Malia Thompson

Faith Chase

Vincent Mina, President, Hawai'i Farmers Union United

Art Vento, Maui Arts and Cultural Center

Bobby Pahia

Lori Buchanan

Cindy Reeves, University of Hawai'i, CTAHR

Jennifer Karaca

Robin Newbold, Chair, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

Negus Manna

Annie Alvarado, Executive Director, Maui Taro Farm

Mike Moran, Kihei Community Association

Fay McFarlane

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

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(*gavel*). . . Aloha kakahiaka kākou. ‘Elua minuke i ka hala o kahōla ‘eiwa. Ma ‘eiwa o ‘Apelila I ka makahiki ‘elua kaukani Iwakāluakūmākahi. E ‘olu‘olu mai, e ho‘omalū ke Komike Mo‘ohelu Kālā a me ho‘o mohala waiwai ‘o wai ka luna ho‘o malu o kēia Komike o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. It was 9:02 on April 9th, 2021. Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please come to order. I’m your Chair, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. And let’s see. Kōyo kākou from bright and sunny Molokai. I keia lā me kou kākou, eia hope luna ho‘omalū, Tamara Paltin, kōyo.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Member Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. Ua puka ka lā ma ka Hikina and hau‘oli kōyo kōyo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hau‘oli kōyo kōyo. Member Mike Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Aloha Kakahiaka and good morning to you, Chair, my colleagues and everyone else viewing in.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Chair Alice Lee, kōyo.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Kōyo, Madam Chair. I just want to wish my colleagues a good morning and happy aloha Friday. The surf in Wailuku is two to four feet.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, you got a swell from yesterday, huh?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, a swell.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Kelly King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha kakahiaka. Kōyo...is it kōyo kākou, and I think the wind has finally died down a little bit here in sunny Kihei.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Very nice. Kōyo. Okay. Kōyo, Member Johnson...Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Kōyo, Chair. Kōyo, fellow Councilmembers. I have no weather report on Lāna‘i, because I’ve been basically shut in during Budget. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Member Yuki Lei Sugimura, kōyo.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, everybody. I'm looking at the Ka'ahumanu Church, looking so beautiful and such a beautiful day in Wailuku. So good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. And Pro Temp Tasha Kama is excused for today. Everyone looks very nice and bright-eyed and bushy-tailed after a long night. Mahalo, members. Okay. So from Corporation Counsel, we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristina Toshikiyo. Kala mai.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Aloha and kóyo, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha and kóyo. From the office of the Mayor, Budget Director Michele Yoshimura. And our Committee Staff, we have Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier.

MS. BOUTHILLIER: Good morning, Committee Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Supervising Legislative Analyst Shelly Espeleta.

MS. ESPELETA: Kóyo, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Kóyo. Budget Committee Analyst Lesley Milner.

MS. MILNER: Aloha, Chair. Kóyo, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Legislative Analyst Kasie Apo Takayama.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Kóyo, Chair and Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Kóyo. And Legislative Attorney Richard Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. We have 25 people signed up to testify right now on our one agenda item, BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the County of Maui. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you're signed in, you are on the list to testify even if you did not request to testify. Please let Staff know in the chat if you are signed on and do not intend to testify. Testifiers wanting to provide video testimony, please join by going to the link noted on today's agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide audio testimony, please join by calling the number and entering the meeting code also noted on today's agenda. The Committee intends to keep the same meeting link and phone number for the ease and convenience of the Members and the public. Written testimony is highly encouraged. Instructions on how to submit testimony can be found at [mauicounty.us/testify](http://mauicounty.us/testify). Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. When testifying, please state your first and last name. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization or are a paid lobbyist, please inform the Committee. Staff has posted the testifiers log in the chat so that testifiers can see where they are on the list. Please be mindful of the use of chat during the meeting. Chat

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should not be used to provide testimony or chat with Councilmembers or the testifiers. If providing testimony, please be courteous to others by muting your microphone and video while waiting your turn to testify. Once you are done testifying, you will be asked to disconnect from the call. However, you are welcome to continue to view the remainder of the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or on [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). Participants who wish to view the meeting only without providing testimony, please also disconnect at this time and instead view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or on [mauicounty.us](http://mauicounty.us). Only Councilmembers, Staff, and designated resource personnel will be connected to the videoconference meeting once testimony concludes. This online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Governor's most recent emergency proclamation on COVID-19. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Okay, Members, we'll proceed with public testimony. Our first testifier signed up is Farron Cabral, followed by John Dobovan.

**. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Ms. Cabral. Okay. Please unmute.

MS. CABRAL: Okay. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, loud and clear.

MS. CABRAL: You probably hear that a ton of times. Okay. Aloha, Maui County Councilmembers and all. Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify this morning. My name is Farron Cabral. I am testifying in support of the \$34,000 Budget line item for the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Program included in the Mayor's Budget for this upcoming Budget cycle. I had the fortunate opportunity to be a part of the most recent 2020 Cohort. I have always had a heart for our community. Being born and raised here, I feel a special tie to our land, and a responsibility to always do my part. As just one person, this can be overwhelming and intimidating. Being a part of a greater whole, like the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows, really helps to put perspective on how things operate on our island, and also effective ways to make an impact. I am really thankful for the knowledge gained and the ability to work...to walk a mile in someone else's shoes, even if it's just a few steps. It's easy to sit back and judge without understanding the whole picture. I feel like the Ka Ipu Kukui program paints that whole picture in an amazingly short and efficient time. I know there are so many areas that need support and funding, but I believe core programs like Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows helps to bring dynamic solutions to the many issues we are facing in Maui Nui. Thank you all so very much for your time and your hard work and dedication during this Budget season. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Cabral. Any questions for our testifiers? Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I do. So thank you very much for being here. And because we're in the midst of COVID, I was just wondering what kind of COVID pivot has Ka Ipu

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Kukui done, and do you anticipate still continuing in the midst of our current economic condition --

MS. CABRAL: Yeah, so...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: ...or our health and safety condition?

MS. CABRAL: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. So I'm...you know, I'm just a Fellow. I'm sure there are more people that could talk on this, but we've definitely pivoted. We just had our most recent hālāwai implementing all the safety procedures, mask wearing, social distancing, even breaking down the groups at the Kulahaven Farms. We've done some Zoom meetings yesterday and today, and we've also had many different outreaches via, you know, Zoom and the different platforms like that. So it's still going on, and just implementing the different technologies that are out there.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. That's what I was wondering, if it's still going on and happening.

MS. CABRAL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And thank you very much.

MS. CABRAL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you so much for your testimony, Ms. Cabral.

MS. CABRAL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. CABRAL: Bye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is John Dobovan, followed by Mike Wildberger.

MR. DOBOVAN: Good morning, can you...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. DOBOVAN: Good morning, can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. DOBOVAN: Okay. Good morning. Thank you so much for your time. I really appreciate this opportunity. I'm John Dobovan, I'm the founder and owner of Kulahaven Farms, so Hawai'i's first trout aquaponics farm. I'm also a...one of the founding members and

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current president of the Maui Food Hub, and I'm...I'm...and forgive me for calling in. I'm on deliveries right now. The phone is all I've got available. I have sort of a unique perspective in that I'm both a farmer and deeply involved with Maui Food Hub. I'm really calling just to ask your support...your continuing support for the Maui Food Hub. You know, if you'll recall, last March when COVID first hit, it was a disaster for us farmers. I got to tell you, I lost half my income overnight. And I talked to other farmers who had lost like 100 percent. Fortunately, we were able to pull together a very effective operation in just three weeks, and it's only grown since then. However, we're still, you know, a young organization, and I think we have an awful lot to offer the community. As you know, I'm sure, farmers make pennies on the retail dollar. Food Hub allows farmers to set a price that they can survive at, and still give consumers a very good deal on extremely fresh produce. So Food Hub desperately needs help in...right now, in its fledgling stage, so we can grow into something that will be much more sustainable, and will be a positive influence on Maui's food system in the years ahead. You'll probably hear from our Executive Director, Keith Ranney, a little later, who'll be giving the nuts and bolts, but we have already had a tremendous impact on the community, and...and it's just getting better all the time. So any support you can give for Maui Food Hub would be extremely appreciated. I'm speaking both as a farmer and as a consumer who buys through the Food Hub and as somebody who sells through the Food Hub. So thank you very much for your support and your time. I really appreciate it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Dobovan. Okay. I see questions from Chair Lee, Member Sinenci and Member Sugimura. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Mr. Dobovan, for your testimony. I appreciate it. I'm also keeping track of unusual testifiers, so you're...what are you delivering right now?

MR. DOBOVAN: I'm on my way to Mama's Fish House with a cooler full of rainbow trout. I'm also taking fresh baby watercress to Foodland, Mana Foods, and a couple other smaller retail stores.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you so much. You're going to help my justification for continuing this type of testimony with the State Legislature and the Governor. And you've given us very good reasons for us to continue this way. Thank you.

MR. DOBOVAN: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Excellent strategy. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo, Mr. Dobovan. Just curious, how much of...does the Maui Hub receive that are from local farmers, 100 percent?

MR. DOBOVAN: 100 percent. 100 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great.

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MR. DOBOVAN: 100 percent, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Awesome. Thank you. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice to see you, Mr. Dobovan. And I am...I happily went to visit his farm Upcountry. And I...I'm just...I'm looking at our Budget. So can you tell me where the Food Hub is located, or is it just in the Office of Economic Development with Ag, or do you know how much the Food Hub was receiving?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura --

MR. DOBOVAN: That...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: ...it's one of the members of --

MR. DOBOVAN: I'm sorry. Was the question directed to me?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. DOBOVAN: You know, I don't think we're getting very much from the County at the moment. Our funds have really come from...mostly from private sources. The Healy Foundation, we got a number of small donations from people. As you probably know, we spend a lot of our effort giving food out to people who have fallen between the cracks, and so we've gotten donations for that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Well, John, I was just trying to figure out where you are in the Budget --

MR. DOBOVAN: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- is what I was trying to --

MR. DOBOVAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- form.

MR. DOBOVAN: I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I know you do --

MR. DOBOVAN: I wish I could answer that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --good work. I knew that.

MR. DOBOVAN: Okay. Yeah, I have no idea where we are. I'm sorry.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Or even how much. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci.

MR. DOBOVAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I got your answer, Member Sugimura. It's my --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- district priority number 39.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo Member Sinenci. Member King, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes, just a quick, quick clarification for John. You did pull over to make this call, right? You're not driving, so I want to make sure that...

MR. DOBOVAN: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: ...to ask you. Okay. We don't want this to backfire.

MR. DOBOVAN: Yes, I --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We don't want this to backfire.

MR. DOBOVAN: ...I'm sitting in...no, no. I'm sitting in the middle of the old cane fields out here right off of Haleakalā Highway.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you.

MR. DOBOVAN: Thank you for asking.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning, Ms. Dobovan...Mr. Dobovan.

MR. DOBOVAN: Thank you all very much for your time and attention. Really appreciate it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Mike Wildberger, followed by Warren Watanabe.

MR. WILDBERGER: Good morning, Council...or Committee, and thank you for supporting remote testimony. The weather in Kalihi is jackhammer with a little occasional bulldozer. So I'll talk up as much as I can. I'm here to speak on two issues. I'm in support of funding the Maui Food Hub, and I'll tell you why. And I'm also in support of

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the purchase of the Maui Mala and Mauka property to protect Mā'alaea Harbor. With the Food Hub, I'm a happy customer, long time...since it started, and supporter, and encouraging my family who's living in my house now is ordering from them while they're there. A month ago I became offered a chance to be on the board, and the Maui Food Hub is...well, it's a successful startup in a very difficult time. Any business that tried to start up during the pandemic and succeeded...and actually, you were asking about numbers. They did receive a small grant at the beginning. They were...the CARES Committee decided that they should get a huge grant, which they did not get, for some...you know, there's a lot of need around the pandemic time. But the Maui Food Hub was able to continue, and actually is in the black. We're functioning like a successful company, but at this point, it needs to scale up. It needs to get bigger. I'm looking at other food hubs around the state, and there's a matter of scale. And if you're a private company, you would be looking for funding through, you know, private interest funds or whatever. But it's not. It's a nonprofit, 503(1)(c) [sic]. It's not able to do that, and so it's looking for a grant. And you were asking how much. I think it's \$265,000. It's...the money would go to purchase a refrigerated truck, a refrigerated van, and one month [sic] of rent for a new facility. Currently, Maui Hub is working out of the Sun Fresh facility, and they are going...they're...you know, as tourism returns and things pick up, Sun Fresh is going to need their space back. And so it's essential that we carry through. This is where businesses, you know, they make...they've made a good support. They've shown the ability to actually sell produce, make money from it, send all the money to the farmers. They're not in the black by much, but, you know, succeeding. And at this point, they just...they need that push. They need that little breath of air. I don't think it leads towards continued funding, but it is essential. And with these things...with a years' rent and with the vehicle of their own, we can start home deliveries, expand, and matching the other hubs. So I think that'll allow us to carry more farmers and more food. So it's really a good thing. It's not really asking for a lot. In the scheme of things, it's less than what was recommended by the CARES Foundation. And I look forward to getting back to Maui and taking a more active role. I'll be back in May. On the second subject, the Maui Mauka property, I saw that when Spencer was going to build there. And I've worked out of Mā'alaea Harbor, a lot of you know, since 1986, and I've seen the Harbor run clear, and muddy, and eaten tako out of it before. There's a lot going on there. And if that space is allowed to be developed, there's going to be a lot of runoff, a lot of...it's just not going to be good for the Harbor or the south coast of Maui. I'm always in favor of purchasing open space. And I know that the hiking trail is just near there, and so it almost lends itself to a public area, preserving Maui's...when people arrive from the airport, they drive by a big open area in the mountain and not a bunch of tiki tack (*phonetic*) houses . . . (*timer sounds*) . . . made by a mainland developer. So anyway, I'm in favor of that also. Thank you very much again. And thanks, you know, for the remote testimony capabilities. You're doing way better than the State.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Wildberger, for all your testimony, and compliments on our operations. I like the new COVID look you got going.

MR. WILDBERGER: Somebody called it a mullet, but I'd like to call it an akule.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none.

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MR. WILDBERGER: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Thank you again for your testimony. Aloha. Okay. Our next testifier is Warren Watanabe, followed by Kyle Caires.

MR. WATANABE: Good morning, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Members of the Committee. I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. I am testifying in support of our line item in the proposed FY'22 Budget. We respect your time, so I will keep this testimony brief, as there will be others providing oral and written testimony. We appreciate the County Council's support...years of support of Maui County's Farm Bureau's programs and events, such as the Maui Ag Fest and 4-H Livestock Fair, our Ag in the Classroom, and our Grown on Maui programs. We are hopeful that we will be able to present the Maui Ag Fest and 4-H Livestock Fair, and return to our schools with our Ag in the Classroom in 2022. In addition, the pandemic has drastically reduced sales to our restaurants and hotels for our farmers and ranchers. We are focusing on developing a stronger buy local campaign among retailers to increase visibility and purchases by the community. All the agriculture sectors need to pivot and adjust to the market conditions to sustain a viable industry. Also, I ask for your support of improvements to the Kula Vacuum Cooling Plant. The members of the cooperative will elaborate on the needs of this facility. The Maui County Farm Bureau grant also includes the Maui Cattlemen's Association, the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, and the Maui Coffee Association. These groups have industry-specific needs, and we support their efforts in addressing them. We humbly ask for your support of the Maui County Farm Bureau line item for FY'22. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Watanabe. Members, any questions? I think...oh, Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Warren, good to see you. So I wanted to ask you...so you mentioned the coffee farmers, and I know that they are having an issue with branding and making sure that, you know, the Maui brand is coffee grown on Maui. Is that part of your strategy? Is that part of what you guys are working on at the Farm Bureau?

MR. WATANABE: Well, we are working on it on the state level. It's a...it's an issue with all the coffee growers across the state. And right now, I think there's some difficulties within the industry, and so for Farm Bureau, we've always looked at commodity issues and look at their...what they would like to see happen. So we're following their recommendations. We don't...Farm Bureau, we don't necessarily push our agenda on the commodity groups. I think it's important that they address their issues, and whatever decision they make, we'll support.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But they did that for Kona, right? They did a...for Kona...

MR. WATANABE: I understand it was in...there was a bill in this current session, but I think the bill died again.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MR. WATANABE: I mean...yeah, I mean, really, the industry needs to really get together on this. And it is an important issue.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I know. I just wanted to bring it up because I was hearing from Kimo Falconer about it, and --

MR. WATANABE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- so I just wanted to mention it to you. Thank you.

MR. WATANABE: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member King. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MR. WATANABE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Kyle Caires, followed by Lucienne de Naie.

MR. CAIRES: Good morning, Chair, and Members of the Council. I'm Kyle Caires. I know you have a lot of testifiers, so I just wanted to really thank you guys for really investing in agriculture. Ever since I moved back, it's been kind of remarkable. You guys invest in agriculture and Farm Bureau, Farmer's Union, and the University. And you know, those programs, collectively, from the...those partners really support farmers and ranchers. Today, I'm here testifying on behalf of the Maui County Farm Bureau's Budget line item. This year, I'm the president. And I want to keep my testimony short, and maybe address questions you may have. But the Budget request this year is a little larger, and a big part of that is to afford critical repairs to the Kula Vacuum Cooling Plant that supports 12 different growers. Basically, their refrigeration system is just obsolete. You know, it needs to be converted, in some areas, to non-Freon, and that's a \$100,000 line item for, you know, repairs, maintenance, and installation. The Maui Ag Fest and Livestock...4-H Livestock Fair is a great event, and we want to come back really, really strong in 2022 with that. The 4-H is still planning to have a live show this year. But aside from promotion, Farm Bureau really does support a lot of educational programming, with Ag in the Classroom reaching over 1,200 students at 15-plus schools across the island. But the commodity groups also host workshops as well. Maui Cattlemen's, you know, they're always hosting workshops to address producer issues and needs on various topics. Each year, they bring in an emergent forces in the beef industry, and that person usually works with the ranchers, but also works with 4-H youth, and helps with judging some of the shows, and really helps with their skill development. And they also fund research projects. Our coffee growers are trying to combat the new leaf rust threat. So we anticipate them to have programming and fund requests commensurate with the leaf rust, but also more outreach for the coffee berry borer threat to the industry as well. Many of you know Kimo, that association does the Seed to Cup Event. And then our

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Landscape Professional Organization, MALP, you know, they have their garden expo every year. But in terms of professional development for those landscape professionals, you know, they have training and certification programs that really keep that industry moving. And Farm Bureau itself does host various workshops on their own, but the commodity groups, plus working with the University and 4-H really helps us, you know, build agriculture not just for now but, you know, training the next generation of leaders. But I'd like to take any questions you may have.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Caires. Okay, we...yeah, a question from Member Molina. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much. And thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Mr. Caires. First of all, congratulations on your presidency. Just a question with regards to the repairs to the cooling plant. I presume it's very expensive work. Is this specialized work that you have to hire somebody from off island and, of course, all the parts have to be shipped in?

MR. CAIRES: Yeah, that's part of it. From what I understand...and this isn't like my direct kuleana, but from taking a visit there, part of it is to upgrade. So there's, you know, new energy saving condensers, evaporators. That's a component of it, but also converting the system to a non-Freon gas. And unfortunately, as...you know, you do the best you can. And they've tried doing the best they can over years, but as things change and compliances change, the existing piping isn't meant to work with the pressures of some of the newer gasses, so it's a more complicated...but yeah, I anticipate Geoff Haines and some other testifiers have more expertise than I do on that. But we've luckily had some people in the community who also have experience with refrigeration come and give inputs and find...flesh out some of those issues that may have gone overlooked. But yeah, I think it's...the idea is to retrofit as much as can be done to keep cost down, but to replace some critical areas that are on the brink of going down.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, fine. Thank you very much for that update. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning, Mr. Caires. Aloha.

MR. CAIRES: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Lucienne de Naie, followed by Leah Rothbaum.

MS. DE NAIE: Good morning, Budget and Finance and Economic Development Committee. My name is Lucienne de Naie, and I would like to first begin testimony on behalf of the Ha'ikū Community Association in support of Items number 54 for the Pā'ia Interim Parking, and I don't have the item number, but the Pā'ia Trash Management Program. Also Item 63 and 58, Kawainui-Hāmākua Master Plan and Vehicle Removal in the Hāmākua open space lands. This is...really, it's making a dent, removed like about 25

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vehicles last November, and no new ones have appeared on that side, so the community is buoyed up. Also would like to support the 43 and 44, the funding for the Community Advisory Group, the nine staff, that Ha'ikū-Pā'ia would have one of these future groups. Item 49, equipment for clearing the roads, and 11 for bridge and drainage work, and Item Number 5, the cesspool replacement grants is a very important program in our area. And of course, Item 25 and 34, having to do with axis deer and invasive species management. Switching gears, testifying as an individual. I'd like to support Item 61, the Mā'alaea Mauka purchase, and also 27 and 28 for the...increasing the County archeological presence. I have to mention, there's two drone projects. I'm sure you noticed 28 and 8...29 and 8. Maybe they could be combined because those drones are expensive. Also support hiring some grant writers, we're going to need them for the new Ag department and for the Federal grants that are going to be available with our new Administration. And last, I'd say one thing that has been left out of the budget, that would be maybe a \$500,000 to \$1 million for rural watershed management grants, so that we can create jobs in our rural areas. Every one of our rural areas has the need to manage the lower parts of the watershed that are not included in the watershed partnerships. And we saw what could be done...what good could be done during the CARES funding. There were at least four projects in East Maui and Central Maui and Moloka'i that benefited from those funds. So those groups are still ready to go, and there's probably more groups that would be. This is an inexpensive way to train future generations in managing our own lands, and to fulfill the goals in our community plans and Maui Island Plan . . .(timer sounds). . . that we want to manage, mountains to the sea. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. de Naie. Okay. No questions, but thank you for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MS. DE NAIE: Thank you guys all for being here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Our next testifier is Leah Rothbaum, followed by Lana Coryell. Ms. Rothbaum is number 7 testifier out of 33. You may proceed.

MS. ROTHBAUM: Good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. ROTHBAUM: Good morning. Good morning, aloha kakahiaka, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Committee Members. My name is Leah Ronnie Rothbaum, and I'm testifying on behalf of the Trust for Public Land in support for Budget Item 61 to fund the acquisition of 267 acres in Mā'alaea Mauka. For anyone unfamiliar with a trust for public land or TPL, we're a nonprofit organization that works to protect land for people, ensuring healthy livable communities for generations to come. We believe that protecting the Mā'alaea Mauka property will ensure a highly visible area of Maui remains open to the public and started to enhance open space and protect significant cultural and environmental resources, including coral reefs. Additionally, protecting these open space lands will reduce risk to Maui communities from wildfires and natural hazards, and will improve water quality in Mā'alaea Harbor. I stand on my written testimony,

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and I'm available for any questions. Thank you so much for all the hard work you guys are doing.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Rothbaum. Okay. Members, questions? Okay. Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MS. ROTHBAUM: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Lana Coryell, followed by Alison Wright.

MS. CORYELL: Aloha and good morning members of the Council. Thank you so much for taking the time . . . *(inaudible)* . . . My name is Lana Coryell, and I am the Deputy Director at Hui No'eau Visual Art Center. I've been a Maui resident for my entire life, and I grew up taking classes at the Hui from the time I was about five or six years old. So both personally and professionally, I can say that the Hui is such an important resource for our community. We reach around 20,000 people throughout the year, including about 5,000 children. We are so grateful for your past support of Hui No'eau, and that with the continued support of Mayor Victorino, we have line items on the Budget for our Art with Aloha and youth and family programs. Throughout the past year, the Hui has continued to be actively in service to families, teachers, students, and artists by providing uplifting art programs that have helped us all navigate this very difficult time. Especially this year, we've seen how the visual arts are so important for our overall health and well-being, and how they also boost our creative economy. In addition, our Art with Aloha and youth programs provide such meaningful and rare opportunities to learn new skills, connect with our culture, and share ideas that cross boundaries of race, language, and socioeconomic status. For me, our youth programs were especially critical this year because we were able to reach many underserved youth and bring art into schools and homes through collaborations with 18 schools and other community groups. But our program participants can say it best, so I'd like to read a few recent testimonials that speak to the value of the Hui's programs. The Hui is the only facility on Maui where artists of different skills can come together to share knowledge. The space is supportive, kind, and welcoming to all. Mental health is so important, especially now in the time of COVID. An expression through the arts allows space for clarity and enjoyment. I feel we are so blessed to have the Hui on Maui. I sometimes think, if the Hui didn't exist, what would we do for our creative outlets? The Hui No'eau is truly a one-of-a-kind very special place for all. I don't think I will ever forget this morning. Being in Kumu Keli'i's presence and listening to his experiences and knowledge was amazing. Hui No'eau's art camp has provided enriching and creative experiences for my children that are not duplicated at school or any other children's program on Maui. Art club has been invaluable during the school shutdown. It's helped his art skills, connection to place, and social/emotional well-being. So with much gratitude to Mayor Victorino and all of you on the County Council for your past support, these programs have really changed lives on Maui. And with continued funding, we know we will continue to serve the people of Maui County in really creative and meaningful ways. Thank you so much for your time and all that you do for our community.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Coryell. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning. Aloha. Our next testifier is Alison Wright followed by Leilani Pulmano. Ms. Wright, I think your audio may not be working correctly. I see that you're unmuted, but we cannot hear you. You may need to log off and then log back on. I'll go to our next testifier now, and then when I see you're back on, I'll call on you. Okay. Mahalo. Sorry about that. Okay. Our next testifier is Leilani Pulmano and...followed by Alison Wright, if she gets back on, if not, Noelani Ahia.

MS. PULMANO: Good morning. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. Yes, we can hear and see you.

MS. PULMANO: Great. Good morning. My name is Leilani Pulmano. And before I start, I wanted to give the surf report at S-Turns; it's waist-high with windy conditions. I am the board president of Ka Ipu Kukui, and I'm also a proud member of the Ka Ipu Kukui class of 2009. I'm testifying in support of the funding for Ka Ipu Kukui program. The Ka Ipu Kukui program is a nine-month program that educates, cultivates, and inspires emerging leaders to contribute to a thriving community for Maui Nui. It's created by residents of Maui County, is focused on Maui County, and for Maui County's emerging leaders. The program has graduated 159 Fellows, and the current Cohort includes 14 Fellows. You are very familiar with many of our Fellows, including Councilmember Paltin. Yay. We are extremely proud to say that many graduates have continued with their leadership path. Our fellows include two elected officials, Councilmember Paltin and House Representative Troy Hashimoto. Four County of Maui appointees, Marc Takamori, of the Transportation Director; Jordan Hart of the Deputy Planning Director; Tyson Miyake, Chief of Staff; and Jordan Molina, Deputy Director of Public Works. Many of our Fellows have or are on State and County boards and commissions. Many of our Fellows come from businesses, and are either running their own business or managing businesses that employ hundreds of residents. Many of our Fellows are themselves educators, enriching the minds of our young leaders with the broader perspective they've gained from Ka Ipu Kukui. Many of our Fellows are leading programs at nonprofits or serving as board members for nonprofits with missions related to the environment, economic development, healthcare, agriculture, technology, cultural, to just name a few. They're doing important community work. All to say, that the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows are fulfilling our goal of embracing service of our community. Your support of the program has allowed over 150 Fellows to hone their leadership skills, and grow into the leaders they are today. So on behalf of all my Fellows, thank you for your past and continued support of the Ka Ipu Kukui leadership program. And so in response to Councilmember Sugimura's question of Farron, we have pivoted into a COVID safe Hālāwai's. In fact, one of our fellows, Jennifer Chirico, she prepared our COVID safety . . .(timer sounds). . . plan, I'd say, seven months ago. She has a public health background with working, and she also worked at CDC, and she teaches COVID safety for businesses at UH Maui. So we feel all pretty safe that our Fellows are being COVID safe. So thank you very much for your continued support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Pulmano, for your testimony and for the surf

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report. I'm going to understand that windy, meaning blown-out or mushy, and it wouldn't be fun anyway. Members...

MS. PULMANO: People are making an attempt though.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's only to make us feel better. Members, any questions for our testifier? Okay. Seeing none, and you proactively answered one of Member Sugimura's questions, so mahalo for that information.

MS. PULMANO: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Aloha. Our next testifier is...is Alison Wright back on?

MS. WRIGHT: I switched it over to my phone, so can you guys hear me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear you. Okay. Ms. Wright, you can proceed.

MS. WRIGHT: See if we can...we're walking outside in the wonderful world of Upcountry. So hi. Thank you, everybody. I'm sorry for all the issues before.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Wright?

MS. WRIGHT: My name is Alison Wright.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Wright?

MS. WRIGHT: I'm...huh?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perhaps if you turn off your video, I think we'll be able to hear you better.

MS. WRIGHT: Yeah, I'm testifying on behalf of the...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you can turn off your video, your audio may be heard a little better. Okay. Ms. Wright, if you can hear me, if you turn off your video, it usually helps the audio. All right. Okay. Oh, no.

MS. WRIGHT: You guys there now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. WRIGHT: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll restart your time. Please proceed.

MS. WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you. I'm not going to move now. My name is Alison Wright. I'm...

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Wright? Sorry. If you can hear me, we cannot hear you.

MS. WRIGHT: So...okay. All right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. WRIGHT: Okay. There you go.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Don't move. Okay. Go ahead.

MS. WRIGHT: I'm not moving. Okay. I apologize, guys. So I'm trying again. So we're...I'm calling to testify on behalf of the Maui County Farm Bureau and their funding in the Line Item . . .*(inaudible)*. . . budget...Association of landscaper . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Ms. Wright...

MS. WRIGHT: For years we've been partnering with the Maui County Farm Bureau to get funding for different programs in the landscape and horticulture industry. Our industry probably is one . . .*(inaudible)*. . . If you can hear me, I'm going to call in on my phone and use that, so...hello. I will call in on my phone for you. Can you hear me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. We can hear you, Ms. Wright.

MS. WRIGHT: I will call in on the phone version and I think that will work better. Our phone service is not great up here, so I will do that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thanks.

MS. WRIGHT: And I will wait for you to...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are you able to tell me or chat the last four digits of your phone number? And then that way we'll know it's you.

MS. WRIGHT: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll...oh, I'll come back to you after...okay. Mahalo, Ms. Wright. Okay. Our next testifier is Noelani Ahia, followed by Gay Sibonga.

MS. AHIA: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. I just briefly wanted to talk about the item that Councilmember Sinenci put forward regarding the county archeologist, increasing the salary, potentially adding a second position, as well as drone footage. I just have to say that ever since Dr. Six was hired and that position was created, it's been a huge relief for the community. She's been able to navigate and be the go-between person between SHPD, the developers, the County, and the community. And I think she's doing an amazing job helping us move forward in protection of iwi kūpuna and sacred sites. Her cultural overlay map is super, super important, and she's going to need more help to

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fully fill it out. There is an internship currently right now with UHMC, which actually, I think I'm going to sign up for and participate in so I can learn more about the technology. It's super exciting because, you know, with the County having this information, you folks, Planning, and Public Works can really make informed decisions and have really that bird's-eye overview with this cultural overlay map. That map, by the way, was also listed...there's an organization called Kali'uokapa'akai Collective, and they just put together a 60-page report about improving wahi kūpuna stewardship in Hawai'i. And Dr. Six's cultural overlay map was mentioned in that. So already, Maui County is getting props for the work that she's doing and recognizing the importance of protecting our sacred spaces and our iwi kūpuna, and you know, working in collaboration with all the parties involved. You know, she's also been able to provide information for the County where SHPD was unavailable. Because of their institutional dysfunction, they left the County basically lost on a lot of projects, and Dr. Six has been able to fill that gap. And I can only see benefit by improving and growing that Department. SHPD, by the way, the State Legislature just passed a resolution to create a working group tasked with sort of reviewing the historical dysfunction of SHPD and writing a report that will be out next year before the Legislature convenes in the fall, so...or next spring, rather. So there's a lot going on. There's a lot of work in the community, a lot of work with all the different players to work together to try to find remedy to our issues around historic preservation. And I'm really excited about Dr. Six and her position, and improving and growing her Department for all of us. So Mahalo Nui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ahia. Okay. Any questions, Members? Seeing none, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning.

MS. AHIA: Mahalo Nui. Aloha no.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Our next testifier is Gay Sibonga, followed by Jana Hoehn. Ms. Sibonga is testifier 13 of 34.

MS. SIBONGA: Okay. Good morning, Budget Chair...aloha. Good morning, Budget Chair and Committee Members. I'm here to testify on Maui Economic Opportunities Business Development Center. Our current...our BDC Director, David Daly, is out of the office right now. First of all, I want to thank the Council and the Budget Committee for all their hard work and support of MEO BDC. MEO BDC has been very busy this past year. They've been running the new micro-Ag grant, as well as changing the delivery of our existing programs. Our Core Four Business Planning Classes have now gone virtual. The change from the in-person class model has enabled students from all islands, and even remote communities, to participate in the classes. With this new platform, we have also been able to record the classes. This way, students that miss the classes can actually get all the information from all the recordings. BDC has also been partnering with our other MEO programs, our rental assistance and our employment services programs, to offer financial literacy classes to our clients. This program assists clients with budgeting and determining needs versus wants and making best use of their funds. There has also been an increasing interest, with the students being out of classes, for youth financial literacy, so we've been providing those classes

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also. Our BDC Staff is also completing their credit counseling certification so we can use these services to offer our clients. Finally, the most important thing that we've been working on...well, not the most important, but busy in the last couple months is our micro-agri program. We received over 220 applications for the grants. We have awarded, to this point, 103 awards, and we currently have about 72 people on the waitlist. What was nice is the priority group for this grant were farms under 12 acres, women farmers, as well as Native Hawaiians. So from the applicants that we received, 53 percent were for women, and about 48 percent were Native Hawaiians. Assistance for these farms does not end with this funding, our Staff continues with follow-up, technical assistance, and offers our Core Four Business Classes and our financial literacy courses to these grant recipients. Again, thank you, County Council for your continued support of Maui Economic Opportunity Business Development Center, and for funding the micro grant, and also for your hard work and the long hours that you've put in during these Budget deliberations. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Sibonga. We have a question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Nice seeing you, Gay. Well, can't see you, nice to hear from you. Could you submit that in written format to us? There's a lot of great data.

MS. SIBONGA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. SIBONGA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Mahalo for your testimony this morning, Ms. Sibonga. Aloha. Our next testifier is...oh, let's check with Alison Wright again, and then Jana Hoehn.

MS. WRIGHT: Okay. So...hello. I am now on the phone. Can you all hear me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Ms. Wright. Yes, we can hear you.

MS. WRIGHT: Thank you. Apologies for the issues up here. So my name is Alison Wright. I am testifying for the Maui County Farm Bureau. I am the president of...

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

MS. WRIGHT: Huh?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't know. Sorry, one moment.

MS. WRIGHT: I'm testifying for the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, so I'm currently the president of that organization. And the Maui County Farm Bureau has been a great supporter of our organization in the past, helping us with all of our

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landscape programs. I'd be willing to say, the landscape industry is one...secretly, one of the largest in the County because we have members anywhere from the one guy with his tractor all the way up to a business that has over 130 employees. And we're typically one of the largest budget items on condominium budgets for the properties, along with power and water. So we're very important to a lot of different areas of our community. So...and the landscape industry has been one of the booming industries during COVID times, with everybody being at home and adding to their gardens and adding to their properties. For funding, we've always appreciated being able to have education programs for our community. Typically, we do six or more trainings a year. We try to do a lot of free programs, and we do do a workforce education training series yearly. We have been working on that program for the last six years, as well as we ran, which Kyle mentioned, the Arbor Day Garden Expo. We partnered with the Maui County...Maui Nui Botanical Garden. And even last year, we were able to work for a drive-thru tree giveaway instead of having an in-person event, where we had...over 1,200 trees were given away. We were able to collect food for the food bank, and then we were also able to have...we had six trainings on Zoom classes just for that program itself, as well as...that has its own website to get information out there for members and more. This year, we'd actually ask the...because this is a 100-percent volunteer organization, we asked to see if . . .(timer sounds). . . we'd be able to get details or information for a part-time employee to help us with all these program. So thank you for your time today. And if you have any questions, let us know.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Wright. I'm happy we finally were able to successfully accept your testimony.

MS. WRIGHT: Apologies for that, so little bit rushed there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's fine. You know, that is the world we're in right now, and we just go with the flow as much as possible. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none, we'll thank you so much, Ms. Wright, for your testimony.

MS. WRIGHT: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. And before I call on the next testifier, I just want to call on Member King really quickly. Oh, okay. I think she may be having network issues again today. Okay. Our next testifier is Jana Hoehn, followed by Sherry Duong. Hello, Ms. Hoehn, you may proceed with your testimony.

MS. HOEHN: Okay. I...it says I've been...and I'm unmuted. Okay. Okay. Great. Good morning, Committee Chair and Councilmembers. Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication. As president of the Maui County Veterans Council, I personally want to thank you for your continued support through the years. We...I've said before, we would not have a Maui County Veterans Council if it wasn't for the County of Maui. Our treasurer is off island today, and she asked me if I would read a letter for her that she's prepared, so I will just go right into that after telling you the weather in Lāhainā is awesome today. It's absolutely gorgeous. So she starts out, first, I would like to let you know how much...why and...how and why I do this volunteer job. I am not a

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veteran, but I am an Army brat from the day I was born. My father was retired Army. My father served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. I met my veteran, who was a soldier in uniform when I met him. I married him in 1964, and he's a retired Army. He served in Vietnam. My husband was raised on Maui, born on O'ahu, and he is one of the Richard Haake's on Maui. Veterans have always been in my life, and I will try my best to help them in any way I can. Since I have become treasurer last year, we had to adjust our already existing 2021 Budget. We understood the decrease of \$7,000 in the Budget due to the COVID-19 restrictions. With the restrictions, we have cancelled many veteran events. Our veterans and families have understood why. Our budget has been streamlined by deleting the Maui County Fair amount. The members of our council voted not to continue with that event in the future. It was quite expensive. Another large cut was purchasing 3,300 of the 12 by 18 grave flags. We cut the budget for '20/'21 year from 3,000 down to 2,000 this year. Even with the COVID restrictions, we are trying to gather funds to offset what we've lost in dollars. We're trying to make it happen by asking our veteran organizations throughout the state for assistance in donation of money or flags. Currently, the flags cost approximately \$3,000, but for shipping, it's approximately another \$1,000. I did look at the past three years of the Maui County Veterans Council's financials, which showed me that every...every year, the cost of the flags keep increasing. To add to that, because this has happened, we have been able to get a little bit better deal, and we're going to continue to work on, possibly, you know, some other ways that we can purchase the flags. But every Memorial Day, it's just such an important thing to have the flags. And she goes on to say, the reason I'm telling you this is to request, even though we presented the same \$20,000 Budget for additional funds, to be able to purchase the grave flags for all of Maui County veteran graves. This includes Lāna'i and Moloka'i. And she says, our purpose . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . is having our Maui County Veterans Council is to honor and say mahalo. The events that we organize are for our veterans of Maui County. We thank you for all that you do...have done in the past, and we hope to continue to do more in the future. And with that, that's from Peggy Haake. And again, we really appreciate everything that you do for us. And if you have any questions, I'm available.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Hoehn. We have a question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you very much, Jana, for being here. So I just want clarification. Your Budget in the...our Mayor's Budget is for 20,000 --

MS. HOEHN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- but you're saying that because of the cutbacks, you haven't been able to buy the number of flags for Memorial Day. So how much more are you needing to cover that shortfall? Not sure if --

MS. HOEHN: Well, we...we did --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- I misunderstood you or --

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MS. HOEHN: -- we did purchase them. You know, since we have eliminated all of our events this last year, we...we had the money to do it this year. We're a little worried next year that it might be a little bit more. We did cut...I believe our budget last year was 27,000, and we have cut several...you know, the one large event, you know, because the money's got to go around to everyone. So I don't know exactly...again, we have 3,300 graves that we have to put flags on. They approximately run a little over a dollar apiece. The shipping is what is so terrible. I mean, it just...the...everything comes from the mainland, but we were able to work it out this year. Just not sure next year how this is all...you know, I've...if we're given \$3,300 for the cost of the flags, there's going to be shipping on top of that. We're hoping that maybe we can find a...a venue that we can get them a little cheaper. We've been working for weeks on this because Memorial Day's coming up, but we're doing okay. This...this...this year's going to be all right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: But you're saying...but this is for next year from July 1, right? So you're concerned about next year being able to meet your budget?

MS. HOEHN: Right. Because, you know, every year, they add --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So...right.

MS. HOEHN: -- you know, we have more burials every year. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Right.

MS. HOEHN: -- 3,300 is not going to be the number next year. So going to probably need a little extra for that. But we, again, did eliminate the Maui Fair, which was, I believe, around 32 or 3,500.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So Jana, can you do this? I'm...I'm...I'm concerned because I really believe that the...part of the traditions of what you're doing is honoring the veterans, which is your organization, and the Memorial Day flags are big things. You sound like you got this year's covered --

MS. HOEHN: We do.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- but can you get back to me after the meeting...after this and just tell me how much do you think you're short? Because I'm getting confused --

MS. HOEHN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- as to what you --

MS. HOEHN: Well --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- actually need.

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MS. HOEHN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Because we need to do it. I...I think we --

MS. HOEHN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- absolutely need to do it --

MS. HOEHN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- as you are saying.

MS. HOEHN: Let me talk to Peggy when she come...gets back on island, and I'll get right back to you. And I apologize, but I don't have the numbers on me. I'm not the treasurer, nor do I ever want to be. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So if you could get back to me over the weekend?

MS. HOEHN: I will. I will --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . okay. Thank you.

MS. HOEHN: -- as soon as she gets back. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Paltin had her hand up, and then Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Hoehn, for your testimony and your service to our veterans. I just was wondering, after the flags are put, then what happens to them? They can't be recycled for the next year?

MS. HOEHN: Very good question. We have tried...there have been a few years we have been able to recycle some of them. Unfortunately, these aren't really good quality flags. I mean, you know, they're...they're just the normal flag with the one stitch around the edge, and the wind is so fierce up in Makawao, most of the flags are usually...after being up a week, they're...they're destroyed. And I did speak to the Veteran's Cemetery early on to see, was there any that are reusable this year? And he said, they were really bad this last year. So we did have to replace them all. We always do try to recycle, but again, between the rain and the wind up there, many times we have to replace all of them.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And so there...there is...is it Memorial Day that you put it...the flags?

MS. HOEHN: Yes. They go on each grave, um-hum, on Memorial Day. Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And I just was wondering, if you put it up for Memorial Day and then put it away the next day, maybe --

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MS. HOEHN: No.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- no? Oh.

MS. HOEHN: They...they...they like to leave it up at least a week. We put them up Saturday before Memorial Day because that's when you get most of the visitors that come to visit the graves. So it'll be there all weekend. And they normally leave them for about approximately a week.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. HOEHN: You're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Jana, just wanted to express my appreciation to you and the Haakes and everybody else who had been advocating for our vets. Thank you.

MS. HOEHN: Oh, thank you very much. It's a true honor for me.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning. Aloha.

MS. HOEHN: Thank you, very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Sherry Duong, followed by Scott Crawford. Ms. Duong, you are muted on your end. I cannot --

MS. DUONG: Can...can you hear me? Sherry here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I can hear you now. Yes.

MS. DUONG: Good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm hearing you, but I can't see you.

MS. DUONG: But you can't...okay. Let me see if I can add video. Can you see me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not yet.

MS. DUONG: Oh --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Now, we can.

MS. DUONG: -- how about now? Okay. Great.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. DUONG: . . . *(laughing)*. . . Great. Thank you. Aloha, Committee Chair and Councilmembers. I'm Sherry Duong, the executive director for the Maui Visitors Bureau, and I previously had submitted written testimony already. Not sure if I was going to make it today, but I'm glad that I am here today. So it is in support of our proposed Budget of 1.5 million that's in there for...under the Mayor...OED's office. I'd like to first start...thank...to start by thanking you, all of you and your Staff, for the hard work and...that you guys do, not only during Budget, but throughout the year. It certainly doesn't go unnoticed. So thank you for that. And I think it's also important to acknowledge that...that the Maui Visitors Bureau relationship with the community has a history of being tenuous. With a growing number of visitors year over year, pre-COVID, it has brought resident sentiment to a boiling point, and we've seen that. And although MVB has for the past several years changed our strategy to educating our visitors, the results have not been immediately recognized by the community. With the Council's resolution on sustainable quality over quantity tourism and HTA's DMAP, I'm here to humbly ask our community and this Council to work with us to take a fresh step forward. MVB is committed to working side-by-side with the community to execute the DMAP. And the DMAP is the Destination Management Action Plan. And if you or the community has not read that yet, I really highly encourage you. Please reach out to our office, and I'd be happy to send you the link to it. The action plans are from a steering committee that's made up of the community. So it's nothing that MVB put together, but it's from our own community, and it addresses the concerns of tourism. With our FY'22 grant, MVB will be dedicating it to executing the actions of the DMAP. Action items will include such things as focus groups to assess impact fees on visitors that use our natural resources, the Hāna Highway and how to further mitigate traffic, that...while still balancing the economic benefit for the Hāna community, and of course, the continuation of educating the mindful visitors. And I also want to, you know, just to understand that, you know, I live here, as well as my staff all live here, and we're experiencing the same challenges that you and the community face with tourism. We want our community to thrive, just as you do. So it is our objective to do a diligent effort to get in front of these issues by working hand-in-hand with the Council, with the businesses and residents, with the goal of providing our visitors with the tools to make a positive difference in our community. The magnitude of what stands before us takes a team of...effort of titanic levels. We all need to roll up our sleeves and work together to institute regenerative tourism, to help creatively bring in revenue to protect our resources, and to keep our community safe. I just want to thank you for your time today, for this opportunity to come before you. I also want to thank you for your support of our funding, our budget. And I think mostly, and I would just like . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . to thank you for your partnership. Well, that was perfect timing. . . . *(laughing)*. . . Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's like you did this before or something.

MS. DUONG: Maybe a few times.

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

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MS. DUONG: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Duong. Okay. We have questions. I...I saw Member King's hand and Member Sinenci. And then if you have a question, just raise your hand.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair. Hopefully, I'm back to stay. I had to move to another room. Aloha, Sherry. Thanks for coming today. I have a couple questions. When we met, we talked about a spreadsheet you were going to send on how you spent your...you're spending your current .5 million. Did you get that done yet? Is that submitted?

MS. DUONG: I...there was a list of questions that came, I believe, through the Council...or through OED's office. I did submit what we have spent up to year-to-date.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MS. DUONG: And so OED does have those amounts. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great.

MS. DUONG: And I also submitted, as well, the proposed FY'22, what the intent is.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. Great. Well, that's all I needed then. I...I was...I was expecting to get something earlier, but this is fine. Thank you for paying attention. And the other question I had was on...there's a...there's a lot of...of public outcry right now about the...the situation in the Wailea beaches where there's chaise lounges with umbrellas all over the beach, like, right next to each other. And so we seem to be allowing tourists to congregate within close proximity, and yet people are getting tickets...local people are getting tickets for having a tent on the beach over the long holiday last weekend. And so these are kind of...are these...these issues you're going to be dealing with too, to try to help mitigate some of these...these acts that the hotels may not be paying attention to?

MS. DUONG: Yes. So all of those issues are addressed in the DMAP, and so my intent is to try to put together focus groups so that we could take a look at each individual situations or what they may...that regards to tourism, and how we can actually do...have an action item, as opposed to just talking about it and hoping that things will go away. So like I said, we really want to get in front of these issues, and we're hoping to...once we...the focus groups are complete and suggestions...we would like to bring it towards...to the Council, and hopefully we'll get your support in executing them.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I appreciate that, and maybe you could just check it out. I think the...there's supposed to be a protest tomorrow that I've...I've seen --

MS. DUONG: Tomorrow, I think. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- things doing that. Yeah. I've been seeing that on Facebook, so...way down at Wailea. Appreciate it. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Okay. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Johnson, and then Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Duong. Just clarification. You mentioned in the Tri-Isle Action Plan that you...MVB will be addressing action D.

MS. DUONG: Action what?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Which action? I...I thought you said that some of the actions you guys were in process of addressing?

MS. DUONG: Yeah. So --

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

MS. DUONG: -- it was just a...so my testimony was a synopsis and overview as to what we were going to apply our grant for. So there's a lot of action items in the DMAP. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, DMAP.

MS. DUONG: -- those are the things that we're going to be addressing, is what is in the DMAP. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. DUONG: -- it's going to take longer than the three minutes I have to share those with you.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Johnson, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Sherry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks for joining us.

MS. DUONG: Good morning.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I have a question about your testimony. You used the term "regenerative tourism." Can you expand on what that is?

MS. DUONG: Yes. So what we're looking at is going into places and just doing things like cleaning out valleys and indigenous plants, or helping with the fish ponds, or helping with the watersheds, those type of things, and making our visitors more aware of the importance of how that is to our community as part as even a volunteer program where they can actually be a part of it too. So not just talking about it, but getting our visitors who come here to actually participate in those particular areas for us. So giving back to the community while they're here their seven or ten days.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, thank you. Do you have any statistics on...on that, like, how many people are...are getting involved in that type of thing, or is that just one of your goals? Or is it ongoing? I mean, do we have any statistics behind that?

MS. DUONG: I don't have any statistics with me today. Overall we, as a company, HVCB, all the island chapters, have started a program called Mālama Hawai'i campaign, and that is all part of that regenerative tourism. And that just started towards the end of last year and into this year. And so with that, there's not a lot of statistics right now, but what I do have...I can share with you what they have. So...if...whatever I have, I'll send it over, or can get for you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Sherry.

MS. DUONG: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice seeing you, Sherry. I think it's important that, from meeting with you...and you might want to share that you have been what I call the COVID pivot, you know, during this pandemic time as I know that your mission is to bring visitors here, but you took a...you took...you pivoted and you changed during this pandemic. And just wondering what it was, and if you could share that for the use of the funds.

MS. DUONG: Sure. And I don't normally like to correct Councilmembers, but Councilmember Suki [sic] Lei, I do have to correct you. Our mission is not to bring visitors here, our mission is to educate visitors. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. DUONG: -- that is the mission. It is not to bring visitors. But yes. So during COVID, we did pivot to a whole new level of what we have been doing in the past. And that is more so making aware that the visitors that..who do come here are adhering to the

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quarantine, that they understand what the rules are and that if they don't, then there are consequences to that. So we...in the beginning, when COVID hit, me and my staff were down at the airport doing quarantine calls. And...and then we gradually started the quarantine calls that got away from the airport, and did quarantine calls for this next several months. And those averaged probably...statewide, probably by the time we were done with all those calls were roughly about over 200,000 of those calls. Then the system came in where we were able to now do emails. So we had...and the...this is when October hit, and the Safe Travels program opened up. And so, of course, you can imagine there was a lot of questions from the visitors as to the Safe Travels program and how it affected them traveling to Hawai'i. So then we moved from doing the quarantine calls to now answering these emails, and there was all kinds of emails, making sure that they understood about the trusted travel partners and where they could get it. And you know, it just kept going on and on, where...I mean, we have a...a facts sheet that we reference to when we're answering these questions. And that fact sheet is at least 20 pages long. So you can imagine all of the information that is being asked. So those emails are still continuing today. We probably...statewide, you know, it probably average, I'd say at least 200 to 300 emails. I'm not saying our staff personally are doing that, but statewide, you...we're still handling that through our parent company, HVCB, and the island chapters.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good job. I stand corrected. Thank you. Keep up your education.

MS. DUONG: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I had a question also, but I just was wondering if it would be more appropriate as a resource when the time comes or --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can ask Ms. Duong if she would be available when the item comes up. Just remember, as you know, we did yesterday, the...the deeper we go and the more people we have to talk to, the longer our meeting will end up being. If Members are okay with that, then, you know, I will do as the body. . . *(inaudible)*. . . Ms. Duong, are you available to serve as a resource, maybe, at 9:00 tonight? Just kidding. We're hoping it's not going to be that late. Maybe around 5:00.

MS. DUONG: Well, if it's 9:00 at night, I can't guarantee this will be coffee. Okay?

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

MS. DUONG: . . . *(laughing)*. . . But I have been working with OED Director, and she has me on speed dial. So yes, I will be available for any questions that you may have.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Mahalo, Ms. Duong --

MS. DUONG: Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for your testimony.

MS. DUONG: Thank you again.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Our next testifier is Scott Crawford, followed by Doug Spencer. And Mr. Crawford is number 17 of 37 testifiers.

MR. CRAWFORD: Aloha. Good morning, Madam Chair and Members of the Committee. I wanted to testify on a couple items this morning. So first off, I will, on behalf of Ke Ao Hali'i, as the chair, I would like to request your support for our funding request in the open space budget, related to the safety and security of the Mokae and Maka'alaie lands that we are in the process of acquiring. As you know, through the open space fund, we acquired approximately 27 acres around Hāmoa Beach last year, and are in the process of...of securing and protecting the rest of the open space from Hāmoa all the way to Waihona Stream and Waioka Pond. Hopefully, later this summer, we'll be closing on the parcels in Maka'alaie and in particular, related to the Waioka parcel, we're concerned about the safety and the security. Unfortunately, tragically, a woman lost her life there a few weeks ago in the pond. And although the pond itself is, you know, part of the ocean and the...and the stream is State...the access to the pond crosses the parcel that will be held by Ke Ao Hali'i, with a conservation easement co...co-held by the County and HILT. So there's concern about the safety of visitors, and also the parking and traffic situation in the roadway around that area, which was a point brought up by the Parks Department in their comment on our grant application as well. But we wish to conduct a community stakeholder input process to come up with solutions to protect the safety of the visitors, as well as the, you know, community, and balancing community and visitor public access with protecting the conservation values of the area, and potentially, some signage and other measures that would help to ensure the safety of...of users of the area. So that's...as well as a few other items, like...like may...potentially, some fencing to keep the cattle in and things like that...fencing maintenance and stuff like that. So that's the first item, real quickly. The second item, I'll put on my hat as the treasurer of the Hāna Chapter of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United and the co-manager of the Hāna Farmers Market, and I want to express support for the...the agricultural program within the Mayor's Office, and particularly the items for the Hawai'i Farmers Union United. The support for the chapters and the...the mentoring . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . program, apprentice mentoring program, which has been a...a huge benefit for the Hāna Farmers Market, which has been just such a...such a blessing for our community, and has really grown over this past year, and served an important...really important role in food security for the remote East Maui region. So thank you for your support for these items.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Crawford. We...I see a question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you for your good work. So Hawai'i Farmers Union for...for Maui chapters, 150,000. And then the mentoring program is for...for 225, correct? Is there anything --

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MR. CRAWFORD: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- that we missed?

MR. CRAWFORD: That's the...yeah. And I believe that's the same level as...of funding as the previous year that the Mayor has proposed in his Budget, so we're just asking it continue the same level.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no other questions for you, Mr. Crawford, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning.

MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. Thank you for the time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay, members. We'll take one more testifier, and then we'll take our morning break. Our next testifier is Doug Spencer, and when we return from our morning break, we will take Lynn Britton.

MR. SPENCER: Good morning. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Morning. Yes. We can hear you, but we cannot see you.

MR. SPENCER: All right. Hang on. Maybe I'm...I'm not so tech savvy. Okay. Well, you know what, it's telling me to do something. I'll just --

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

MR. SPENCER: -- oops. Hang on a minute. Okay . . .*(laughing)*. . . I...you know, I should probably have one of our kids out here, you know, help me do this because they'd know how to operate all this stuff a whole lot better than I do.

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

MR. SPENCER: So as...as long as...oh, hang on. I think --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can hear you okay if you want to proceed with just a audio testimony. Oh, uh-oh. You may have pushed the wrong button. Oh, yeah . . .*(laughing)*. . . okay. I see that you've joined the call again. Mr. Spencer? Oh, there you are. Okay. We have your video now, but not your audio. But don't push the red button.

MR. SPENCER: There we go. Can you hear me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. We can hear you and --

MR. SPENCER: Okay. . .*(laughing)*. . .

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- see you.

MR. SPENCER: All right. Good. Well, good morning. Good afternoon for me out here in Virginia. And I guess we're all doing weather reports today, so it's a beautiful spring day here, 80 degrees, slightly overcast, and we're in the middle of nowhere Virginia. I mean, we're in the middle of nowhere, so...but thank you for considering this Item number 61, which is the purchase of the Ma'alaea Mauka property, which our family owns. I am testifying on behalf of our family company NBI, LLC (*phonetic*), and my comments, unless I otherwise tell you, will be on behalf of that organization. I did submit written testimony, and I know Council Chair Lee and Councilmember Sugimura saw...they sent me a response. Some of you may not have had time, but if you check your inboxes to your email, you'll see it. And I just want to, you know, thank you for considering this. As you guys all know, our family has been developing affordable housing in Hawai'i, on Maui specifically, since the mid-1980s, but actually in Hawai'i since 1964. And I know, like, some people think because we're haole we're mainland developers somehow, but you know, I guess we did come from the mainland, but we've been here for over 50 years, or at least there. And so this property was my dad's dream to do his kind of final hurrah of 1,100 homes, a shopping center, school, fire station. And we all support him in it and did our best. Opposition, you know, came up. We'd try to deal with that. And it just didn't happen. And you know, personally, I was very saddened when my dad passed away because he passed away . . . (*inaudible*). . . so my desire...and I worked so hard trying to get the project approved before his passing, just to honor my dad because I love my dad, and I wanted that for him. Now, it didn't happen, and so our family members voted to shut everything down. We laid off 50 employees, we sold off our other properties, sold all of our equipment, everything we had, and Ma'alaea is the final property. And so we...as you guys all know, we've been trying to go through the process to change the community plan back to ag. And I'm going to speak to you personally now. I don't want to speak on behalf of my siblings because they may have their own opinions, but if we can't do an affordable housing project on this property, I personally can think of no better use for it than to keep it open. That's my personal opinion. I'm a big advocate for affordable housing, but I'm here to testify in support of this particular budget item. So I strongly support this . . . (*timer sounds*). . . and would urge the Council to approve it. I hope the Mayor also approves it. And you know, we just need to put it into our family legacy, you know, as far as Maui goes, and this would (*audio interference*). We've got a couple buyers in the wings. When we heard you wanted to buy it, and that would be my...my personal preference is for the Council to buy it. I've been speaking quite a bit with . . . (*inaudible*). . . I think, Rothenberg (*phonetic*) up in Public Land Trust. She and I work together very well on trying to get some loose ends tied up regarding the property. So, those are my comments. If any of you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them for you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Spencer. Just to let you know, your audio, like...it's good, and then it gets staticky, and then it's good again. So I saw Members with questions, so perhaps if you turn off your video, the audio might be better?

MR. SPENCER: Okay. Is that better?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. A lot better.

MR. SPENCER: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But we...yeah, I did hear your entire testimony.

MR. SPENCER: Very good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But if Members need to clarify any part where it was kind of staticky, please feel free to do that. Member King, I saw your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Spencer. Thanks for calling in. Really appreciate your input. At the last...that we were dealing with this last year as a Council, we were talking to your brother, Mark, I guess, so I just wanted to clarify, so are you the point person for this...

MR. SPENCER: I am. I am. I...I drafted my brother Mark to do all that since I was in Virginia and he was there. And so he asked if I could kind of step back into the shoes again.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, since we are doing everything virtually, it's probably just as easy for you to get back into...

MR. SPENCER: It is.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well I appreciate your support, and thank you for being here today. We'll work on this.

MR. SPENCER: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning, and for the weather report in Virginia.

MR. SPENCER: Okay. Thank you very much. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay, Members. It's 10:34, and we'll take our morning break. Return at 10:45. When we get back from the break, the first testifier will be Lynn Britton, followed by Wello. All right. It's 10:34 on April 9th. And the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 10:34 a.m.**

**RECONVENE: 10:46 a.m.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee, please return to order. It's 10:46 on April 9th, and we're going to continue taking testimony, starting with Lynn Britton, followed by Wello. Aloha, Ms. Britton.

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MS. BRITTON: Good morning. Aloha, Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Members. It's...it's very fitting to follow Doug Spencer in his support for Ma'alaea Mauka. It's been a long journey. We certainly appreciate the contributions of the Spencer family to affordable housing on Maui. And unfortunately, from the very beginning, it...it has been the wrong spot for what they wanted to do. So his support means a lot. And trust or Public Lands' involvement in this effort, and working with the Spencers shows that this...this is the right step for Maui, and the right time. So we appreciate your support on this Item number 61 to provide full funding for the purchase with open space funds, and stand ready to do whatever we can to support the...the process. I'd also like to support our Item 24, which is for feral animal control on Maui. We have major problems with chickens and roosters and deer in the watershed. I just saw one last week in Kealia Wildlife Refuge. It's not only a problem for Ha'ikū and our other neighbor islands, it's definitely a problem for Maui. So we appreciate full funding of that support. Also, listening this morning to some other ideas and input on the budget, the grant writer for Maui is very important, not only for Ag, but for watershed. Envisioning what could happen for Pōhākea, I definitely saw, possibly, internships. At one time, when I was with the college, we worked on an internship program for youth workers. It would be a great opportunity to support Maui's sustainable tourism efforts to do internships on the watershed. It's easy access, and it would benefit all the islands. So definitely support more funding there. As one of the founders of the Ka Ipu Kukui program, working with Clyde Sakamoto at the college, I'm strongly supportive of that, and it's exciting to hear that there are now 159 graduates of the...of the program. And...let's see...also, I'd like to just draw attention to the fact, in the Mayor's Budget, 5.1 percent was allocated for Kīhei-Makena, and that's the smallest percentage of the Budget of any of our areas in Maui County. So I think it's time for us to really look at over 20,000 population in the South Maui area, and with additional housing, I just read this morning of the new affordable...100 percent affordable housing, it's time that we really looked at the infrastructure of South Maui and what we need to do to take care of the resident population of the area. So thank you very much for all you do. I strongly support . . .(timer sounds). . . continuing the remote testifying program, whatever we can do to support Council in that effort. You guys do an amazing job, and we appreciate all you do for the community. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Britton. I think Member King has a question. And I think others are waving.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Aloha, Lynn. Thank you for being here, for your testimony. So I just wanted to ask where...if you could send me the calculation of the 5.1...I had calculated at something around 8 percent. But you're right, it is very low comparatively, and has been traditionally over the last few years. So I appreciate that. The other question I had...yeah, if you can, I think --

MS. BRITTON: It says here on the Mayor's Budget page.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. I think it's...it...it didn't include this here piece. But...

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MS. BRITTON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: But if you can...also, I was going to ask you, you said you were talking about the feral animal, and you said you saw one in Kealia Pond. Was that a deer or...or a chicken?

MS. BRITTON: Well, there's chickens all over. But I actually saw two deer when I was exploring the old connecting road to North Kihei across from the MECO site. There were...there were deer in the Kealia Wildlife Refuge.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Inside...inside the fence?

MS. BRITTON: Inside the fence.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I believe that fence is not very effective. Okay. Well, thank you so much for all your work on the Ma'alaea Mauka area, and for all of the collaboration you've done in bringing...in trust for Public Lands. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: My question was asked and answered.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning, Ms. Britton.

MS. BRITTON: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Wello, followed by Odie. I don't see Wello on right now, so we can try again later. We'll go with Odie, followed by Keith Ranney. Odie, you are muted on your end. I cannot unmute you, so if you would like to unmute yourself and proceed with your testimony at this time, that would be great. Okay. Perhaps we can come back to Odie as well. The next testifier is Keith Ranney, followed by Adam Radford.

MR. RANNEY: Hi, there. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. We can hear you and see you.

MR. RANNEY: Aloha. Great. Thank you, Madam Chair, the Budget and Finance Committee. Mauifoodhub@mauihub.org, it represents what I'd say the essence of mālama 'āina, caring for that which feeds us by making the direct connection between farmers of every scale and Maui families. Farmers are supported to increase capacity, families have safe and easy access to Maui's bounty, and food hubs are the core of a regenerative local food economy. So as one of the principal founders and now executive director of Maui Hub, I've received substantial support and feedback from both the producers and the public. Their overwhelming request for this service to scale up and expand is reflected in the survey published in this, our one-year anniversary month. When asked...if I

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could just share my screen here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. RANNEY: Hope I'm sharing the right screen.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I will let you know what we see.

MR. RANNEY: And let me know how that works. Okay. I could just read you, it's...the one question was, how important is it to you, our customers, that Maui Hub become a permanent component in Maui's long-term food distribution infrastructure? We had 172 responses, and of those...well, 98.2 percent of them were very supportive, 91 people said absolutely vital; 63, very important; and remaining 8.7 percent, just important. When asked to rate the overall convenience, responses were as follows: 54 people said it was their favorite grocery shopping experience, but a total of 92.4 rated it excellent or very good, so very nice to hear that response. When asked to rate our customer response experience, well, that falls on my desk because I'm the...I'm the point of contact, and responsible for everything that goes right and everything that goes wrong...well, not everything. But 99 people said it was exceptional, and basically 99.4 put it in a very positive light. When asked, would we utilize a home delivery service, or would they, 46 percent of the respondents said yes, they would use a home delivery service. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our mission focuses on supporting the local food producers, the food insecure, and those simply wanting to eat local, fresh produce while investing in a local food economy. Supporting our next phase of growth will reduce some of the pressure we're putting on our warehouse and order fulfillment partner, Done Fresh, and help expand our reach. It's important to note that with just \$152,000 in financial support in our first year, Maui Hub has put over \$366,000 back into the local economy, while paying producers their value, and making their products affordable . . .(timer sounds) . . . for customers. Our model is sustainable. We have no need to be a permanent line item in Maui County's annual budget beyond 2022/2023. With County support through this next phase, we can empower more interns, hire administrative staff with which to expand our reach and services, and I'll just wrap this up with one of the many testimonials we've received from a local producer, in this case, Ryan at Oko'a Farms wrote, we truly couldn't be more pleased with Maui Hub. The pandemic drastically impacted our wholesale business. Maui Hub really helped to shift our produce sales to the retail market. Maui Hub is fair, super easy to work with. Their online ordering system is great. I'm grateful for all the work the volunteers have put into Maui Hub. We hope to have a long future working with them. And I'm open for questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mister...and please correct me if I'm saying your name wrong, Ranney?

MR. RANNEY: You said it perfectly. It's Ranney, yes. Thank you very much. Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Mahalo. All right. I see a question from Member Sinenci.

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MR. RANNEY: Great.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Chair, and kóyo, Mr. Ranney. So just my question, so you mentioned that you're not seeking any funding beyond this Budget year? So you're looking at funding for your start-up...start-up costs for the Hub?

MR. RANNEY: Well, it's more of the second-tier. We've managed to acquire our own start-up costs, and we've basically proven our business model by operating in the black in, of course, the first year. In order to take on additional staff and some of the facilities, the...well, not the facility so much as...but the transportation...the trucks, refrigerated trucks, so that we can do the home delivery, that's part of this current request. That will take us to another level. There will a third tier as well, and that will involve expanded facilities. And that's a much bigger ask. But that will probably...likely come from other sources. We just recognize that you have a lot of things to cover, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then the percentage of the refrigerated truck or...of the total budget ask, is that more than 50 percent of --

MR. RANNEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- is the refrigeration? Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Keith. I just wanted to follow up on the previous...okay. Can you hear me now? The Staff muted me for a sec. So I wanted to follow up on...on just the sustainability.

MR. RANNEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: What is your plan to move forward for employee salaries? Are you going to be doing fundraisers, or looking for other grants beyond County funding?

MR. RANNEY: Well, you know, for the 22 years that I've been on Maui, I've been involved as a volunteer manager and consultant. And I do have a lot of people that are really passionate about meeting the public with this service. So at our pickup points, we do...we use volunteer labor, approximately 9 to 12 people per week. For staffing, the only paid employee at the moment, we have a couple of interns that are key to our operations. Funding for that has come from the Maui Food Basket for those interns. And so while we have that, we have a really solid core administrative team. As we expand, we will be looking for other administrative funds, but if we can grow in a way that we're projected, we'll have the additional funds to keep paying for our own labor and overhead. And since where we need to go to a larger facility at some point, that will involve a little more capital campaign.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So the...

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MR. RANNEY: We haven't decided which way to go yet.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So the...the...because you did mention paying for another employee. So that would come out of revenues from your operation?

MR. RANNEY: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RANNEY: Yeah. Well, there is a...there is an item in our...in our funding that's requesting partly...partly for additional staff member, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. That's what I was just asking about, you know, continuation of the staff.

MR. RANNEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because you were saying you were going to be continuing. Okay. Great.

MR. RANNEY: Well, we would...at certain volume, we'll be able to handle that internally. Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I...I looked online to see if you submitted your valuable testimony. And if you have not, because I can't find it on our eComment, can you submit your testimony, what you just said?

MR. RANNEY: Yes. I...absolutely. And I did submit it through the portal. And I'll send it to you directly.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. And...so during the...when COVID hit, did the CARES Act funding help start up the Food Hub, or is this separate? Am I mistaken?

MR. RANNEY: No. We were...we were identified for a half million dollars on that particular document, but that was not granted to us.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: You weren't getting weekly support, the Hawai'i Farmers Union, to start the Food Hub?

MR. RANNEY: We're...we're not affiliated with the Farmers Union as of July of last year. We felt that the autonomy of the Food Hub was really important for our operation. You know, when you need to go long distance, you take a big group of people? We needed to go somewhere very quickly, which we had to, we had to really scale it down and focus with a very small group. And that's when we kind of broke away.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: But your official name now is...or, your official name is The Maui Food Hub, LLC or something?

MR. RANNEY: Well, incorporated, we're Maui Hub. As a URL, Maui Hub, nice short URL, mauihub.org. But we identify as a brand with the Maui Food Hub, for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So you're not part of the Hawai'i Farmers Union. Okay. Thank you. Thanks for the clarification.

MR. RANNEY: But supportive of...supportive of all local agriculture, and all those projects.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning, Mr. Ranney.

MR. RANNEY: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. RANNEY: Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll go to Odie, followed by Adam Radford.

MR. ODELL: Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. We can hear you and see you.

MR. ODELL: Okay. Cool. I apologize, this is my first time testifying in a Council meeting. I'm not as polished as the other people. My name's Odie Odell. I have a degree in business economics and a degree in tourism. I tell you that because I went through a massive career change. I'm here to speak on behalf of the Farmer Apprenticeship Mentor Program...the FAM Program. I'll start with a quick story. Didn't know I was on a three-minute time limit. In the end of last year, you know, I guess the end of the year before, 2019, I got married on the beautiful north shore. I went on honeymoon in January 2020, and I got trapped abroad for about five or six, seven months. It wasn't so bad, we were in Indonesia, surfing, doing yoga, Japan, a couple other places. It was a good time. I had a lot of time to think, and one of the things that came out of that was...I had, I've been a server at Mama's Fish House, other restaurants around Hawai'i for a long time. I'm a real estate agent, or I was. And none of those things were really fulfilling to me. And I thought about this time while I'm stuck abroad, I got all this time to think, and I was like, what could I do that is going to better people and make me feel like I'm...I'm good, I'm using my mana. And...and what that was, was work with my hands, and grow things, and help to provide food for people. So I came back to Maui finally. I got back here mid-2020, and trying to figure out how to take a massive career change and become a farmer. And I had never heard of the FAM Program. I was looking at enrolling in the University to get some education, and things like that. And my wife actually stumbled upon a listing on Craigslist to go check out a farm. By word of mouth, I...I just lucked into the FAM Program. And I got to tell you, it has been a blessing like no other I could've

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asked for. I...I've stated my education at the beginning because I still am paying off student loans on two different degrees. And I did not want to go back in and dive deep and get more debt just to...to get the education that I needed to get started on something. And what the FAM Program allowed me to do was not only get the knowledge and the experience, but start to know the people that are moving the wheels. And...and those wheels are the wheels that are creating food for our...our islands and our economy and...and you know, I had no idea that we were importing 90 percent of our food to the islands. That was...I was mind-boggled. And how are we to correct that? So for sure, I support the Maui Food Hub. You know, anything we can do to...to set up more certified kitchens so that people can access that without having to start a full-on business, you know, is a good thing. But...but what I'm speaking to right now, the...the Farmer's Union and the FAM Program has been a...just an amazing blessing in my life. And I really...you know, I'm...I'm participating in both parts. There's the farmer apprenticeship program where they...they lecture, and then there's the immersion program where you actually go work on farms with mentors. And I have learned so much. And I mean...and trust me, I've . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . tried to learn this stuff...I'm at time limit. I'll tell you quick. I try to learn this stuff online, and it's not out there. It's all the secrets that all the farmers know that nobody else knows, but you gotta learn from the people that know. And...and so I'm super grateful to you guys for funding the program, and whatever you did that I don't know about, but I'm really grateful for the program and I hope . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Odell. Members, questions? Seeing none, we'll thank you for your testimony. Congratulations on your first time testifying. And I...I hope it's not your last.

MR. ODELL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Our next testifier is Adam Radford, followed by Shannon VanderHeuvel. Aloha, Mr. Radford.

MR. RADFORD: Aloha, Committee Chair and Members. Always a pleasure to see you. My name is Adam Radford. I'm the manager of Maui Invasive Species Committee. I will just start quickly with a personal plug, though, for the Ka Ipu Kukui program. I am a graduate of that program, and it does foster very effective leaders in our community. And then moving back to my manager's hat, I like what Odie just said about working in jobs that create connectivity and real meaning to where you live and to your community. And that's a huge component of what the Maui Invasive Species Committee does, is, I think most of you know, we have facilities that are supported largely through County funding on Moloka'i, in Hāna, and near Pā'ia...Old Maui High. And now, we did move there, and will be seeking a long-term lease and bring that before the Council probably in June, once you're out of your Budget deliberation weariness. But I did want to just talk about where we're at with the Budget this year. It's proposed in the Mayor's Budget, we're looking at a \$300,000 reduction from what was provided by the County last year. That's significant. When I talk about careers and conservation, meaningful careers, that not only will limit our ability to hire, but it limits the ability to foster a sustainable career for people in rural communities and also just throughout Maui Nui. We do work across

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the Maui Nui landscape. So I would strongly and humbly ask that the...the Council consider at least flat funding compared to what we had in FY'21. Keep in mind, also, that in FY'20, we had a 3.8...a little over \$3.8 million budget from the County. FY'21 was about \$2.46 million. So we've been having reductions along the way, and we've made it work. But in order to keep doing what we're doing, which is battling some of our most harmful invasive species, we...we again humbly ask for your support to do so. And I want to recognize Member Sinenci, he put forth a recommendation to increase the Miconia and other invasive species Budget by 200,000, which would get us closer to flat from last year. And also, Member Molina is, I believe, advocating for 500,000 additional for environmental programs in general. So that's a bit broader, and not one that we...we've received funding through that mechanism in the past, but I just want to recognize that the Members obviously are making and taking strides to support environmental protection, not just for the Maui Invasive Species Committee, but in general. And I'll just conclude by saying, you know, thank you all for your longstanding support and clear commitment to keeping Maui Nui nō ka 'oi. So mahalo, and I'm happy to take questions. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing. I see a question from Member Sinenci, and Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and kōyo . . .(inaudible). . . You know, you mentioned earlier that we increased some of our...our workforce in East Maui. We hired a couple, maybe three or four positions to address the Miconia, Coqui, and little fire ants in Maui. So retaining those workers in East Maui, would that have...does the shortage affect those positions?

MR. RADFORD: It may. I think the...I would have...as a program, we would have to make hard decisions across the board. And keep in mind that we have around 50 employees. What I see for the boys in Hāna that's more a concern for me is the lack of the ability to advance, both in pay and in position. But also, when we had peak funding for the Hāna Miconia program, we had a crew of 12 in Hāna. And so the six is...is great, and they're very effective. But again, that's a direct example of a reduced level of funding. But...but in terms of keeping those that are working in Hāna working? Absolutely. We are committed to that, and also with Moloka'i. I mean, that's our main priority. Like, when we make hard decisions, what we often give up is...is things like helicopter time, so that we can support people. But that slows the pace and effectiveness of eradication efforts, as you can imagine.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Radford. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Molina, followed by Member Johnson, and then Member Sugimura. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: All right. Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Mr. Radford. First request is, would you be available to be a resource when we get to your item? Now, my guess it's going to be sometime mid-afternoon, possibly early evening, if that be the case. Can you do that? Would you be available?

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MR. RADFORD: Yes. I'd be honored.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. I know you're a very busy guy, but I appreciate that. Second question, can you tell us why...have you been able to apply for some of those EPA grants to help supplement your needs for MISC? And if not, why?

MR. RADFORD: We have not been able to apply for those grants yet. But it's...that's just my understanding is how those are trickling into the State and County systems. And so we are interested in applying for those funds and watch...monitoring that very closely. And we also did even apply for CARES Act funding, for example, through the Mayor's Office and...and just for perspective, what we were proposing was to hire essentially 100 people to work in conservation and help with career changes from perhaps, service industry, like Odie mentioned, to...to other...other opportunities. And we had a collective of conservation entities that were all on board to...to help that. We did not receive that funding, but...so we are looking at...at a variety of sources all the time. And we do have just...and this comes up regularly. Yeah, I mean, we do have other sources of funding...State funding, we have foundation funding, and amazingly, we have incredible support from just the community in terms of individual donors. And so we're...we're always looking for new opportunities.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right, great. Okay. Thank you very much for that update. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Any objections to Mr. Radford serving as a resource personnel? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, members. And then, we can get your contact information, Mr. Radford, and then Staff can call you when the Department is up and your item is up. Member Johnson, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Mr. Radford. I...I have a special spot in my heart for the green collar jobs. I used to work in your industry. I have a quick question in regards to your staffing use. It's...there's a lot of, you know, grants out there and funds that you can get, you know, through NFWF, and we were just talking about the feral animal grant that's...that's in our County. Do you have a grant writer on Staff?

MR. RADFORD: No. The...the grant writer would be myself and my team. We do have...Teya Penniman is our special projects, and she is...one of her duties is...is fundraising and diversifying our funding base, but we don't have one person that is assigned to that task. But I know you had brought up, like, NFWF grants in the past. We've received those quite a few times. We don't have one currently, but it's just another example of pursuing those options that are out there. But great question. Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I...I, you know...I was reading in the paper that they're saying the green collar jobs have...have had a boom during COVID, and I would...I would have hoped that you guys could have taken advantage of some of that funding going down the pipeline, though...yeah. I...I...I hope...I hope everything works out for you guys. I know it's a very important job that you're doing, so I...I...I hope that you guys get some grant money from...with your Staff. So that's all my questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo Member Johnson. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice seeing you, Adam. Thank you for your good work. And one of my questions was, I thought that I had seen you in one of the presentations for budget for CARES Act money that you had put this conservation group together, but you said you didn't get the funding, right, through CARES Act?

MR. RADFORD: That...that's correct. We presented on that to Mayor and his office, and no, unfortunately, we were not a recipient of that funding.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So maybe you can, for the new rescue funds coming up, where we're learning about that. But the other thing is that you had sent me this really good summary of all the MISC funding that you get from the County, and I wonder if you could submit it to us it...it actually came from when you appeared at Kelly's Committee, and you had sent me a...a letter. I wanted...I wanted to know if you could share that with the Committee because it has a summary of all the different pots of money that you get from the various departments. And...yeah. So thank you very much, and appreciate all the work that you do. Thank you.

MR. RADFORD: I'd be happy to share that, of course.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Adam. Thank you for being here and, you know, thank you for showing up at the town hall as well for the budget items. My question is, you know, I had put in as an alternate reinstated, because you had said it was 200,000 that your budget got cut, so that was one of my alternate budget priorities, but now I'm hearing 300. So was there 100,000 from another pot, or was it...was that a...

MR. RADFORD: Yes. So what got cut was the little fire ant went from 700,000 down to 500,000, and miconia and other invasive species went from 500,000 down to 400,000. So it was --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So those two.

MR. RADFORD: -- \$300,000 total. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Because I think...yeah, all I had heard about previously was the little fire ant, 200,000. So okay. Well, that...that makes sense. Maybe I'll combine

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mine with Member Sinenci's priority and make up that 300,000.

MR. RADFORD: Thank you for your --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. RADFORD: -- consideration of that, and support.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Adam.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King, and we'll see you later this evening.  
Aloha, Mr. Radford.

MR. RADFORD: Aloha. A hui hou.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hui hou. Okay. Our next testifier is Shannon VanderHeuvel, followed by Pamela Tumpap. Shannon will be number 24 of 40 testifiers signed up. I don't see Shannon signed up. Oh, here it is. Oh, okay. You just have to unmute yourself, now. Oh, wrong button. There...okay. It's the...it's the one with the mic on it. No. That's the one with the turning on it.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. There we go.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: Can you hear me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. We can hear you and see you.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: I'm sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please proceed.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: I was clicking it on my picture, and it was actually down on there. I...sorry. I don't testify very often. So aloha, Councilmembers and Chair. I'm testifying on Item 61, which is the acquisition of Mā'ālaea Mauka. I support purchasing the...the land. I live in Mā'ālaea. I'm not a part-time owner. I live here 24/7. But the bay area is so full of the red dirt, when we get the erosion problems. I don't even like to go in the water because of all the dead coral. Another brother of mine who lives in another condo, he actually went into the water. He had a cut, and he didn't realize it, and got a bad infection for months, and he's still in recovery today. And he's actually going to be leaving for the mainland because of...of the area. But just, pretty soon a lot of Hawaiians may be leaving the area too, because they can't afford to live here in Mā'ālaea. It's...it's sad. It's a sad thing. And on a side note, because of the new classification, I'm going to actually be paying more in my taxes because of...it's...of a short-term rental versus homeowner, which I am 24/7. So I understand it helps the whole...Maui and that whole area to do it that way, even though it would hurt me personally, it...it actually helps

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Maui as a whole. I understand that. The other thing I want to do is to...to say that the same principle applies here to the purchase of the...the land...the erosion problems that...that...that kill the coral reef and Mā'alaea Bay can improve with the right people taking care of the land. It's their passion to improve Mā'alaea, and Maui as a whole. With the collaborative efforts of the watershed partnerships and the conservation partners, it's a start to help improve the problems with the fire and the erosion that are devastating the land. You cannot begin to improve those areas in the land if you do not own the land. So we have a responsibility. It's our kuleana to do the right thing, and I just wanted to put that out there. I appreciate your time. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. VanderHeuvel. Please correct me if I'm getting your name wrong.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: No. That is correct. It's a married name. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Member Sugimura, you have a question? Oh, was it Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: For clarification, did you say you were a...a...your taxes, your real property taxes went up...your...you're a homeowner, but your real property taxes went up? I...I think I might have misunderstood.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: They...they will be going up because of the reclassification that you guys voted on, I believe it was in December, and it took...took effect in January, where it was classified as the...all the area was classified as short-term rental now in Mā'alaea. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I think...is...regardless of what it was classified, if you file the homeowner exemption, you can still qualify for owner-occupied status, regardless of what the property as a whole is. Are you...have you filed the homeowner exemption form?

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: I just found out about the home...home exemption form in January, so unfortunately, they wouldn't let me file it then. So I would get the homeowner status for 2021, but I...you know, I...I didn't know about it. I, you know, I've been living here for years. I haven't...I never knew about that. I've been paying these high taxes all this time. And so when I tried to refinance, that's when I...I was told, hey, why don't you fill out this form? And I did, and...but it's, you know...it was 15 days past the time I...of...of the deadline. So they wouldn't let me extend it. And so I did file it right away in February for...for the next year. So unfortunately, they...they...they wouldn't...when I told them I didn't know anything about the form, and I've always put in there that I'm a

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homeowner, and I...and I live here 24/7. I don't rent it out. That didn't matter. I had to actually file the...the form. So yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. You...you...you should check up on it that they've gotten it as well because sometimes --

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: I did.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- there's miscommunication.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: I did. I did. I got the copy back. So...for the...for 2022.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Today is the appeals deadline, so just throwing that out there.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: I know. Yeah. I...I know that, but the...I can't appeal on the reclassification. So it really doesn't do me any good. So that...I understand that. I thought about it, but no.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thanks.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. And I'm sorry to hear about that, Ms. VanderHeuvel. That's actually one of the reasons that we changed it from homeowner and residential to owner-occupied and nonowner-occupied, but you're in STR, so...it...it was to help people learn about the homeowner exemption so that they would see that discrepancy and contact the RPT division to find out why they would be classified as nonowner-occupied if they were owner-occupied.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: Yes. I just...I got my assessment and then saw that, and that's when I called on it. And it was just too late for me.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. I see. Well, I'm...I'm...I'm happy that helped...helped you learn about it. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning.

MS. VANDERHEUVEL: Okay. Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay. Our next testifier is Pamela Tumpap, followed

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by person signed on as Guest 1.

MS. TUMPAP: Aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Councilmembers. I'm Pamela Tumpap, president of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, testifying in support of the Made in Maui County Festival, agricultural programs, and the Maui Visitors Bureau. The Made in Maui County Festival has been a highlight for local manufacturers, residents, and visitors since 2014. From its inception, the event has provided a return on the County's investment of 372 percent, with over 2.5 million gained, which does not include the additional revenue that vendors make through wholesale accounts from leads generated by the Festival. This investment is recycled back through our local economy, and supports our small manufacturers who help diversify our economy and support other industries such as agriculture, restaurant, and retail. While we kept the event going with a virtual event in 2020, we certainly know that manufacturers sell far more at in-person events. We're hopeful that we can hold an in-person event this year, given mass vaccinations to help us create herd immunity, and...as long as we can do it safely. However, we will also incorporate the technology assets from last year to add a virtual element, which will help us broaden the reach to markets...vendors that would now be able to be seen by a broader audience, allow more buyers to attend that wouldn't otherwise attend in person, and include more vendors than the facility that we use at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center holds. However, we would only do this if we could do it safely, and we will look at that later in July, based on conditions at that time. When we changed to a virtual event in 2020, it provided an opportunity for us to greatly expand our outreach. We came up with a million-person pledge of...through e-news and emails and social media. We reached over 1.6 million people last year. But still, we saw that sales, again, on a...on a first-time online event were lower than what we achieve when we're in person. So that's why we're very hopeful to do that again this year. We sincerely appreciate Mayor Victorino and JoAnn Inamasu for including the event as an \$80,000 line item in the budget, and look forward to continuing to support the growth of Maui County's manufacturing industry. That is 20,000 less than we received pre-COVID. We were able to make it work last year, and it might be a little tough if we can go live, but we're working to achieve that because we've seen sponsors also contributing to other health and human service areas. We want to also support the important agricultural programs by Maui County Farm Bureau, the Hawai'i Farmers Union United, MEO's agricultural grants in the business development center to help support new and existing ag entrepreneurs. It's critical to our sustainability, and we also must address invasive species. Some counties have gotten to a point where it is beyond control, and we need to make sure we don't get there. Additionally, we support the 1.5 million allocated for the Maui Visitor's Bureau. Last budget season, we shared the coming hit, given . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the importance of the visitor industry and its tremendous trickle-down effect. We used to think it was 75 percent. Today, we know it's closer to 90 percent. When you consider how it shores up agriculture, activities, events, musicians, restaurants, retails, weddings, and more, all the way down to hair salons, whose primary residents...excuse me...whose primary clients are residents. And I'd be happy to explain that further if you you'd like. Our visitor industry has been devastated this past year, and the importance of economic development heightened. Part of diversifying our economy is revamping and refreshing our visitor industry. We must support this vital industry while also attracting industries that can coexist and

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leverage our main industries, such as the visitor industry, agriculture, and others.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Tumpap --

MS. TUMPAP: MVB and Hawai'i --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- okay, 20 seconds.

MS. TUMPAP: -- Tourism's Authorities -- oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Will you please --

MS. TUMPAP: Did it beep?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- conclude with one last -- yes.

MS. TUMPAP: Oh, okay. I'm sorry. I'll --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ten seconds.

MS. TUMPAP: -- conclude very quickly. So we understand that MVB and...and HTA, they created the Maui Nui Destination Management Action Plan, which aims to rebuild, redefine, and reset our direction . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . for tourism over the next three-year period. Many worked on this. We feel it's important that they continue that great work and the work they've done before. Mahalo for allowing us to testify, and for your tremendous time and effort in reviewing and developing the budget.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Tumpap. Any questions for our testifier? Seeing none, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning.

MS. TUMPAP: Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Guest 1, followed by the caller with the last four digits, 9258. Oh, okay. Guest 1 may have dropped off the line. Our next testifier is the caller with the last four digits, 9258, followed by Michael Fogerty. Okay. Caller with the last four digits, 9258, you're unmuted on our end. You may --

MR. FOGERTY: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- proceed with your testimony.

MR. FOGERTY: Can you hear now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can hear you. Please --

MR. FOGERTY: Okay. We're good.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- identify yourself for the record.

MR. FOGERTY: Yes. Thanks for clearing that up. My name is Mike Fogerty, and I'm testifying on behalf of Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, and I'm testifying in support of the proposed County expenditure of \$5.5 million for the acquisition of the property known as Mā'ālaea Mauka. It's item number 61 on your budget matrix. This expenditure will complete the purchase of the Mā'ālaea Mauka for future conservation and watershed and stormwater management. As an environmental nonprofit working for healthy coral reefs and clean ocean water for the islands of Maui County, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council believes that this purchase will have a strong and positive impact on the water quality and marine ecosystems of Mā'ālaea Bay. Sediment runoff into the bay is one of the leading causes of the alarming declines in Mā'ālaea's coral reefs in recent decades. That's why one of our top priority projects for the next two years is to repair two severe erosional features, that are called head cuts, that are located just mauka of the highway across from the Maui Ocean Center. This is unused agricultural land that would be part of the Mā'ālaea Mauka land purchase. In a number of cities monitoring programs with these head cuts revealed that over 64,000 pounds or 32 tons of soil from just these two head cut locations was washed into the ocean during a single moderate rainstorm in January of this year. The lost soil contribute to a severe brown water sediment, and that sediment pollution is believed to be a significant cause of the coral reef decline in Mā'ālaea Bay. We are currently writing grants and seeking funding to raise thousands of dollars needed to support planning, designing, permitting, and implementation of the head cut stabilization repairs. And that's to reduce soil loss and sediment runoff in future storms. Transferring this land from private to public ownership will open up increased funding opportunities for repairing these erosional features, including the potential for the State DLNR to provide supportive funding for these important repairs to prevent that sediment runoff into the ocean. This is just one example of the ways in which public ownership of this land could make it possible for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and our community to tackle the problem of sediment runoff on the Pōhākea Watershed. This will improve ocean water quality in Mā'ālaea Bay and the health of the important coral reefs located in the bay. We ask that the County make this funding available to purchase Mā'ālaea Mauka. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Fogerty. Perfect timing. Okay. Members, questions? Seeing none, we'll thank you for your testimony today. Aloha.

MR. FOGERTY: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Autumn Ness, followed by Angel Estrada-Wade (*phonetic*).

MS. NESS: Aloha, everybody.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. NESS: I'm Autumn...hello. I'm Autumn Ness. I do want to clarify that I work part-time for Councilmember Johnson, but I'm off today. And today I'm testifying as the volunteer

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Vice-President of the Board of the Maui Hub. And also want to clarify that I have zero financial ties to this organization at all, I'm just a volunteer that wants to make it work really badly. Maui Hub is not meant to rely on County funding in perpetuity, that is really, really clear. We're currently operating in the black and covering our basic operational expenses, but like you've heard before, as we scale up to meet demand and become a larger part of our food infrastructure, we do have expenses that we can't cover by our current operational capacity. If expansion needs were funded through avenues like small business loans, then we could go to a bank, you know, and then those costs would have to be passed on to the consumer. And that is what makes local food inaccessible to many Maui residents. So these larger expenses we're looking to be publicly funded. And also, we get foundation funding as well, a little bit. This is a lot like our housing conversation, we know that the cost burden of infrastructure gets passed on to housing consumers and that's our problem, so we're talking about publicly funding certain infrastructure projects. And also, if we want our local food to be affordable and able to pay our farmers well, we really do have to talk about publicly funding the infrastructure that supports that upfront. The good news is our return on investment has been really, really good so far. In our first whole year we only received \$152,000 in grants, and a lot of that was passthrough that was paid for, for money for us to donate to people to food in need, not even our operational grants. And we turned that into \$366,000 to our local economy through labor, through payment to farmers. We actually...we take SNAP, so \$57,000 has come through SNAP, which is Federal money. We've brought \$57,000 of Federal funds to our small farmers. And we've given away...donated \$12,000 worth of food to our needy in our community. Because we're a nonprofit, our success is really measured by the success of other local food businesses. So every dollar to Maui Hub is actually multiplied into the local food economy exponentially. So it's more of an investment in our economy than a grant funding on this. We have submitted a grant proposal for \$259,000 which would pay upfront for our own refrigerated truck, our own refrigerated van, a small rent subsidy stipend which would allow us, if we need to, to move into a new home and expand our capacity. And as soon as we grow into that capacity, we'll be able to pay our own rent is what our business model shows. But right now we just need help bumping up to the next tier. We have 40-plus written testimonies in support in the eComment portal. Our customers and our farmers love us. And an investment in this program, as well as the microgrants, which I am so pleased to see are still in the budget this year is such a good . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . one-two-punch investment in our local food economy that I can't wait to see how it manifests in the future. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ness. Okay. I see a question from Member Sinenci, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Ms. Ness, for your testimony this morning. Yeah, the Director Ranney, he mentioned, in answering Member Sugimura's question about the Farmers Union, and just to be...to clarify, the Maui Hub is not part of the union?

MS. NESS: No, we were in the very beginning. I'm glad you asked, this is...to clarify, we were in the beginning. And in the very beginning, the Farmers Union put in...they receive

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money from the County and we were connected with them, and they put \$10,000 into buying software and other things that help not just us, but Hāna as well, right? And then...so that was a grant from the union that came...I think came originally from the County. And then there was another loan for about \$10,000 from the foundation to the Maui Hub. But we have since paid that...those funds have gone back to the union and the foundation. Those were just startup grants that we've paid back, so we are at a zero right now. And every other bit of funding that we've gotten has come from private sources. And we spun off from the union in July.

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

MS. NESS: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Paltin? Member Paltin, you...you need to unmute. Okay. Go ahead. Oh, there you are.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Can you hear me? No?

MS. NESS: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh. Thanks. Okay. My question was similar to Member Sinenci's. So with the...I don't want to call it, like, bipartisan, but...so you take food from all the farmers, Maui Farmers Union...or Hawai'i Farmers Union, Maui Farmers Bureau, Kula ag?

MS. NESS: No. No, no. We're...we...we're not...we are an independent...like, have you ever been to mauihub.org? It's a website, it's kind of like Etsy or Amazon, the farmer loads their own. We're not affiliated with any organization. Any farmer can put their stuff on our website, and then people go there and buy it. So...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, yeah. So --

MS. NESS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- that was my question, like, any farmer that wants to can do that?

MS. NESS: Yeah, we do have some like...you know, once we have like four farmers selling tomatoes, we're not going to take a fifth because that kind of waters down how much each farmer can sell. But if it's something that we don't have on the hub or, you know, we like to have a few different choices because some are organic and some are conventional, and some are big and some are small, you know. So...but if we don't have something...and right now, we have been...we have stopped being able to take new people because we're at capacity. Our warehouse isn't big enough, we don't have enough trucks, so we have a waiting list of people we want to serve, but we just can't do it because we can't fit their stuff in our warehouse right now.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And...and folks get listed first come, first serve? Like if everyone wants to do soybeans and only the top five can do it, then it's first come, first serve, or the ones that have been doing it the longest?

MS. NESS: Yeah. Yes. Like we started...I think we started with a tomato and a lettuce and a cucumber farmer, and then trout and watercress. So those guys are in there, and you know, we added people, the first...next three tomato guys that came, they got on, and now we're like closed for tomatoes for a little while, for example, you know. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And so the money, if you get this to expand, if there's like some more tomato folks could come on because more tomato would be buying because you have bigger storage?

MS. NESS: Well, kind of. So like if you think of it from a farmer's perspective, right, if there's three guys selling different kinds of tomatoes on the hub, then they each sell enough that it makes it worth it to drive from Kula to our packing facility to drop off their tomato. But if you have ten guys selling tomatoes, then each of them only sells a little bit, and then they got to drive all the way to Kahului for one case of tomatoes, and that doesn't make sense for them, right? So it's not that we want to pick and choose farmers, we want to not dilute the market on our site so that it keeps each farmer that's on there selling enough to make it worth the drive. You know what I'm saying? Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. I got it. Thank you for explaining --

MS. NESS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- it.

MS. NESS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Now I understand.

MS. NESS: Yeah. If we get...need more tomatoes then yeah, we'll get more tomato farmers on there, for sure. That's the goal.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Before I call on Chair Lee, I had a quick question dovetailing off of Member Paltin's question, and that's...so on the Sustainable Moloka'i Market website, they have the profile for the farmer that you're buying your produce from, and that way you can get the produce from the farmer that you would...you know, if they have...if they're known for sweeter papayas, and you want to get your papayas from them, then you...you would buy your papayas from that, you know, farm. So does the Maui Hub have that kind of...that profile to...you know, because I know that's part of what the Food Hub is doing, the Maui Food Hub is doing, is trying to connect consumers to the farmer and have that relationship again. So does the Maui Food Hub have that kind of profiles?

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MS. NESS: Yeah. And we actually do that in two ways. We have that on the website. Not all the farmers take advantage of that unfortunately, and we if had more staff and volunteers, we would kind of coach them to put their profile...more information on their profiles. But some have beautiful...this is our growing style, you know, this is our link to our website so you can see our farm. But we also have a really huge social media following, so we use our pages to amplify...like if I see that Aina Lani Farms has just planted a new row of edible flowers and they put that on their Facebook page, then we really amplify that. Like hey, you guys, coming soon, organic edible flowers, that kind of stuff. So it's really in its infant stage because we are only a year old, but that's the plan, is to build out more of those farmer profiles, yeah, long-term.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Love it. Chair Lee, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, Autumn.

MS. NESS: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So I'm a farmer of sweet potatoes, and so I want to sell you these...or how does that work, do you take an order first from somebody?

MS. NESS: No, it's...I'm so glad you guys are asking these questions because I can talk about this so long. Okay. It's like a...it's almost like a harvest-to-order. So each...we have a person, her name is Ruby, and she is...she's our farmer communication person, and farmers keep up with her. Like hey, Ruby, we're going to have a whole lot of sweet potatoes in two weeks, you know, we're...we're going to have 800 pounds of sweet potato. So they load 800 one-pound units of sweet potatoes onto our website, and then people shop. And then we send...the store closes on Tuesday at 11:00 p.m., and so Wednesday morning each farmer gets an email, we sold 600 pounds of your sweet potatoes, and the farmer has all of Wednesday and Thursday to bring...get those sweet potatoes to the Hub, right? And so if it's not sold, they also know, okay, they got to find somewhere else to sell it, let's take it to the farmers market, that kind of stuff. So...yeah. Does that answer your question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, so I...I give you all my sweet potatoes that I have that you have orders for, and then so when do I get paid?

MS. NESS: Well, a lot of the farmers get paid on site, which is another thing we pride ourselves on. Like we want to make it as easy as possible. Paperwork and all that stuff, no. They pull up to the hub, unload their...their 600 pounds of sweet potatoes, we have a quality person in the back that goes and checks to make sure it's all good quality, and they get a check and then they leave.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So the way you make your money is you increase...you add on your overhead, whatever profit, and that's what people pay --

MS. NESS: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- with their credit cards on...online. That's how you make your money?

MS. NESS: Yeah. And we only...the markup is really low compared...because we're a nonprofit, we're not profit driven, and we never haggle with the farmers. The farmers tell us what they need to get paid and we pay them that, and then we mark that up. Our average markup is like 23, 24 percent. Sometimes that doesn't make sense. If we look at it and we're like wow, this is an expensive bag of lettuce, then we actually lower our markup. We don't haggle with the farmer. And as long as we can play with things enough to just pay our...we have packers, we have the quality control person, we have the person who writes the check, we've got a delivery driver. As long as we can pay that, we're calling it even. You know, we have an executive director that's now paid for by a grant. And so we're just...we're just looking to...to, you know, just make enough to make this thing work.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So what you need money for is for more warehouse space and for trucks for delivery?

MS. NESS: Yeah. Right now we're leasing our trucks and that's great short-term, but long-term, like any business, you should own your big capital expenses. So if we buy our refrigerated truck and van out front, that's a lot less money we need to be making every...every month. And if we expand into a new warehouse, it's going to take us a minute to expand, you know, our business to pay for that warehouse that we've got to fill. So that's basically what we're looking for.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I think I understand it now. Thank you.

MS. NESS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I love your enthusiasm, Autumn. Right? I remember you speaking to us early on when COVID first hit, and the impact of the visitor industry, and you were part of that whole pivoting, right, for Maui County Farm Bureau and Hawai'i Farmers Union. So with the visitor industry slowly coming back, and I think the hotels are not 100 percent, but are you feeling the impact of some of your farmers now are getting their business back, or is...is that not part of your...of what you see?

MS. NESS: You know, that's a great question.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Or you're not involved with that?

MS. NESS: I was afraid of that actually, and we're finding that it's okay. And I think a lot of that has to do with microgrants and the capacity that farmers have had during this downtime to plan for the future. That was the whole goal for this. Not just take produce that wasn't being bought by the hotels, we wanted to contribute into a large-scale, long-term, gross increase in the amount of food that's being grown, so there's enough for

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locals and the hotels. And we're seeing that slowly start to happen, which is cool.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Very good.

MS. NESS: I don't have any solid data on that yet because I think it's just too early. When the microgrant...people who just got their money, I'm seeing greenhouses go up, I'm seeing like all this cool stuff happen, so I think next year we'll have some really solid data on how these two things work together to...to create more food, I hope, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you.

MS. NESS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Seeing no other questions. We'll thank you for your testimony this morning, Ms. Ness. Aloha.

MS. NESS: Thanks so much, you guys. I appreciate it. And thank you, Councilmember Sinenci, for putting us into your priorities.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is identified as Guest 1, followed by Suzette Montalvo. Guest 1, if you can unmute yourself on your end. Okay. Oh, okay. We'll go with Suzette Montalvo, followed by Rod Antone. Ms. Montalvo? Okay. We'll go to Rod Antone, and we'll check in with the other two if they are...they're ready to testify at that time. Okay. Mr. Antone?

MR. ANTONE: Hello. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear you. We cannot see you, but we can hear you.

MR. ANTONE: Why can't you see me? Okay. Never mind. Sorry. First of all, Rod Antone, registered lobbyist with the State and County Maui Hotel and Lodging Association. First off, I'd like to thank...there...there I am. Hey, how are you guys doing? I'd like to thank all of you for the talk story sessions prior to, you know, our...our meetings here, those really help. Mr. Molina, I'm going to make up for it, don't worry, I had that Moderna shot. Actually I saw Councilmember King same day, we got the Moderna shot on the same day, I think. But I'll make up for it, Mike. Don't worry about it. Today I'd like to talk about...testify on behalf of Maui Visitors Bureau. As you guys heard from Sherry, you know, it's not so much promoting anymore, everybody's concentrating on education and management. And you know, in order to do that, if you guys saw the Malama...the...the Malama videos and the...the Pono Pledge, I mean those are just some of the things she's working on, and she needs funds in order to continue some of that good work. I'd also like to point out that there is a House bill or a legislative bill involving HTA right now, and they want to take away the funding for the cultural, environmental, and there was a third pillar, but they want to take away funding for that, which would directly impact MVB. So the County funding becomes even more important. Having said that, there's a couple of things I heard earlier. Councilmember King, you brought

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up the beach chair situation. As soon as we heard about that, we were informed by the Mayor's Office, I contacted all the folks down there, Grand Wailea, Four Seasons, and there's another hotel that uses a third party to set up beach chairs. DLNR has gone down and has checked out the situation, given everybody a clean bill of...everything's...everything's good, everybody is following the rules. If you remember in 2013, there was a big lawsuit down there involving beach chairs on public access. And so this is not something anybody takes lightly. I mean, you know, there was a settlement, and people had to pay millions of dollars, so this is...this is not a small thing. There is some...Maui Police Department went down and they had, I think, a different outlook on things than DLNR, and I...we're working with the Mayor's Office to see if that can be reconciled, and that is the last I heard of that. Let's see, what else? Also, I want to make use of this three minutes. Made in Maui County Festival, I was involved in the last Administration that started that with Pam Tumpap and OED, and it's a great success. You guys remember the Maui Cookie Lady. I mean she's...she's a worldwide name partly because of the Made in Maui County Festival. . . .(timer sounds). . . And that's where you get your Moloka'i bread, they sell out all the time. You got to support it. Thank you, guys. I'm here for questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Antone. We have a question from Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks, Rod, thanks for being here, and for...I didn't realize that you guys had gotten involved in that issue with the beach chairs, but thanks for checking it out. Do you know if the protest is still planned, or did that alleviate the planned protest?

MR. ANTONE: I mean, I'm seeing the same stuff on Facebook that you are. I'm assuming they're going to be there. I mean honestly if, you know, our good friend Kai Nishiki is watching this and she hears the information that I'm saying right now, I'm not sure if that'll cause her to cancel the...the protest. I mean you...she could say it's still an informational demonstration. I think, you know, but I mean the...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So --

MR. ANTONE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- but you haven't seen anything? I was just curious about that. But I would appreciate if you guys...if you get into those in...in the district that maybe you could let the district Councilmember know that you're helping out with the situation.

MR. ANTONE: Absolutely, I will do so. We were...we were acting very quickly...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I appreciate it. I appreciate it.

MR. ANTONE: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just...I...I...it's been on my mind, and I would have liked to have known. So...but taking one more thing off my mind.

MR. ANTONE: Sure, no problem.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. ANTONE: I will notify you personally. I got your cell --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. ANTONE: -- number. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You do. Thank you.

MR. ANTONE: Yes. Anybody else?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King.

MR. ANTONE: Oh, oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Oh.

MR. ANTONE: Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry...

MR. ANTONE: There was a question about environmental tourism from Gabe Johnson...or Councilmember Johnson earlier. Is that something you'd...you'd need any information on?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One moment, Mr. Antone. Member Sugimura raised her hand. And --

MR. ANTONE: Oh, sorry, sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- in response to Member King, yeah, I think the beach occupy is still happening tomorrow at 7:00 a.m. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice seeing you, Rod. I wanted to know if you knew the House bill number or Senate bill number that you're talking about that would impact --

MR. ANTONE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- funding to us?

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MR. ANTONE: Hold on, hold on, let me check my phone here. Okay. We got HB862. Yeah, it would defund HTA to about 60 percent, and they would eliminate their three pillars of Hawaiian culture, environment, and community. And you know, heading this charge is State Senator Glenn Wakai, who I used to work with back when we both did the news, and he usually has good reasons for doing things. I...I...I would like to talk to him directly to find out why he's suggesting this. But it...that's who, if you were to reach out, the...to the State Legislature, that's who I suggest you might talk to, or have Senator Gil or...or Kalani English talk to him on...on our behalf.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you for the information.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just to follow up on Member Sugimura's question. Rod, it looks like the bill 862 has a whole bunch of other things too, like maybe 20 pages. So the cultural section is at the back of the bill?

MR. ANTONE: Well, that's the...that is the portion that affects Maui, I believe. As far as...you know, as far as us trying to do things...when we talk about management, we always...we always talk about culture, environment, infrastructure, these are the things that tourism affects, impacts.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Because --

MR. ANTONE: The...you know.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- when...at first glance it says something about aerospace, but...but we'll go ahead and take a look at it. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Johnson, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good...good morning, Rod. Thanks for coming out. So my question was in regards to regenerative tourism. You...you know, prior to pandemic we were having what, 30,000 people coming a day to Maui County, and now we're at the halfway mark, which is about 15,000. So I'm looking for data on...on how...how many people actually are...are signing up for, you know, regenerative tourism or, you know, going to the fishponds or doing beach cleanups. I mean, if it's 10, 20, 30 or...or I don't know, what's the numbers, do we have any data on that?

MR. ANTONE: So I'm looking for that exact data as well. We're trying to identify legitimate either environmental or agricultural programs out there. I just sat down with Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership. Basically they plant trees on Haleakalā because more trees, more clouds; more clouds, more rain, so it's an important group. We want to partner them with the...the hotels, especially the Wailea and Kihei hotels, which benefit from Haleakalā. That's one. And then we've got a bunch of...I don't know

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if you guys have had heard about the ag farms in East Maui, the young people...it's almost like a youth hostel farm. You...you go there, you work on the farm, you get room and board, and otherwise, during your free time you can explore Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You mean WWOOFers?

MR. ANTONE: What's that?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is that WWOOFers you mean?

MR. ANTONE: I'm not sure. I...I live in Pā'ia so I see a lot of them hitchhiking. Sometimes I give them rides --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. ANTONE: -- to, you know, Safeway and stuff like that. So I know they're out there definitely. And they tell me all about the program. But there's...you know, we have so many environmental programs out there. Some of them are connected to the tourism industry, some of them aren't. We want to get them more involved. When I get that list, you'll get that list. I'll make sure I send it to you, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Rod. Okay. Chair, I have no further questions. Mahalo.

MR. ANTONE: This is the most questions you guys have ever asked me. Thank you. It's great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Hello, Rod. I just --

MR. ANTONE: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- received...I just received some really good suggestions from a constituent whose advice I really appreciate and always consider, and so I'll be sending you an email. I won't disclose his name, but...but I'll send you an email because it gives some very practical and realistic suggestions. One of which, and I hope that you do this quickly, is to take a survey in those popular parking spaces...beach parking spaces to find out the composition of the people there. Like for instance, how many are local residents, where are they coming from, how many are from the hotels, where are they coming from. I can't imagine anybody in Wailea parking in that place when they can just walk to the beach. But you know, the point is, if you want workable solutions, yeah, then you need to really get a set of facts on which to come up with policies, yeah. And so he's giving really good advice, and I'm hoping that you're going to follow all of these suggestions because it could...it's...it's much better than a knee-jerk reaction, and certainly much better than a shotgun approach to resolving all these problems between our visitors and our residents. Okay. So you'll be hearing from me shortly, okay, soon.

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MR. ANTONE: Okay. Are you referring to any certain shotgun approach or some...I'm...I'm...I'm not...I mean, I'm...I'm...I'm always willing to look at anybody's ideas and...and...and especially show them to my board. But I mean is there something in particular?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, okay, because the point is, the point is don't just look at one parking, you know, beach parking area, you know, and just don't look at okay, deciding 50 percent for residents, 50 percent, when the actual...when the real...when the real problem is we need more parking, you know?

MR. ANTONE: That too. You sound like you're referring to Facebook comments I made.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I'm not...I don't...I'm not a follower.

MR. ANTONE: Okay. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm just a follower of my constituents and --

MR. ANTONE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- this is...these are valid, valid suggestions that I hope you'll take to heart because solving one beach parking lot problem is not solving the problem, which is --

MR. ANTONE: Absolutely. I...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- not enough --

MR. ANTONE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- parking.

MR. ANTONE: I agree.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah? Thank you.

MR. ANTONE: I will look at the suggestions. I've also reached out to Councilmember Rawlins about...yes, and she can confirm, to work directly with...with her about some of this. So absolutely, we...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because you know, Rod, I have to tell you, this Council is all about solutions, yeah, not just kicking up dust.

MR. ANTONE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay

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MR. ANTONE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Very good.

MR. ANTONE: I'll...I'll try not to do that if I have been. You guys want to go nine for nine?  
Mike, Tamara, do you guys have any questions? No? Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're right, this was a lot of discussion. And --

MR. ANTONE: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- sorry, Chair Lee, I think I'm going to have to disagree with  
your position, but we can have a much fuller discussion because I think we actually  
need to cap parking and tourists because it's overwhelming. Okay.

MR. ANTONE: Can I just say we're looking at pros and cons.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure.

MR. ANTONE: That's...that's all we're doing. Yes. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Antone.

MR. ANTONE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Seeing no more questions. Mahalo, Mr. Antone,  
for your testimony. Members, it's 12:06. I would like for us to finish testimony before  
we take our lunch break, if there aren't any objections?

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. No objections. Okay. And if it's possible for you to  
make lunch arrangements because I don't want to take an extended lunch...lunch  
break. It may mean we will end up going until 10:00 tonight if we take an extended  
lunch, so I would like to break only until 1:30 later if possible. Mahalo, Members. Okay.  
Our next testifier is Anny Bruch, followed by Tamara Sherrill.

MS. BRUCH: Yes, I got one part done. Let's see if I can...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We can hear you.

MS. BRUCH: Good. Yeah. Thank you so much. I don't know, I think I'm going to start and  
then see if I can figure out how to do...oh, here we go.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. BRUCH: There...there we go. Yes. Thank you so much, Councilmembers. My name is

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Anny Bruch, I'm the Vice-President for the Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and I'm here to thank you so much for the support you have given our programs, the partnership we have with you. As you know, there's two parts to our request and support that we've received. The first part is the work that our network of four Chapters on Maui do, the Mauna Kahalawai, the Haleakalā, Lāhainā, and Hāna chapters, and they provide Maui farmers a supportive community that delivers new technologies, a myriad of resources, broad education opportunities, and timely advice from experienced farmers. This network builds alliances across Maui to grow and enhance the local food production system. I was really happy to hear Scott earlier testify about Hāna. As...as he's told you, the Hāna packers have offered a huge service to the Hāna community through their Hāna market. Through the COVID-19 crisis, we've been able to pivot to support and distribute food to community members through a variety of initiatives, and Hāna certainly has...has done that. Our chapters have offered seed and plant giveaways, they provided hands-on training on regenerative soil health practices and composting, along with Hawaiian agricultural practices. I was also really glad to...to hear the support for food hubs because food hubs have been one of our strategic priorities for several years. And through the COVID-19 shock, this provided an opportunity to build food hubs that both met the immediate needs of the crisis and provided the foundation for an important and permanent food infrastructure for local farmers, ranchers, and consumers. So we've developed and contributed to food hubs in Hāna, a brand new one is coming up in Lāhainā, and as you heard, our food hub in Central Maui that was born out of the Haleakalā chapter is now its own independent food hub. And these have received the technical assistance and support of the broad HFUU organization. And these food hubs serve as catalysts to...to promote local production by responding to local demand, and support our farmers. So . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Oops. That's actually a good point. We really want to thank for the partnership that we've had with you, and really look forward to supporting again the agricultural system this year. Thank you so much to each one of you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Bruch. Seeing no questions. We'll thank you for your testimony this afternoon.

MS. BRUCH: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Our next testifier is Tamara Sherrill, followed by Lori Buchanan.

MS. SHERRILL: Aloha kakahiaka. Oh. Aloha mai kākou, Chairman.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. SHERRILL: How are you? Thanks for your time. I'm Tamara Sherrill, I'm the Director of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, and I'm here in favor of the line item grant for \$150,000 with the Office of Economic Development. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens has a lease with the Department of Parks and Recreation, and they have been a wonderful partner to us. And these kind of partnerships, as I've said for many years, saves Maui County money because we are a nonprofit leveraging that grant into more than twice the amount

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through matching grants and fundraising even in these COVID times. So our mission is fostering an appreciation and understanding of Maui Nui's native and canoe plants, and their role in Hawaiian cultural expression. And I know all of you are very familiar with how Hawaiian plants are important for things like traditional agriculture and Hawaiian cultural arts, and how native plants really are the basis of the environment that supports this economy. But most visitors and residents just don't know. So we help prevent the extinction of local plant populations, we're helping increase the number and types of native plants being grown on Maui landscapes and gardens. And one thing that's really grown since the pandemic here is our conservation program for Maui County's endemic plants. We provide free seed storage for wild collected native plants for Maui County conservation organizations, and also distribute heritage Hawaiian crop varieties to local farmers and growers. And as we speak right now, there's a kalo varieties...a huli giveaway that's happening right outside of my window. This is 'Apu, which was only found in Maui, and so that's a variety worth conserving, so we've got people taking this and planting it. It's only going to survive by, you know, people taking and growing. So we've got people visiting, calling, emailing for plant identification and horticulture advice. We trained ten new volunteer docents last year that are now giving Hawaiian ethnobotany tours, and we continue to have workshops that connect the plants with Hawaiian cultural activities. And I just want to say that the seed storage program that we started a few years ago is still the only community native seedbank in Maui County. We're storing wild collected seeds for 23 Maui County partners now. We're part of research with the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center to find Maui County sourced ohia trees that are resistant to rapid ohia death. And we're furnishing seeds of Hawaiian coastal species to UH researchers who are doing climate change research to find species resilient. So we're holding strong, we're staying nimble, and I just want to thank you for your continued support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Sherrill. Okay. (*Audio interference*) questions. We'll thank you for your testimony this afternoon. Aloha.

MS. SHERRILL: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Lori Buchanan, followed by Teri Larronde. Ms. Buchanan, you are muted on your end, so if you'll please unmute on your end. Okay. We'll come back...we'll come back to Ms. Buchanan. Next to testify is Teri Larronde.

MS. THOMPSON: Hi. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. THOMPSON: Okay. And my video...sorry. Okay. Here we go. I'm actually not Teri, my name is Malia Thompson. I am the Manager here at Nuage Bleu and the Bleu Room. It's two stores that are in Pā'ia, locally owned, been here since 1987. What I'm testifying on is in behalf of the clean and safe Pā'ia situation that's going on. I'm sure you've seen or maybe heard about some of the stuff that's happening here. I've worked here since about 2017, and the issue with our houseless community members has grown quite a

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bit since the shutdown. The town was closed, so they kind of were able to just take over really. And so the issues that I'm going to go over are probably things that most of you don't feel like hearing before lunch, but I'll just go ahead. So some of the key issues are going to be like, of course, they don't wear masks, defecating on the sidewalks, toilet tissue all over the place with...like used, bandages that are like used and like unwrapped left on the sidewalks, screaming and yelling like, I don't know, schizophrenic maybe episodes at our employees, at the children that are walking to and from the...the Pā'ia Youth Center here. The owner of the shop's husband recently got punched like in the side of his face just walking, and he has like...like you can tell it was a side, like they weren't in a fight. This person was just like kind of going crazy and, like, punched him. So like walking to the parking lot where the employees have to park is like really scary, you know, they live there, there's tents, there's like lawn chairs up against your car. They're all like partying, having like a gathering, and you know, we don't want to have to ask them like could you please move, because they are violent. They smoke and do drugs like out in where everyone can see them. So I know this is an issue that, you know, everyone is kind of aware of, but it's just really unsafe, unsanitary. We don't have like...I don't know if we have like a mental health facility here, I don't think we do, or anywhere for them to go, but I'm hoping that you guys can help us with this. I feel responsible for the girls that I hire to work here, having to deal with the unsafe, like, hazardous health conditions. I think that that's one thing, but also like they're confrontational, violent. So that's all I have. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh.

MS. THOMPSON: Go ahead.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I see questions from Member Molina and Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. And thank you, Ms. Thompson, for testifying. And I appreciate the photos that you, I believe, sent to all...should have been received by all of the Members. And you know, we have that appropriation for the Clean and Safe Program and that, you know, hopefully we can take action on it quickly and...and get the program started. So you mentioned about the...that this is occurring every day at all hours, all of these negative incidents in general?

MS. THOMPSON: Yes. There's no like rhyme or reason to any sort of like time of day where it's like worse or better, but it's like in broad daylight all day.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: And you've called...obviously called the police and even with the police it's --

MS. THOMPSON: Yeah, so --

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- been difficult to enforce?

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MS. THOMPSON: -- we've...literally just said, what do you want us to do? What do you expect me to do? I can't do anything. So I don't know...I think that like if you hit somebody you should get like an assault charge or something, I don't know, but you should do something like arrest them, give them a mask, give them a violation for not wearing a mask. I don't know, there's got to be something that they can do. Make it...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MS. THOMPSON: I...I...I feel bad because like I've never been in that situation, like I can't be just like oh, just get rid of them, like I'm not trying to be like mean, but it comes to a point where it's like this is not like a place to live, you know, this is a place of business. Kids, I see kids like get off the bus, walk to the youth center, you know. My son goes to Pā'ia Elementary so I go and I pick him up, drive to the back of the building, drop him off, so...and then send him upstairs, then I go park my car because I don't want him to see this. You know, then I put him in the office, and then I go back to my car, come back. It's just becoming like an issue. It's unsafe.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Well, thank you for the update, and we'll be sure to see what we can do to work with the police and everyone to see what we can do to at least alleviate some of this that's going on right now. Thank you.

MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Member Paltin, followed by Chair Lee.

MS. THOMPSON: Should I mute myself?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Paltin, go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. THOMPSON: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Molina asked a lot of my questions. I just had one follow up. I think a couple years ago or last year we put some money for rubbish cans for Pā'ia Town for this purpose, and just wanted to clarify that the rubbish that you said that was on the ground, there is rubbish cans, they're just not being used?

MS. THOMPSON: Exactly.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then like, you know, when you were talking about the drugs in the parking lot, is that an issue where you call the police and they tell you like what

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do you want me to do about it?

MS. THOMPSON: No. So the parking lot, I've never called the police about that because I'm like afraid that they're going to see that it was me and like I come here every day. So the issues where we called the police was when the owner...the assault, he got punched, and like you saw the photos probably. That's the one where they said, what do you want me to do about it, there's nothing I can do, that one. And then other than that, it's more like trespassing, I guess, it's because they're like sleeping on our doorstep and they won't move, and we're like okay, well, we need to open. I'm not even going to get into like the tourism fact of it and like our business not making money, because people go around our store, across the street to avoid these people outside. So...but anyway, that's why I was...would call the police and say like hey, you know, they're like trespassing, they're on our doorstep, they won't move. But then you have to go down and meet the police with them and like file a police report with the person right there, and that's like not something that any...I don't want to do that because it's frightening. Like I don't really want them to know it was me.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you --

MS. THOMPSON: So yeah, that.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- for the clarification.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, thank you. I...I did put money in the budget for enforcement...I mean...well, a proposal anyway. But years ago, we used to have a community police officer in Pā'ia Town, his name was Tony Paresa. And he...you know, he did a really good job in maintaining, you know, peace and order. So I...I was wondering, is that something that you could support, Ms. Thompson? You know, maybe a community police officer or possibly a roving squad of police people so...from town to town, you know. Because I know it must be very difficult for you and anybody else to...to file a police report knowing that there's a strong possibility of retaliation, right?

MS. THOMPSON: Right. So a roving police officer...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So would the town would be...would the town...would the town be supportive of a community police officer or a roving squad of...of police?

MS. THOMPSON: I think --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: At least...

MS. THOMPSON: -- that would be awesome. Yeah. I think that we would be in support of that. I think the biggest issue is like where are these people going to go? You know, like is it really okay for them to sleep here and live in the parking lot? You know, like so it...that's another thing is like, where are they expected to go? Like do we have a

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facility or something to set up. Like I feel bad for them, you know, like they need to get...yeah, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, we're working on that too.

MS. THOMPSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know, all the departments are working on that. This is an ongoing --

MS. THOMPSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- problem. It's just exacerbated --

MS. THOMPSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- by the pandemic.

MS. THOMPSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But the problem with...I...I understand your sympathy and empathy with...with these folks, but if they're creating a public health problem --

MS. THOMPSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- for others, you know --

MS. THOMPSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- then...then unfortunately there's got to be some kind of intervention.

MS. THOMPSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We can't be...

MS. THOMPSON: A lot them, you know, it's a combination of obviously drug use, but also just like they have a mental health disability I think, so it's...it's both.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. THOMPSON: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Johnson?

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your testimony, Malia. It's a very timely conversation because I was putting...one of my priorities was to help out Aloha House which is, you know, drug rehab. Do you...would you be in support of having, you know, more...more beds and more help with the drug rehab? Do you think that's going to help your situation down there?

MS. THOMPSON: Yes. I think that's one step towards helping it. So I think yes, between having like a police officer that's designated for these...these community members, you know, houseless community members of Pā'ia, that's their job, you know, that would help. And then maybe of course more beds and more...at Aloha House, that would probably help.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Have you...have you noticed in your time working, have you seen any outreach people down there, anyone coming to, you know, help them or volunteer to help them?

MS. THOMPSON: Yeah. We have like...okay, so that's the other thing is the Maui Food Bank drops off the food for them in our parking lot where we're supposed to park. And I have girls that I hire that are, you know, 19, 20 years old, it's retail. This is the kind of age group sometimes that we hire. So they're going to get...park their car, and every single homeless...houseless person in the vicinity is in there getting their food. And it's like can maybe we do it like somewhere else. Okay. So that's one thing. And then I've seen police officer maybe type of people coming around and giving citations for masks, but the only person that I saw them talk to was a tourist. I didn't see them...and I was following them around like watching because I wanted to see what they were doing. But I didn't see them even approach any of the people just sitting, smoking, you know, with no shirt on, no shoes, no mask. It was more like geared towards the tourists, I feel like.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So I've also put in...just to let you know, and I've also put in money to...for the LEADs Program which helps bring more police down there to, you know, along with social services. So I think as a business person, would that...would that help you in this...in this issue?

MS. THOMPSON: Yeah, I think so. I think the biggest thing is like they need to know there are repercussions. If you assault someone, if you break a window, you know, you're going to get ticketed or it's a violation. Like nothing is happening, so I feel like the vibe that I'm getting is that they think they can just do whatever they want, scream at whoever they want. Yeah, so that would probably help.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Thank you, Malia. Thank you, Chair, I have no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Thompson, for your testimony.

MS. THOMPSON: Thank you for your time.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We have seven more testifiers. I'll check with Ms. Buchanan. Okay. Faith Chase, followed by Vincent Mina.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair. I just wanted to speak really quickly to last year I had Shay and Ian Hodges present at my resource recovery event and they expanded on their ESG project, and I have seen such healthy community cooperation since their inception...you know, since they introduced this ESG model. I believe it's...it's the...forgive me if I get this wrong, the...the environment, social, good and...good governance; is that right? So they...that little pilot project that they were able to piggyback during the CARES funding, it really...it was...I've been hearing such good feedback about the empowerment that it created, even though it was just a blip in time, and it gave such sort of skill sets to that community. And of course, you know the water issues that we're dealing with. So I would just like to see that continue. I'm not really sure where it is in the line item budget, but I just wanted to testify to that. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Chase. Member Sinenci has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No question, just clarification that it's number 2...30...I believe 32 on the...the matrix. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Chase, for your testimony --

MS. CHASE: Mahalo. I'll provide written testimony as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and making it concise. Appreciate that. Okay. Our next testifier is Vincent Mina, followed by Art Vento.

MR. MINA: Aloha, Chair. I don't...I'm clicking the video icon, but it's not turning on. There we are. Hey, all right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, we can see you.

MR. MINA: Aloha, everyone. Vincent Mina, President of Hawai'i Farmers Union United. Thank you so much again for your support this past fiscal year for our programs, our educational outreach through our farm apprentice mentoring program, and also our convention last year, which we held virtually and, you know, pivoting like everyone else. And we had four days of over 55 presentations, which included local and world-class experts, our local chefs, and then Micah Nelson, a dear friend of ours, curated a three-hour musical concert to help fundraise for us and raise awareness. And we had national musicians and local musicians, and it was just really a hoot. And if any...we...we sent this in...all these links to you folks, but from my understanding Government emails block it, so I'd really like to get you all of that content so you can see for yourself the value that was generated by all that support. We also have continued all...where our weekly...our biweekly music...speaker and music series to where we feature a fireside chat with a...a local agricultural expert and/or a national agricultural expert, and then we have local musicians also play music on the front and back end of

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that gathering. So that happens every other Wednesday, and we've been continuing that series and it's been really popular. And then that's archived onto our website. We have...we have...we work on that microcosm here on Maui, you know, through our chapter development, our four chapters which our Vice-President articulated earlier in her testimony. And then we also work on a macrocosm of agriculture throughout the State. And right now we're working on a soil health initiative, bringing all these other agencies around agriculture together to deal with a policy around how we deal with our soils throughout the State and setting up our agricultural systems to be resilient to all this production that we're asking our farmers to provide. So we're really excited about where agriculture is going, the direction it's going in through your support and leadership in Maui County. And the Mayor's Office has been so very supportive. I haven't really hard anybody giving any shout outs to the Mayor, and I'd like to do so right now because he has been incredibly supportive of agriculture, especially with CARES when we...when we got the food hub going. He...we were able to pivot the money. Instead of giving it directly to the Food Bank, we were able to resell it to those who had the wherewithal to buy it so we could then put the money back in for our farmers to keep producing on a consistent basis because we didn't know when that money was going to run out. So we're happy to know that the food hub is continuing. And so yeah, we just really appreciate your continued support. Agriculture is so very important, as you well know. Being a family farmer now for the past 27 years, just on our little postage stamp of a farm we produce 500,000 pounds of food that has gone out to the community. It makes me weak in the knees to just even think about it. . . .(timer sounds). . . So we really appreciate your continued support for agriculture.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Mina. Okay. Seeing no questions. We'll thank you for your testimony this afternoon.

MR. MINA: Aloha, Chair. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Art Vento, followed by Bobby Pahia. Mr. Vento, if you can unmute yourself on your end.

MR. VENTO: How about now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. VENTO: Okay. Very good. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Members of the Council. I do not have a camera on my laptop. Working from home, we had an event last night, and I'll be going into the office in just a little bit. Is it okay that I testify without a camera?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please proceed.

MR. VENTO: Okay. Thank you. You don't want to see my mug anyway, believe me. So...so the Maui Arts and Cultural Center's requests are in again for this through year is flat to last year and flat to all the previous years. We are very glad to be able to report, or I am, I'm extremely proud of the staff and...and members of the Arts and Cultural Center in what they've done to pivot this...this past year. In the face of ever...this never-ending

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pandemic, they've met every obstacle with...with an opportunity. The MACC has been able to use the most over word...used word in the English language, pivot, but I'm going to go ahead and use it here to go ahead and pivot on every opportunity that...that...or every obstacles that...that's been presented. The MACC has been online and virtual every week since this pandemic started, finding a way to go ahead and deliver programming, whether it's through our arts and education program or publicly every Saturday night with our Live at the MACC streaming from Castle Theatre stage, putting performers and...back to work, and providing content to...you know, 45 minutes or an hour of joy amidst...amidst everything. Our...we have found ways to go ahead and do live programming. Live programming at this point in our...in our view, the only way to do it safely is in...in a drive-in format where everybody contains their bubble...in their own bubble. We find a way to take the...take the challenge, respond to the...with an opportunity for...for the community. Everything has been free, and we've found a way to go ahead and...and...and move forward. We have...our arts and education programs have continued right through the pandemic. It has been a...a source of pride in the fact that we've been able...we have a nationally recognized arts and education program, and they've pivoted to the point where they've taken every goal as to what the programs were in person and developed a virtual one to be able to deliver. One of the ones I think is most successful is we've gone to what's called...instead of school shows where they come to the MACC, we do motivational mele, and we've gotten local performers to do an half an hour inspirational video as to what it is that they've experienced as a kid, how they've overcome the obstacles, ironically a similar theme, to go ahead and...and move forward. And whether that's Paula Fuga or...or, you know, I'm blanking on the...the dozens of them that...that...that have done part of that. But we've gone and found a way to go ahead and make that...make that happen. Part of our...our request again is to reinvest back in the jewel of Maui, if you will, the facility that is the Maui Arts and Cultural Center. 27 years, yes, 27 years has...how did we...how did we get here? Has taken...continues to take its toll. We've taken the time...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: *(audio interference)*

MR. VENTO: What's that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One minute. Please conclude your testimony in one minute.

MR. VENTO: Oh, okay. We've...we've taken the time to...during the pandemic to reinvest in the facility doing the things that you can only do when you don't have 1,700 events and 20...250,000 people on property over the course of year. But we need to go ahead and continue what...what we started. Thank you. Sorry for my wala'au Vento.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Vento. Okay. I see a question from Member Paltin.

MR. VENTO: Hello.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Vento, for your testimony. My question was just, you know, those online virtual programs that you were speaking about, I was wondering

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what your capacity and distribution method was. Like how many kids served across the County, and how do you reach out to them? Do you partner with other organizations like Boys and Girls Club or Kamali'i keiki or anything like that?

MR. VENTO: Okay. So the two...two different answers for...for the two different avenues or silos that we do virtual programming. For the...for the kids, it's all...we...we do it all through the Department of Education and finding a way where we can deliver it to them in the classroom, but then we also deliver it to them...the motivational mele, they're able to access it on their own independently. And most of that communication goes through the Department of Education, but our...our...our education department broadens that out to be able to have other partners like Boys and Girls Club, et cetera, to go ahead and do...do things like that. When it comes to the public access programming, it all goes live on Facebook every Saturday night at 7:30. When you can't come to the MACC, the MACC comes to you. And you're able to access that programming on our Facebook page, website, and on YouTube, and then we post it for...for...for viewing afterwards. Those have been to the point where we are...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Is the capacity for your public school one is all the public schools?

MR. VENTO: Yes. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. VENTO: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, you answered --

MR. VENTO: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- my question.

MR. VENTO: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci? And then if we can...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know...I know there's a lot of questions, but it's 12:40 and we have --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Real quick.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- three more testifiers.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. I just had a quick question for Art. Art, I understand that Moana is playing at the MACC through Sunday. Is that virtual as well?

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MR. VENTO: Oh, okay. I'm...well, I...I didn't want to be so blatant as to do the...do the plug here, but thank you, Shane. This...we're doing five nights of Moana. We started last night and we go through Monday in a drive-in experience. We...we pioneered this back a year ago at the beginning of the...of the --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry --

MR. VENTO: -- pandemic. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Mr. Vento. Member Sinenci, is this budget related? Because I was --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No, I was just...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I was asking the Members --

MR. VENTO: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that we would only go to break until 1:30 so that means we would have less --

MR. VENTO: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- an hour for lunch break.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. VENTO: Great.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We'll check the website. Thanks, Art.

MR. VENTO: Okay. Shane, come down on Sunday, we're doing it in Hawaiian, so it's...it's quite the...quite the experience. I'll shut up now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. And then I have a quick question and hopefully, you know, I can get a quick...as concise of a response as possible.

MR. VENTO: Oh, I hear you. Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo...

MR. VENTO: I'm sorry, we're out of time. Just kidding.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For the...how many years will the capital improvement for the MACC be necessary for the aging infrastructure? 600,000 since 2019, 450 from 2017,

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and when do you forecast this request for CIP funding to stop?

MR. VENTO: Boy, thank you. I don't know that I can answer that in one sentence. You have...you have in Maui County one of the most world-class facilities in the world, and it requires constant attention to go ahead and do two things. One is maintain its current ability to be the pride and jewel of...of the County in terms of arts and culture, to attract major destination for both touring acts and pride to go ahead and present local performers. So it requires constant attention. Part and parcel to that is that we...you also need to continue to reinvent yourself and stay ahead of the curve. So we have both construction projects as part of an overall master plan, and annual budgets for...for repairs and maintenance that require every performing arts under the entire country to go ahead and fundraise, which we do, and to go ahead and have budget...budget items for repair. Those needs to have outside sources of income, and the County has been incredibly wonderful as being our partner that we go and seek other funds, but we also come to the County every year, and we can't continue to do both the business of what we do and be a forefront leader in terms of both the facility and the programing without County support. So it's going to...well, the request unfortunately will continue, or fortunately will continue because when you invest in the MACC, you're investing in the overall community.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Vento. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this afternoon. Okay. Our next testifier is Bobby Pahia, followed by Lori Buchanan.

MR. PAHIA: Aloha, Councilmembers. Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Yes, we can hear you --

MR. PAHIA: Very good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and see you.

MR. PAHIA: Oh, great. Thank you. Hawai'i Taro Farm has put in a request for funding, basically, to help address food security, but also, to build value in our community. We are currently engaged in taking, you know, Federal funding and private funding to carry out some capital improvements that we want to put in on the...the farm, which is a 310-acre farm. We have 23 different farmers here. And the capital improvements is to put in sewage and water, and...and we are very grateful to Waiale Partners, Mike...Miss...Michael Atherton and his partners, to allow us to tap into his sewage facility that he will be building for his...his project...his upcoming project and also, water. So those are two of the main hurdles. And...and currently, we're in the...the stages of closing an agreement with the Hawaiian Island Coastal Land Trust, which I...I...I believe all of you know that Mr. Atherton has turned over almost 900 acres to put into a conservation easement. And we...we also want to build value. As you know, we...on Maui, we have one slaughter facility for hogs, and we don't know how much longer he's going to be in business. I believe they're, like, a three-generation family, and if they go out of business, no one on Maui will have the latitude to slaughter, you know,

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hogs under USDA inspection and familiar practices with the Department of Health. That is...that is a necessity. I mean, we have a hog farm down here that currently houses about 500 hogs. But the bottleneck is the...the slaughter facility can only slaughter two or three hogs a week for us, and that's a major bottleneck, and that's a major bottleneck for food security on Maui. So we are definitely pursuing that to have that facility built. We also, in the...in our plans, is to build four certified kitchens onsite so that our farmers can have the ability to make value-added products. But also, I believe it's going to be...build value in our community also because there's a need in our community for different organizations to have access to certified kitchens to carry out their fund-raising activities. But...but also, we...we need that latitude here. I mean, we have a bunch of farmers here...not only here on this land, but other farmers everywhere on the island. But they need access to certified kitchens. They need access to processing . . .(timer sounds). . . facilities. So you know, that...that's what we're about. We're [sic] also are...we are going to build a food hub facility where, you know, it gives us the latitude to work with, you know, other endeavors that are seeking to pursue that...the food hub entity. So --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Pahia?

MR. PAHIA: -- that's what we're about --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Pahia.

MR. PAHIA: -- that's what we're doing.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. PAHIA: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MR. PAHIA: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your...oh, Member King, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Just a quick question. Hi, Bobby. I just wondered --

MR. PAHIA: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- if you guys had access to the commercial kitchen that's over at UHMC? Farmers have access to that?

MR. PAHIA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You're...you're able to get in there...

MR. PAHIA: I believe there's...there...there's a sign-up...there's a sign-up for that. Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But you still feel like you need an additional?

MR. PAHIA: Yeah. For example, you know, I'm a taro farmer, right? So I need a processing facility to make taro products, poi, kūlolo, and a bunch of other creative products. And I need it to have...to have that ability on a regular basis. But not only me, I mean, I...we have a hog farmer down here that needs processing facilities to make, you know, sausage and other pork products. And not to mention, the other small farmers down here, I mean, we have an 'ulu farmer, right? Scott Fisher's the 'ulu farmer.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Yeah, Bobby. I know...

MR. PAHIA: There's a --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I know. I --

MR. PAHIA: -- opportunity...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- I understand about the...I understand about the need for processing. I was just asking about the commercial kitchen --

MR. PAHIA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- because you had mentioned that and I knew that we had...that the college had spent a lot of money putting one in over there, so I just wanted to make sure you had access to it. I understand that we do need processing --

MR. PAHIA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- though. I agree with you.

MR. PAHIA: Yeah. Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. PAHIA: Okay. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank...

MR. PAHIA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Real fast. So nice seeing you, Bobby. So are you in the Mayor's Budget? Hawai'i Taro Farm, is that the name of your organization?

MR. PAHIA: Yes. And...yes. Correct. But our...our fiscal sponsor is Maui United Way. So

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funding will...will run through them.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Seeing no other questions. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Pahia.

MR. PAHIA: Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Our next testifier is Lori Buchanan, followed by Cindy Reeves.

MS. BUCHANAN: Aloha, Councilmembers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Miss...

MS. BUCHANAN: I love my County Councilmembers, hardest working Council in all of the State of Hawai'i. I just...I'm here to support everything that was testified to by Mr. Adam Radford of the Maui Invasive Species Council. It also affects all of the people that work here on the Island of Moloka'i. And so I just wanted to thank you guys. I support everything he said. I thought I was going to be the last person between you and lunch, and so I'm not going to use up my whole three minutes. But just to say mahalo, mahalo, mahalo, and thank you very much. And I see you...he has reserved as a resource person later, and so I'll also be available. But thank you very, very much for your considerations. I appreciate it. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your consideration for lunch, Ms. Buchanan, and for all your praise, and for all your hard work in the community. Aloha. Our next testifier is Cindy Reeves, followed by Jennifer Karaca.

MS. REEVES: Well, I guess I'm one of the ones that's keeping you from lunch, but good afternoon everyone. My name is Cindy Reeves, and I am the Maui County administrator for UH CTAHR, property extension. I would really like to thank you for your support in the past, and I'm here today to request your continuing support of our current budget line item this year. Just a few weeks ago, I hand-delivered to each of you, a copy of our most recent final report on the completed Fiscal Year '20 projects. We received 13 proposals for consideration, but only had funding to support the seven that are listed in the testimony that you received. But none of those would have been possible without the funding from the Maui County Budget line. Unfortunately, this year COVID-19 has greatly impacted Maui's families, businesses, and our entire agricultural industry, from production to processing to distribution. And in many ways, we've become aware of our infrastructure weaknesses. What I really want you to know, is that CTAHR is here to support Maui County agriculture, 4-H youth, families, and communities. We have an edible crops agent on Maui who has worked closely with commercial growers during this economic downturn, to provide hands-on support and guidance to help them maintain their operations. And she also regularly gleans 'ulu and bananas from our Kahului research garden to donate to the local food bank. We have two edible crops agents on

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Moloka'i who are working tirelessly to combat food insecurity by opening our demonstration garden so participants could take home all their plants to grow vegetables in their own gardens. We also now have a farm-to-school agent, who works directly within and in partnership with the Moloka'i schools. Our livestock agent, Kyle Caires, is working to ensure training continues in our 4-H youth livestock program, while continuing to support our local livestock producers. And he is championing the evolution of our Haleakalā research station into a premier livestock education and outreach facility. Our ornamental landscape agent is working closely with growers to support their needs as their market has plummeted. And thanks to support from the Maui County Farm Bureau, whose line item we also support, she has just distributed hundreds of newly propagated import replacement plants to local flower growers, and is planning a cutting distribution from our Protea collection later this year. Lastly, our family consumer science agents are maintaining our 4-H youth programs, supporting grandparents who care for their grandchildren, and conducting ongoing surveys to determine the needs of Maui County families, and respond as needed during this crisis. CTAHR is here for the Maui community, and we are here for all of you as a resource to help you find answers to the questions you need in order to make decisions for the good of Maui County. Thank you once again for your support in the past, and I humbly request your ongoing support of our line item in this current Budget cycle. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect timing, Ms. Reeves. Okay, we got a question from Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo, Ms. Reeves, for your testimony this morning. I'm seeing that we do have a...a proviso of the funds that you normally get...that CTAHR normally gets. So I was just wondering, is this proviso going to inhibit some of your operational costs?

MS. REEVES: Well, a proviso without additional money would inhibit our ability to be able to write...provide programs across the entire County. So, you know, I recognize the good intent of all of our Councilmembers, and I recognize the support that you always provide to us. But by provising, you know, the...the money that we're already getting, it does limit the ability to share money throughout the County in our programs, which I try to do, to make sure that Moloka'i and Lāna'i, you know, gets funding to support programs there. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. REEVES: -- it would be helpful to have additional funds instead of a proviso on our current Budget line.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you...thank you, Ms. Reeves, for what you do for our ag community. And I think you called my office and said that you had...you had

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set aside \$30,000 for the Haleakalā Research Facility in the back of St. Joseph Church; is that correct, what you said?

MS. REEVES: I don't know anything about St. Joseph Church.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Well, your Haleakalā research, that's where it's located.

MS. REEVES: It's off of Pi'iholo Road --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes. Yes.

MS. REEVES: -- next to Hōkūnui, that...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes. Yes.

MS. REEVES: Okay. Sorry, it's...it's a ways away. I...there...the church is down at the bottom of the road, right? Is that St. Joseph Church? What...what happens with our program money is that it's put together in a competitive way so that all of our agents can apply for some funding with projects that represent the different areas of the County. And so yes, this past year our agent, Kyle Caires, received more than \$30,000 to support his work at the Haleakalā research station.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Good. I thought you had said you were designating with these funds, money for him for what's he's doing at that center. So I was...I misunderstood. Thank you.

MS. REEVES: You're welcome. And thank you for all your support. I really do value it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. So just to clarify, in that building that Member Sugimura was talking about, you folks evicted MISC? The Maui Invasive Species Control, they were removed...you removed them?

MS. REEVES: They did move to a new location just this year. Yes, that's true. I think they found a new location down in Pā'ia. They simply outgrew our station. We only had sewage facilities for a cesspool up to 20 people every 24 hours. And for a long time, you know, it worked great. But now, as Adam indicated, you know, there...they've got more than 50 employees. And with our evolution of the station into livestock, we did need more space, and it, you know, was simply being outgrown by the MISC facility. And so yes, they were asked to find additional location just this past year.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. You folks asked them to relocate.

MS. REEVES: I'm sorry?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Reeves. You folks asked MISC to relocate?

MS. REEVES: We did ask MISC to relocate. They were given more than a year to find

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additional...fight for their programs. We do still have the East Maui Watershed project located in partnership with the . . .(*inaudible*). . . station.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Reeves. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony today.

MS. REEVES: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. REEVES: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. Our next testifier is Jennifer Karaca, followed by caller with the last four digits 7025.

MS. KARACA: Aloha, Council and Chair. Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. I'm going to try and make it quick because I have a lot to say. So I am testifying first as an individual in support of a grant writer for the Department of Agriculture under the Office of the Mayor. We did have some testimonies sent in about this from the community impact working group. I think everybody in that group seems to be in support of having a grant writer start ahead of the Department, that way the burden of funding the Department and any projects won't be solely resting upon the County. And sometimes that funding can take a while to get into place, especially when you're talking about Federal funds. Sometimes there can be a year...like, a year lag. So I...we all think that's very important, so I just wanted to get in here and...and say that. Also, in support of the Lāna'i Ag Park and continued funding for all of the Ag programs. And then, I'm going to take off my individual hat and put on my executive director hat for the Common Ground Collective. We're in the Mayor's Budget for \$30,000 to continue our foster farm harvesting program. So in year one of that, we harvested 4,967 pounds of produce that would have otherwise rotted. Last year, with the County's help, that went to over 18,565 pounds of produce that would have otherwise rotted, that was then delivered out to the community. So this is from resident's yards and things. Of that 18,565 pounds, 7,788 was sold to local businesses, which generated a total of \$6,629 in profits for our residents. And then the most thing we're...we're really proud of is that we were able to redirect a total of 10,700 of that produce directly to local community organizations in need to feed our residents. And this year, in year one, we're already coming up on...you know, surpassing that...that first-year goal. So in our first quarter, we've harvested 7,894 pounds of produce, and 6,878 pounds of that has been donated to community organizations, and we've also contributed to over 400 food bags for community food bag giveaways. And I think that's...that's it. I know you guys are hungry, so I tried to make it quick.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a question from Member Sinenci.

MS. KARACA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Real quick. Yeah. Is Common Ground Collective food

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distributed Countywide?

MS. KARACA: Yes. So we work with existing distribution channels that distributes food all over the County. One of the main ones is the Maui Food Bank, and they work on Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Awesome. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Jennifer. I just wanted to verify what you were asking for in a grant writer because we don't have the Department set up yet. So are you...we...we did approve a grant writer last...in this current Budget for OED. So are you asking for another additional grant writer in OED?

MS. KARACA: No. So we're...my individual hat. Sorry. We're asking for a grant writer in the Office of the Mayor, specifically to work on agricultural-related projects. So sometimes, when you have just another grant writer added to the Office of Economic Development, they can get pulled in different directions, and we do have representation on the community impact working group from the Office of the Mayor. You know, so under the Office of the Mayor, they'll be able to focus just on Department of Agricultural-related grants.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So do you see that person being...who would...who do you see that person being supervised by, I guess that's what I'm trying to get at. Who would...who would direct them? Because if you got five people coming at you wanting grant writing, you have to figure out who you're going to service first.

MS. KARACA: I mean, it would ultimately be up to the Administration. But I think a wonderful person would be Makale'a, with the sustainability division. She has been participating in the community impact working group, and she is, you know, all over the place as far as, like, touching base with different projects, different groups. She's very, very informed of the agricultural environment, and I think she would probably be the best.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Under the Climate Change...under the Climate Change Office?

MS. KARACA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank...

MS. KARACA: Until...until it can be moved into the Department of Ag, of course, but yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. Right. Yeah, eventually...

MS. KARACA: You know, a little babysitting step.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, I get it. I'm just trying to figure out where it would fit

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because...okay. Great. Thank you.

MS. KARACA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member King. Okay. And then I have a quick question. You received a grant from the County intended to feed those in our unsheltered community. Did you use the \$30,000 grant to purchase a \$14,000 refrigerator instead?

MS. KARACA: So we actually haven't gotten any money from the DHHC yet, but we have already contributed, I think around 7,000 pounds of the 10,000 promised pounds for...from that grant. So prior to the funding that we're using is yes, for a refrigeration unit to store produce so that we can increase that supply.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony. Aloha. Our next testifier is the caller with the last four digits 7025, followed by Negus Manna.

MS. NEWBOLD: Oh. Aloha. I'm Robin Newbold.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. NEWBOLD: Aloha, Council. I'm Robin Newbold speaking on behalf of the Maui Nui Marine Research Council, testifying in support of the proposed expenditure of \$5.5 million for the acquisition of the project...the property known as Mā'alaea Mauka. This expenditure will complete the purchase of Mā'alaea Mauka for future conservation, including watershed and storm water management. As an environmental nonprofit working for healthy coral reefs and clean ocean water for the islands of Maui County, the Marine Resource Council believes that this purchase will have a strong positive impact on the water quality and marine ecosystems of Mā'alaea Bay. Letting it runoff into the bay is one of the leading causes of the alarming declines in Mā'alaea's coral reef in recent decades. That's why one of our top priority projects for the next two years is to repair two severe erosional features known as head cuts that are located just mauka of the Honoapi'ilani Highway, across from Maui Ocean Center, an unused agricultural land that would be part of the Mā'alaea Mauka land purpose...purchase. As mentioned earlier, our monitoring programs of these head cuts reveal that 32 tons of soil from just these two head cut locations was washed into the ocean during a single moderate rainstorm just a couple of months ago in January. The lost soil contributed to a severe brown water sediment event in Mā'alaea Bay. Sediment pollution is believed to be a significant cause of the coral reef decline in Mā'alaea Bay. We're currently writing grants and seeking funding to raise \$600,000 that's needed to support the planning, designing, permitting, and implementing head cut stabilization repairs to reduce soil loss and sediment runoff in future storms. And that...we should keep in mind that \$600,000, of course, is outside money coming into the County of Maui. Transferring this land from private to public ownership will open up increased funding opportunities for repairing these erosional features, including the potential for the State to fund these important repairs to prevent sediment runoff into the ocean. So this is just one example of the

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ways in which public ownership of this land will make it possible for the Marine Resource Council to cancel the problem of sediment runoff from Pōhākea Watershed, to improve ocean water quality in Mā'alaea Bay, and ultimately the health of the important coral reefs located in the Bay. So we're asking the County to make funding available for the purchase of Mā'alaea Mauka. Thank you. And I'll take any questions that you have.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Newbold. Seeing no questions, we'll thank you for your testimony today. Aloha.

MS. NEWBOLD: Okay. Thank you all for your time. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Next testifier is Negus Manna, followed by the caller with the last four digits 7496. And please correct me if I'm not saying your name correctly. I'm sorry.

MR. MANNA: No. Great job. Thank you for that proper introduction. Yes. So again, aloha. My name is Negus Manna. I'm a natural farmer who lives on Lāna'i City, and I believe the agriculture development is the key to a secure and a successful society. I think it's essential to support and encourage farmers, which can be done with your support by ensuring Lāna'i Agriculture Park has plenty of funding. I'm testifying before you today representing young farmers, each of us whom have a stake in the development of an agriculture park on Lāna'i. The young farmers are passionate about this opportunity to make this park successful, and we are interested in...about participating in the betterment of Lāna'i and the rest of Maui County by providing for people within our communities, and we want to truly utilize this park as the catalyst into our future agriculture endeavors. Thank you, Councilmembers present, for allowing me today to testify in strong support of the development of the agricultural park, and the importance of proper funding for the agricultural park for Lāna'i by increasing the amount of funding to \$2 million. We appreciate the purpose of the agricultural park to increase the amount of land available for agriculture uses by residents, and to develop the infrastructure necessary to encourage and support the development of new and expanding agriculture enterprises, which is critical to the growth and diversification of Lāna'i's economy. This agriculture park offers us an opportunity to participate in the transformation of Lāna'i, and to be included in the sustainable regional agriculture system for Maui County, to build economic resilience in the agriculture sector, and provide food security to locally grown food. So again, mahalo for taking the time to hear my testimony. Respectfully, Negus Manna.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Negus Manna. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Manna. Beautiful testimony. I would love for you to submit your testimony in writing. You can send it to my email, that would be great. How...that's my question for you. Can you do that for us?

MR. MANNA: I've already done it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Great. So my second question is, is where...we also

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have a grant writer available, or in the Budget, for the ag park. Do you...how does...have you been able to get for any grants before this time, are you struggling to get...write grants as a small farmer, do you think this would be helpful if the County had an agricultural grant writer for you?

MR. MANNA: Yes. Thank you, Gabe, for your question. I do support a grant writer for the Department of Agriculture under the Office of the Mayor. A grant writer, I believe, will...you know, dedicated to the Department will be crucial for the Department and securing funds outside the local taxpayers' dollars.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you, Manna. Excellent testimony. Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this afternoon, Mr. Manna. Aloha. . . .(timer sounds). . . Oh, sorry. Three last testifiers. The caller with the I...last four digits 7496, followed by Mike Moran.

MS. ALVARADO: Hello? Am I...can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. We can hear you.

MS. ALVARADO: Oh...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please identify yourself for the record.

MS. ALVARADO: My name is Annie Alvarado. I'm the executive director for the Hawai'i Taro Farm. I work with Bobby Pahia and I just wanted to tell you a little bit about what we're doing. We're a farm that has 310 acres, 23 farmers, we're trying to scale up to create a foundation that will raise money for the purpose of feeding our vulnerable communities. And we are actively working to do all of the project development work that's necessary for this project. So we...we want to, obviously, create a living wage, all kinds of incentives. The farmers, we're focusing on small family farms, we want to be as inclusive as possible, and work with farmers across the board in Maui County. And we're very grateful for your consideration. And I don't know if you have any other questions. I know Bobby already testified, so I will leave it at that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Alvarado. Okay. Seeing no questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this afternoon.

MS. ALVARADO: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And our next testifier is Mike Moran, followed by Fay McFarlane. Aloha, Mr. Moran.

MR. MORAN: Aloha, Chair and Members. I will be very brief. We had our KCA board meeting this morning, so I'm all talked out, which is good for you guys. Just two items. One,

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we support the purchase of the Mā'alaea Mauka land, I don't think we need to go into why. We have...for over a decade, we have had projects proposed there, and we always opposed them for these same reasons and we're glad that hopefully, this last attempt will be made to develop and we can keep this open for the public. And on a much smaller scale, but a very similar situation, we ask for consideration of purchasing the Kūlanihāko'i River Gulch in North Kihei. Again, we have had proposed development there for years. We don't understand how a private entity ends up owning a riverbed, but they do, and we can hope for a lot, lot less money than you'd...would spend for the other project, that a reasonable amount could be purchased to keep that as open land as well, and do something about preserving that...that river by digging out some of the accumulated silt and so forth, which would make a much better community, and stop the flooding next to the new timeshare development down there. So thank you very much for the opportunity. I thought I would be last and say go to lunch, but it sounds like somebody else jumped in. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Moran. Member King, are you waving, or you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I have a question. But that's a good --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- question to me because --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- I do like to wave at my...thanks for being here, Mike. I just wanted to let you know, to clarify, the Kūlanihāko'i Gulch is in this current Budget. And I've talked to the developer...or the owner of the property because they rejected our offer, though I believe he's going back to the Mayor. So if you want to get in touch with Doug Palin (*phonetic*), he would be the person to talk to. But it is in the current '21 Fiscal Budget.

MR. MORAN: Terrific. Thank you very much, Councilmember. And yes, we have talked to him, and told him just take a reasonable number. And he asked us to write a letter of support, we said we are, we...we support it...support it. Give us a fair price, and it'll be done. But thank you for the update, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. Thank you for getting in touch with him.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. And mahalo for your testimony, again, Mr. Moran. Aloha. And our last testifier signed up is Fay McFarlane.

MS. MCFARLANE: Hi. I can go Monday if you guys like lunch now. It's up to you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You can testify. . . .(*timer sounds*). . . Oh. Your time is up. Sorry. Just kidding. . . .(*laughing*). . . No. You can...you can testify.

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MS. MCFARLANE: Okay. I really...‘Aha Moku of Maui opposes the change to ordinance in County Code 3.38.020 relating to funds reserved for Mokuhinia and Moku‘ula. Kamehameha Iki park improvements are important, and the \$400,000 funding should be sourced elsewhere. The language in that ordinance is good as it is. Testifying as an individual, I oppose the slashing of the salary for principal archaeologist by 26,000 annually. Instead of a reduction, the County would be best served by increasing the funding for this important work, including maintaining a salary commensurate with qualifications, adding equipment or technologies so we're not paying private sector drone services, for example, and adding a position such as a level 2 archaeologist or other support staff with experience in geomagnetism technology or operating LiDAR. I also support Councilmember Paltin's bill to amend County Code to support a vacancy tax, Subsection B of section 3.48.305. I also live in the south of Lāhainā area, identified as a high priority fire zone, but I'd like to express my opposition to any public-private partnership with the Fire Department which would involve a developer's donation of land in exchange for fragmenting ag lands. I oppose any approvals for building outside of the great...growth framework identified by the County Planners and the West Maui CPAC. That growth framework was already a huge compromise, as there are many constituents who call for a total moratorium on new construction outside of existing infrastructure. Also testifying as an individual, I support more funding for Maui Hub. Sometimes you log in and the produce is kind of sold out right away...right after the shop opens, and I believe that expanding warehouse space would be crucial for growing capacity. As a West Side consumer, I also benefit from the Hub's use of refrigerated trucks to make deliveries, and I support their ownership of vehicles like that as a long-term cost saving measures as opposed to ongoing lease expenditures. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. McFarlane. We really appreciate you expediting your testimony. Will you please send your testimony in writing as well, or in the eComment, if you're able to?

MS. MCFARLANE: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Really appreciate that information. Okay. It looks like Member Sinenci has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Ms. McFarlane. Just clarification, you're in support of the archaeologist increase in pay?

MS. MCFARLANE: Yes. I...I...I would oppose the archaeologist's salary being reduced by, I believe it was around 26, 27,000. So I...I...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So you're not opposing the increase.

MS. MCFARLANE: Yeah. So I...I support an increase --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

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MS. MCFARLANE: -- in both salary, adding equipment, as well as the support staff position.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Now, so your first statement, you're talking about the Moku'ula and Mokuhinia, can you just say that again --

MS. MCFARLANE: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- what you said?

MS. MCFARLANE: Uh-huh. So the multiple nonprofits on native Hawaiian organizations reached out to Na 'Aikane...oops. Hold on. Okay. You can hear me, right? Reached out to Na 'Aikane O Maui as well as the Moku representatives for Kā'anapali and Lāhainā for 'Aha Moku O Maui in...with concerns about the change proposed by the Mayor's Office for improvements to Kamehameha Iki Park and the...most of the comments were that the language in the ordinance was good as it is, and that although the work to improve Kamehameha Iki Park is important, the funding should not come from the concessions revenues reserved for Mokuhinia and Moku'ula.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Ah, that's parking revenues. Okay. Can learn from this. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Seeing no other questions, we'll thank you for your testimony, Ms. McFarlane. Aloha.

MS. MCFARLANE: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'll give a last call for testifiers. Anyone wishing to provide testimony at this time, please unmute yourself and you may proceed. Okay. Hearing no one indicating their desire to testify, if there are no objections, Members, we'll close testimony...oral testimony, and accept written testimony into the record.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Okay. It's 1:21, so we have nine minutes for lunch, and I'll see you back at 1:30. Just kidding. Okay. So Members, one hour would be okay? To...to...until 2:30?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Yep.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Members. Okay. So we'll recess until 1...sorry, 2:30, so we'll have a lunch break for one hour. And then when we get back, we'll have the Department of Liquor Control before us, followed by Department of Management, and then the Office of the Mayor. All right, it's 1:22 on April 9th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 1:22 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 2:34 p.m.**

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (CC 21-30)**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(gavel). . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. Thank you, Members. I hope you had a nice lunch. Feel all rejuvenated. We have Department of Liquor Control with us, and we have an Administrator...put gallery on. Okay. Okay. Aloha, Mr. Silva. Oh, can you hear me okay?

**DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR CONTROL**

MR. SILVA: Okay. Yes, we can hear you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. All right. Aloha and would you like to invite...I do see Mr. Kaho'ohanohano, but would you like to introduce your team?

MR. SILVA: Yes, I will. My name is Layne Silva, I'm the Director of the Department of Liquor Control. And with me I have my Deputy Director, Jarrett Kaho'ohanohano, and Michele Yoshimura is joining us in the room as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha everyone. Okay. So we'll start with the questions, and then we'll open up the floor for the Members' questions, and then we'll go to...and then...well, I guess the rates and fees. Okay. So we'll dive right into the questions. First question, overall, one, please explain the difference between the Liquor Control Fund and the Liquor Control Revolving Fund.

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: All right. The Department of Liquor Control consists of one program only. The individual program is mandated by Chapter 281, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This program's core functions are regulating and controlling the liquor industry and the implication and manufacturing, sale and service of alcoholic beverages to provide a safe and healthy environment for the people of Maui County. All funding for the Department is derived solely from the liquor license fees and comprises the Liquor Fund. So that's the Liquor Fund in a nutshell. And then this program also consists of the Liquor Education Revolving Fund. This is mandated by HRS Chapter 281-16, 281-17

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Subsection 2, and 281-17 Subsection 3. Our revenues are derived from the fines assessed and collected by...from our liquor license fees.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question two, if Council were to ask for an 11 percent cut in programs and activities funded by the General Fund to fully fund the recommendations proposed in the comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan of \$57 million, without increasing real property tax revenue, A, what programs or activities would you cut; and B, what impact would the cuts have on residents?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: So the Department does not receive funding from the General Fund itself. I guess it would be not...not applicable to us for the...the 11 percent cut.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. The next set of questions is regarding salaries and wages. One, please explain the reasoning behind the position reallocation of the Liquor Control Officer II to Account Clerk III.

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: All right. So the reallocation enhances operations of the Department and its customer service to include increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Administrative Services Division by addressing and providing Staff needed at the...at the front office. It will prevent the close of the front counter cashiering and other services due to the shortage of personnel who are able to comply with increasing accounting and cashier requirements by the County of Maui. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question two. Please explain the salary deletion for Liquor Control Officer IV.

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: The Department will be reallocating the position down to an LCO III. That's to address the increased demands of our licensing and permits section, which is now, at this point, is kind of shorthanded.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. The next two questions are regarding operations. One, please explain the sustained increase in travel costs compared to FY'20 actual. Given the travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic, why are travel costs expected to be so high?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: The...the Department is requesting that funding to be restored from the proviso that was added by the Council in the Fiscal Year 2021.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. But question two, please explain the reason for deleting funding for the County Grant subsidy for liquor education underage alcohol.

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: So under Section 281-17 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, it states in part, fund monies not exceeding 10 percent of the year's fund accumulated may be used to fund public liquor-related educational enforcement programs. Funding for the grant is requested through the Liquor Education Fund and not the Liquor Fund. The Department of Liquor Control does not manage the grants because the Department is solely funded by liquor license fees. And HRS 281-17.5 states in part that any such

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liquor license fees or any moneys collected or received by any Liquor Commission under this chapter may only be used for the costs and expenses directly relating to operational and administrative costs actually incurred by the Liquor Commission collecting or receiving such liquor license fees or moneys. Such fees or moneys shall not be used for any costs or expenses other than those directly related to its operation and administration, except as otherwise provided by law. And currently, the...there's no entity available to help manage those grants because we don't have a grant section. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. The next set of questions are regarding key activity goals and measures. Question one relating to goal two, promote liquor control by providing liquor education and certification classes, the measure is the number of classes held and certifications issued. A, what accommodations are being made to assist applicants who do not have computer access; and B, when does Department plan to reopen its offices to the public?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: If...the certification classes and exams are not conducted electronically. At this point, we don't do that. And the offices all will be open to the public, and we're also adding on-site certification classes and exams which should be starting at the end of this month.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question two relating to goal three on the measures for providing a fair and efficient licensing and permit process. A, how are permits classified? Please explain how 150 percent of permits were issued; 49 percent to licensed premises, 25 percent for importation, 25 percent for purchase, 50 percent for direct shipment, and .5 percent for solicitors. And B, for Class V Category D employees, who are registration cards issued to? Are they issued to the employee, establishment, owner, or all? How many of the 140 have been issued? And that's an estimate from FY'21. Why were the numbers expected to increase from FY'20 actual?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: And so the permits...the 49 percent of the permits issued is to the licensed premises themselves for a vast majority of permits. It can be anywhere from dance floor or extension of premises or whatnot. So the...that's the bulk of the 49 percent, yeah. And then .25 percent is issued for the importation of liquor, so it's a non-licensed party importing liquor, .25 percent issued for alcohol purchase, and then 50 percent is issued for the direct shipment of wines, and then .50 percent is issued for solicitors. So we're barely...it comes up to 100 percent. That was a typo...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. So there was a missing decimal.

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: Oh, okay. So --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then B...

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: -- that explains it. That explains it then.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then for B?

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MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: Okay. B, registration cards are issued to the employee based on the establishment. So they're actually issued to the employee themselves. As of second quarter, year-to-date, 28 registration cards have been issued and the 140 estimate is based on the average of cards issued over the past years. So basically, we just took whatever we had on average in the past, and that's how we get the 140.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And that was the last of the submitted questions. We'll go now to the next portion of the process. Okay. And then Members...there's only the one program, the Liquor Control Program. There aren't any CIPs for this Department, and the rates and fees have no changes. And as you recall, it's a self-funding Department. And there aren't any grants. And just the one revolving fund, which is the Liquor Education Revolving Fund. And there aren't any priorities. So we'll do this. So this will be the questions from the Members, and then we're pau with that Department. Okay. So we'll start with the subject matter Committee Chair, Member Molina, and then we'll go to Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, and then we'll go to Member Sinenci, and then work our way down. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon, Mr. Silva and Mr. Kaho‘ohanohano. Just a basic question as far as technology. Has the Department implemented any types of new technology that might...allows for a licensee to pay online or do their applications or so forth, anything new? Because I noticed that you don't have a lot of requests for equipment and so forth. So just curious as to where you're at, at this point.

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Software, whatever or what have you.

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: Yeah. We have...basically, we're still operating under the same equipment that...that we've had. We have not upgraded to...to...to any of those services electronically.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Do you intend to at some point in the future? Because I've heard from some licensees about, you know, having that convenience in case, for example, someone who has a business in West Maui, and they cannot make it over in time to the Department or...you know, to save them some time. So any thoughts? I mean, is that your future goals? I know you've just taken on the job now, but is that something that you're looking at in the near future?

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: Yes, absolutely. We are looking into ways to streamline the process by means of digital and...and other means as well. But yeah, that is one of our future goals, and we would like to implement it as...as a Department, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much. No further questions, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Very expeditious of you, Member Molina. Okay. Well move

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to Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, followed by Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just, in case I got my answer, I might cut you off. I don't want you to think I'm trying to be rude, but we've got a time frame. So my first question is what's the...thousand...used to . . .(inaudible). . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin. Your connection --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- isn't super strong. Maybe you want to turn off your video for now? Okay. We'll try that and see if it helps.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: . . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-oh.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: . . .(inaudible). . . went out of internet. I'm . . .(inaudible). . . off my phone. Can you hear me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. That sounds better.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. I restarted your clock. You can go ahead now.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So I was wondering if the Department was able to procure a consultant to review the liquor rules for \$25,000?

MR. KAHO'OHANOHANO: Are you asking if we were able to procure?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. Because that was a *(audio interference)* and I just was wondering if that was completed or if the money was just left and . . .(inaudible). . . in a different direction.

MR. KAHO'OHANOHANO: The...the comprehensive rule review is...it is still ongoing. We're in the very early stages where it's being done internally at this point. But yes, we do intend, at some point, to bring in a consultant or some legal expert to advise us as far as the legality and the efficiency of what we're going to come up with this those...with that review.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So that 25,000 put in was encumbered, or are you looking to other funds to hire that consultant person?

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MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: I would have to verify that. I...I...I couldn't answer that for sure right now, I...I'm not sure where the funds would come from.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Your vacation money was used for the alcohol programs with Mr. Hankins. Is he no longer available to do the alcohol education for underage?

MR. SILVA: I...I think you might be referring to the...the grant. We're...let...just to elaborate on what Jarrett mentioned earlier, what ended up happening is, you...prior to this past fiscal, we were receiving assistance through Housing and Human Concerns to operate the...the...the grants. We don't have a grant division within the Department, and we were unaware that we were going to lose their help over the course of this past fiscal year. So we basically have no way to operate the grant ourselves. I just recently was informed that there may be an opportunity that has just recently come up to Housing and Human Concerns, moving forward, that they're...they're looking at possibly another grant situation that we could get involved with, and we definitely would want to be involved with that if...if at all possible.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. And then I just was wondering, you know, how inspections are going with the...in light of the pandemic, no karaoke, and holiday not so crowded as before. I was just wondering if you could...still need amount of workers.

MR. SILVA: Well, I...I, you know, as you guys are aware, we have also been tasked to enforce the public health emergency rules that have been set forth by the...the Mayor's Office. So really, there has been no decrease in responsibility for the Department. You know, we have been out there working, inspecting, and investigating licensed premises, as well as working with the licensees to ensure...and try to assist them to hopefully sustain and...and stay in business. So there really has been no drop off in --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'm wondering also if...

MR. SILVA: -- responsibility and...and duties that we still need to fulfill.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I'm wondering also about the rule change about home delivery of alcohol. Have you seen any negative ramifications from that?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: No. I have not heard or have been a part of any...any...or heard of any problems and...but to be perfectly honest with you, I don't really know how many places are actually actively doing that as far as their business. As of right now, I'm also sure you're well aware that, you know, there's a lot of tourists back on the island. Anybody that can possibly be open is open and operating. So you know, it...it...it's...that...that's what's going on right now. People can enter a premises to order a drink, and have that drink while within the premises, or it seems like that prevails.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Impeccable timing, Member Paltin. Okay. And then you can

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turn your video back on. Okay. Oh, perfect. Okay. Member Sinenci, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo to the Department, Director and Deputy. Yeah, I just...you know, looking at your goals and objectives on pages 339 and 340, it looks like your projections for 2022 are pretty much the same as 2021. I was just curious, due to the pandemic, have you seen any stark reductions, whether it be in...you know, with businesses also closing as well. Have you seen anything like that due to the pandemic?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: There...there has...actually, yes. Because of the pandemic, we're actually...even until right now, we...we discontinued giving the certification process and exams based on the spiking numbers and by contact. It seems like that is probably the biggest issue at the time, which is why we're looking at...we're...we're contacting licensed premises and trying to work in cooperation with them, places that have large outdoor venues. So we're going to start going out later on this month, to...to give the certification exams wherever and whenever we can. We know that that is something that does need to happen. And just trying to move forward, I think that's one of the solutions we've come up with.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then have you seen a reduction in violations or a reduction in police reporting as far as public complaints?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: It...seeming, yes, I can say. But you know, it's hard to say whether it's because, you know...there...there was a time when everybody was...was forced to be shut down due to a mandatory shut down that took place or, you know, just based on the...the opportunity for them to not be open, and for that much less of a customer base being out there during those times, yeah. There has been a reduction, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo for that. Thank you for the update. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Chair Lee, followed by Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Okay. Director, how many licensees do we have in Maui County and particularly, on Maui Island?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: Around 457.

MR. SILVA: Yeah. A little over 457 total. There's, I think, eight on Lanai, probably about the same on Moloka‘i...six on Moloka‘i. So that's the majority of the 400 and...457.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And how many enforcement...

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: Probably --

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How many enforcement...

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: -- about 430 on Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Never mind already. Okay. I've got the number, generally. How many enforcement officers?

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: As of right now, we have --

MR. SILVA: We've got nine, yeah.

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: -- nine enforcement officers. That's including the supervising LCO IV.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So how do these nine cover 400 establishments? On a rotational basis, or how do you do that?

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: Yes. They're...they're based on the rotating shifts, and they're assigned to districts. On any given night, they're not...it's not based on a scheduled inspection, although we do do scheduled inspections when we go out to do our educational visits, which...which is a little thing that we implemented going out and reaching out to the light in these. But we're basically...by district, we're...we may show up or we may not. No one really knows when we're going to stop in and visit them. It's more of a --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay.

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: -- random.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Random. Okay. So because of the COVID pandemic, have you adopted...has the Commission adopted special rules to deal with enforcement over and above what you used to do?

MR. KAHO‘OHANOHANO: I...I guess...

MR. SILVA: Because we have been tasked to enforce the public health emergency rules, as well as the rules of the Liquor Commission, County of Maui and HRS, I would have to say yes. We have adapted or...you know, to . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So you have...

MR. SILVA: . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So you have the authority to issue citations --

MR. SILVA: Based on the --

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- with --

MR. SILVA: -- on the...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- with regard to masks and social distancing?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: It...it...I wouldn't refer to it as a citation. What we do have the authority to do is to implement a 24-hour shutdown --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: -- based on the public health emergency rules. And basically, we're...we're not...we don't look at that as punitive, we look at that more as an opportunity to make . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. You don't have to elaborate. You don't have to elaborate because we're on a time clock.

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So my last question has to do with...do you still have your office in Lāhainā?

MR. SILVA: No, we do not.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You don't have it. Oh, okay. All right. That's all I have. Thank you, gentlemen.

MR. SILVA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member King, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Department. Thank you for being here. You answered a question that...oh. Sorry, I got a...there was a note that my microphone had been muted by the moderator, and then it got unmuted. So there was a question about travel. You're asking to reinstate travel, but you didn't really give us a complete answer about what you would use that for. What do you need that travel for?

MR. KAHO‘OHANO HANO: Well, if...to reinstate the travel because there are conferences, there are educational learning opportunities for the investigators as well as the Administration. That's what the travel has always been used for in the past. I believe it was reduced last year based on the proviso. So at this point, we're not asking to increase, we're just asking to reinstate.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But those may be, again, virtual. Whatever conferences you're talking about, they still may be virtual this year, depending on what happens

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with the spike. So if you don't...if they are, then you won't need that money. I mean, you know, if we put it back in and they're virtual, you won't need the money.

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: I...I...I guess, ultimately, yes, that is correct. If we cannot travel, we...we're not going to travel.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then the other...

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: But...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Another question I had was, there's a...on page 243, there's a \$12,000 line item, and it says cellular telephone. Does it cost you \$1,000 a month for a phone?

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: I believe...I believe the idea was to upgrade and replace all the cell phones that...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So it's all the cell phones?

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That makes more sense. It just said telephone, so I thought it was one phone. Sorry about that. And the last question I have is...and you may not be able to answer this but, you know, we have this Social Host Liability Bill that we passed through the Council, and we're...and in that bill, we need to review this bill in a year to see if it's working and...are you folks involved at all in tracking any of the numbers or what's happening with that ordinance so that you can give input after a year?

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: Not directly, no, because we only regulate the licensees and the sale of liquor. I believe the Social Host Law has more to do with venues...non-licensed venues or...or even homes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: I . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I thought so. I just thought I'd check in with you and see if you were going to...if you would be one of the ones kind of contributing. But I think it's more of an enforcement, maybe just the police more than anything. Okay. That's all I have there. Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Okay. Member Johnson, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning...or good afternoon, Department. I don't have any questions for you guys. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Nice seeing you, Director and Deputy Director Kaho'ohanohano. So of course, my question is...and Tamara Paltin asked that, about my inclusion of the \$25,000, which I met with you about soon after you appointed, Director and we talked about it. And I just wanted to let you know this money is in this Budget, and if you're going to use it, then it's in this Budget. Or if you think that we need to again, duplicate it for next year, we can do that. So what are your plans?

MR. SILVA: You know, to be perfectly honest, I hope we can get to it this year. I hope we are at...able to get to the point where we are able to use it this year. But if we can't, then yes, I would definitely like it to be available going forward. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. But that's your...your goal is to get it done, or at least do a RFP to get it reviewed by Legal, I think is what you said.

MR. SILVA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So maybe you can let us know by next week if you think that...or ending of this month or whenever we finalize the Budget, if you think we need to put it back in or if you're going to draw this down because then we can assist you with that. Thank you, very much by the way. I've been putting this in the Budget for, like, three years. I'm glad to have you actually working on it. The other thing is the grant for education for underage drinking. And I'm glad then you said that Housing and Human Concerns is going to assist you with the grant administration. Is that what you said?

MR. SILVA: It seems that way. We're...and it's in the very preliminary stage of...of conversation, but it does sound like that is going to be a possibility, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Very good. And after you move to the new service center, then let me know. Then we'll arrange that Zoom meeting with the restaurants who wanted to have a Zoom meeting with you.

MR. SILVA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. I have no other questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. My turn. Okay. I guess I...hi. I guess I'll dovetail off of Member Sugimura's questions regarding the grant management. So the HHC, if they're going to help with the grants management...it's funded mostly by General Fund, and the Department is funded by licensing and permit fees. So will the Liquor Department be somehow compensating the HHC for its time in helping with the management of it...this Department's grants?

MR. KAHO'OHANO: I...I...I couldn't answer that question right now. Like I said, I know

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we...we...we briefly spoke about it. There has been no discussion as to how or what kind of compensation would be involved, just other than I know that in the past when we were operating our...or contributing to the grant, it was more of a situation of us combining moneys to them in order for them to utilize that to use...to operate the grant that...it's just a portion of what they're operating already. We're just contributing to their grant, I guess.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Which one is that you're contributing to?

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: Well, in the past, we used to contribute to the grants that went through Housing and Human Concerns. It was operating...I believe it was for the youth coalition. And my understanding was that we were just providing them a portion of the funding in order to operate the grant that they were already operating.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. I was just about to ask you, Budget Director. Can you explain where the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . of the transfers from the Liquor Education Fund, DHHC's youth service, youth...underage drinking grant is located?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Sure. So the Department of Health and Human Concerns is to have a grant from the State. And what they would do is administer that fund, and add the...Liquor's fund to that grant for a larger amount. Because the Department of Health and Human Concerns stopped getting that grant, they then terminated the agreement with Liquor to continue to administer their grant. However, DHHC now just grants with underage drinking programs through MEO and some other youth groups. So what they had offered was to add the funds from the Liquor Department onto their current grants. So rather than giving them maybe \$30,000 to one agency, they maybe would give them 40,000 because they'll take Liquor's money, then add to it to...and just to increase the grant. So that's how they'll focus throughout and administer underage drinking programs.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. I understand. So would that be reflected in Appendix B under their revolving fund, that it would go directly to MEO, or does it go through DHHC to MEO?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Yeah. So what would happen is in Appendix A, Part 2, under the Liquor Education Fund, which is on page 45 of the ordinance, right now we're not showing any disbursement for a grant because the discussion was still ongoing at the time. So we did not add that in. So now that HHC is willing, maybe we can add a grant here. And I think these grants were \$30,000 in the past for underage drinking programs. And when DHHC executes the grant agreement with DHHC, they will identify the index code from this revolving fund. So they won't be receiving interfund transfers or anything, it will just be...Liquor will be a part of the execution of the grant.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Budget Director. And a final question to this grant...several questions. Will DHHC receive an administrative percentage, a fee, for

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the management of this grant? . . .*(timer sounds)* . . .

MS. YOSHIMURA: I don't...we haven't done that in the past. The...HHC, because they already have a grant and it's not just a...a new grant, and they're already administering their own grant, it's just an addition to their grant, they haven't charged an administrative fee to the Liquor Department.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Okay. My time is up. Members, any follow-up questions for the Department? Okay, I see none. I have a couple follow-up questions. Okay. Okay. One last one for the grant question. So if we were to add an administrative fee from the Liquor Education Grant to DHHC, what would be the recommended fee, 10 percent?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, yeah. I would...I think the normal is about 10 percent, but we would have to check to see if that is an allowable expense under the Liquor Education Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Got it. Mahalo, Budget Director. Okay. And then for Director Silva or the Deputy Director. For the travel for FY'21, 48,000 was allocated. Approximately how much...what percentage of that has been used?

MR. SILVA: . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: I'm not sure. I...I...I'm not sure. I...I...I...at this time, I don't have an answer for that. I'm not exactly sure how much has been used for this point because I know everything got shut down. We...we can respond to that question in writing.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then I guess, if you don't encumber the 25,000 before the end of the fiscal year, whatever is not used for travel and the 25,000 for the consultant, will that then be refunded to the permittees and licensees?

MR. KAHO'OHANO HANO: It will reflect in the percentage fee, which is how...how we obtain our funding, yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And would you agree that Corporation Counsel, as was done in the past, should be the one that would be working with the Commission and the Department to update the Administrative Rules?

MR. SILVA: Corporation Counsel is going to be...yes, heavily involved in the process, yes. They...ultimately, that's what...it'll go through them in the Commission. Right now, like I said, it's a very early stages, and we're doing an internal review with the Staff within the Department. And from that point forward is where it...it will be moving forward to the professionals, and to the legal consultant, as well as Corp. Counsel and...and the Prosecutor.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Because my understanding with the 25,000 was that the Commission and the Department wasn't doing it. And so the purpose for putting money in there is to try to make the Department, prior to you becoming Director, do

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that work. And even with that extra funding, so that the work wouldn't be on the Department or the Commission or Corporation Counsel, that it would be done. But that intention of using that funds to get that work done was never accomplished. So now that you're the Director, and if you think that that \$25,000 is not necessary in order to get that work done, then perhaps you won't need that \$25,000 if it's not encumbered by the end of this fiscal year. My last question, before I run out of time, is your travel policy. Would you share with us what your travel policy is? I understand the interisland travel, but as far as going to conferences outside of the state.

MR. SILVA: As of right now, we're complying with the...the...the Mayor's and the County's travel policy. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I follow whatever is being dictated by the public health emergency rules. We're abiding by that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry. After the pandemic.

MR. SILVA: I'm not sure what you mean.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, we do have a Countywide travel policy that we could forward to you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Budget Director. I just wanted to ensure that travel to conference wasn't being used as a reward or incentive, necessarily. That it was being...you know, those workers that would be selected to go to conferences would be doing so in a fair process. So I'll watch for that document. Mahalo, Budget Director. Member Paltin, did you have follow-up questions?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just had a follow-up question for Ms. Yoshimura. If the administration fee cannot come from the education fund, is it okay to come from the other side of the Liquor Fund...because the Housing and Human Concerns is doing a function on their behalf.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember Paltin, I will look into that, on the use of the Liquor Fund, as well as the Liquor Education Fund. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Yoshimura. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Seeing no other need for follow-up questions, we are pau with this Department, Members. Unless anyone has additional questions on the Liquor Education Fund. Very good. Director Silva, I'll invite you to share with us any final thoughts or closing comments before we thank you for coming.

MR. SILVA: I have nothing further to add. Just thank you for the opportunity and thank you for...for listening to what we had to say. Good to see all of you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for being with us and for answering our questions. Okay. Members, we now have...so we'll say goodbye to the Department of Liquor Control, and then we'll welcome Department of Management. Okay. Good. Okay. And

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I think they usually take a few minutes to transition for the next one. So while we wait for that transition, we can check on DJ Pajimola to see if she's ready for our next song. And I think I'll dedicate to Liquor Department. And I don't know if you've been noticing, but we've been trying to get songs that kind of relate to the Department that's before us at the time. At least, we're trying anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair, like maybe *Margaritaville* or something like that for the Liquor Department. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That would have been a good one. Anyone have any suggestions, any requests...song requests for the Office of the Mayor? Think about that one, and then we can come back to that. DJ Pajimola, you ready?

MS. PAJIMOLA: Ready.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Hit it.

*(music playing)*

*(BlueJeans service interrupted)*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. It's 3:25 on April 9th. Our apologies for that BlueJeans crash. Okay. So the next department on our list is the Department of Management, and we have Managing Director Sandy Baz with us. If you'd like to introduce...

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MR. BAZ: Aloha, Chair, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. And if you'd like to introduce anyone that you have with you there, which...I don't see anyone. But I did see some of your team online, so if you want to introduce anyone that you have online.

MR. BAZ: Yeah. I'm not sure who's logged in online, but just in general, Vince Hu is our Chief Technology Officer, he's been on the job for a few months after Jacob Verkerke retired. And then some other members of my team, Erin Wade, as you know, is running...running the Wailuku revolving project and then everything like that. Josiah is handling an issue right now with something related to COVID, so he's going to be joining us as soon as he can. And I also...the Mayor's in Honolulu, so I have to go run the press conference at 4:00. So hopefully Josiah will be back here, I can hand it off to him. If not, Chair, if you don't mind taking a little break at the time, then I'll go run upstairs, do the press conference, then run back down. I appreciate your indulgence.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Managing Director. Okay. So we'll try to get

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right in and get you out of here before 4:00. Just kidding. Okay.

MR. BAZ: Short answers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry?

MR. BAZ: I'll have short answers then for you. How about that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Good plan. Good plan. Okay. The first question is, if the Council were to ask for an 11 percent cut in programs and activities funded by the General Fund to fully fund the recommendations proposed in the draft comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan at \$57 million, without increasing real property tax revenue, A, what programs or activities would you cut; and B, what impact would the cuts have on residents?

MR. BAZ: So I...I'm answering this question in two areas. One is, you know, as the Managing Director overseeing the Department of Operations, and then the other specific Department of Management, you know, in general, the Mayor's proposed Budget represents a budget that provides for a continuation of operations in the County. The operating Budget, as proposed, is 2 percent less than the operating Budget adopted for Fiscal Year 2021. We are concerned that the combination of increased costs, that we have no control over, and any further cuts will have a direct impact on the ability for our departments to provide a level of services that the community demands and expects. In particular, for the Department of Management's Budget, as it's proposed, it's a 9.7 percent cut, less than the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. And...and it does represent a significant portion of the supported upgrades within our Information Technologies Division that provides the technology required for all of the executive branch departments to operate and provide services. So any further cuts may not have an immediate or a direct impact on residents, but it...in the medium- and long-term, they will in that the departments will be able to provide the services needed for them through the technology required. So...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. The next set of questions is regarding salaries and wages. Question one, please explain the need to reallocate a Secretary II to an Administrative Assistant II.

MR. BAZ: So the duties of this position have increased to handle a higher level of work, including procurement, invoicing, budget administration, and human resources, as the variety of work assignments meets the Administrative Assistant II position description and responsibilities.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question two, please explain the need to reallocate an Information Systems Analyst IV to an Information Systems Analyst V.

MR. BAZ: So the ISA IV has increased in duties and responsibilities, including higher technical level and knowledge to handle existing and future workloads and requirements. The duties changed from basic technical support to systems testing, configuration, working

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with vendors, with validation and alignment with the business requirements. In addition, there's a backflow of technical knowledge required for troubleshooting, documentation, and the ability to work with other ISA V personnel.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question three, please explain the need to reallocate the Information Systems Analyst VI to a Business Continuity Plan Coordinator.

MR. BAZ: Sure. The Information Technology Services Continuity Plan Coordinator position was...was originally allocated and created as a Continuity Plan Coordinator in the business continuity track, not as an ISA position, but was previously reallocated to an ISA...that's an Information System Analyst, ISA...when the prior incumbent held the position. And when that person retired, we decided to return that to a Business Continuity Plan Coordinator to focus on the IPS continuity of operations, and making sure that we can stay with the lights on, any recovery of cyber events and other catastrophic events, as well as exercise planning. And the reclassification is actually a downgrade, not an upgrade.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question four, the Principal Archaeologist's salary is \$26,112 less than allocated by the County Council in FY'21. A, would the addition of an employee or supervisory duties justify an increase to the Principal Archaeologist's position, classification, and salary; and B, are there plans to provide a higher salary for the Principal Archaeologist to ensure the individual remains employed with the County? The incumbent is uniquely qualified and difficult to replace.

MR. BAZ: So for A, a change in duties and responsibilities could justify a change in classification and possibly an increase in salary. For B, we agree that the incumbent has been a great, incredible asset to the County of Maui. The civil service system and Union collective bargaining do restrain our abilities to adjust salaries, but we are looking into options that may be available to address this with the Department of Personnel Services as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Question five...hold on...how much money has the principal archaeologist saved the County through one, the better management of archaeology consultants; two, doing studies in-house, reducing the need for third party archaeology services and providing the Mayor's Office with department's timely determinations and archaeology support?

MR. BAZ: Well, the brief answer is thousands of dollars. We haven't been able to determine, like, exactly how many thousands. But just for...for the Committee's information, as far as number one, the better management of archaeology consultants, although we have been working on designing a set of County standards for all contract archaeologists. So it's not about, necessarily, how much has been saved to date, but rather the understanding of how much money has been spent on archaeological studies and plans that may have not been required. And so the Principal Archaeologist has identified three archaeological monitoring plans, and one archaeological inventory study that were never requested by SHPD. And so we can prevent things like that in the future, which end up costing the County tens of thousands of dollars. For two, the

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Principal Archaeologist has done three...has actually done three archaeological monitoring plans, and has...between saving the County between \$7,500 and \$15,000, is currently working on two more. The Principal Archaeologist has provided consulting services to over 60 County projects, including 30 for Public Works, 18 for Planning, 15 for Parks. And the rate a typical consultant would charge us for those services is about \$150 an hour. In addition, they've attended nine SHPD HICRIS trainings, and are helping individuals in various divisions. They're kind of training our own Staff on how to do submittals, and that'll create more efficiencies, as well as we submit things to the SHPD so that we can do things in a timely manner and not have it be sent back to us, you know, returned incomplete. It prevents waste of time and effort. So I know that her response will be more detailed, there, but I gave you a brief.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question six, what duties could an archaeologist support position perform, and would this save the County money? What other positions, in the future, could be added that would provide cost savings?

MR. BAZ: As far as a support position, working with the Principal Archaeologist and the County's GIS team, they could assist in building out the Maui County cultural layer, which is a top priority. Other activities could include recording oral history...ethnography, that's what it's called...from kūpuna to also be included in the layer alongside written history; conduct preliminary research on project areas, including HICRIS, SHPD library, and other resources; work as an archaeological monitor on County projects. Monitoring costs us about \$100 an hour right now, so that could save us, as well, for the monitoring. They can help with the Principal Archaeologist drafting archaeological monitoring plans, and monitoring reports for the County, and also help agencies with their submittals to SHPD.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question seven, please provide information about your intern position that can provide much needed assistance and train local students in real-world archaeology. Will this position work on mapping data input?

MR. BAZ: So we currently have one unpaid intern working with us to create the layer called the place names for the Maui County cultural layer. Once it's complete, he'll start working on the layer, identifying areas where significant cultural events occurred, as in the battles, or the signing of the Great Māhele. These are...they're learning on how to use the GIS software and display real-world data to help inform decision-making regarding future development, preservation, and avoidance. Additional interns could be trained to record oral history from kūpuna to be included in the...in that layer alongside the written history. They also could be trained in monitoring methodologies, as there's currently a shortage of qualified archaeological monitors in Maui County. We have advertised internships with UH Maui College, and will likely expand our recruitment to include high school students.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. The next set of questions is regarding operations and equipment. One, what entity will be contracted for professional investigative services?

MR. BAZ: So the County would contract with experienced, independent professional

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investigators as needed or as required to investigate possible violations in County policies, such as balance in the workplace, harassment, discrimination, and others.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question two, what type of contractual services does the Maui Redevelopment Agency need for \$1,308,320?

MR. BAZ: Okay. So this isn't necessarily for the Maui Redevelopment Agency. This includes \$285,000 for Wailuku Clean and Safe, \$350,000 for Lāhainā Clean and Safe, currently \$150,000 for Pā'ia Clean, and I understand there's a proposal for the...add the Safe piece. The BeShadow (*phonetic*) is 486,000 and the BeSmart stubs (*phonetic*) data tool is \$42,200. So that's the...the total amount that we have in there. There's some other additional minor services with it, but that's the majority of it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question three, what is Park Maui, and what type of services do they provide for the MRA?

MR. BAZ: Okay. I'll try to capture this in a small amount. Basically, Park Maui is the proposed brand for a comprehensive Countywide parking management system. Something that's been discussed at the Council level as well, for...for a while here. A vendor for this program has not yet been selected, but the scope of work would include a County asset assessment and consultation, gathering community input, any recommendations for Maui County Code updates, parking system branding and online platform development, permit management, and getting the community input on fees and waivers and time limits, working on it with a professional team and the Police Department and others on enforcement and citation management, as well as, you know, vendor, operator, and equipment selection, you know, so that we can procure the right type of equipment and all that kind of stuff for parking.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question four, as the Department oversees vehicle use, evaluation, and management, is there a list of how much of the County...how much the County receives, whether for a trade-in or a sale from the replacement of County vehicles?

MR. BAZ: So actually, the...per the motor vehicle policy, the Department of Finance is responsible for keeping records on acquisition, purchases, and disposals of County vehicles Countywide. So I'd refer that to the Department of Finance.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question five, is the Department considering using the fleet management system in FY'22 as well? What is the anticipated cost?

MR. BAZ: Yeah. And so the Department has submitted and lists...or requests \$130,000 to continue using a fleet management system for Fiscal Year '22.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question six, based on the information related to MAPPS: A, what is the targeted completion date; B, what are the total expenditures related to this project to date; C, what has led to the delay in launching the program; D, please provide a copy of the project management worksheet; and E, what contracts have

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been secured in relation to this project?

MR. BAZ: Sure. The current go-live date is expected to be October of 2021, so a few months. They're doing user...user-acceptance testing right now. The total spent, including Staff augmentation, is \$3,741,198. A majority of that 3,558,000 was for private technologies and the dollars it initially spent and hasn't...no additional money's been requested for the last two years for that. As far as what led to the delay, there were various obstacles that delayed the launch of MAPPS, including IT resources reallocated for COVID-19 pandemic projects; Tyler Technologies had a cybersecurity incident; Intergov Technologies, which is the base software that they're putting the system on, required updates for quality and fixing issues; Tyler Technologies changed their resources, including key project tasks, and they had a limited availability of trainers; County IT resources being, you know, unavailable or over-allocated due to terminations or retirements, the vacancy is difficult to fill. So there's some of the reasons why it hasn't gone live as soon as we wanted it. We will provide you with a project management worksheet, a Gantt chart, so you can see what the tasks are and when those will be completed. I have a...copy here...someplace...there. But yeah, we will get...you'll have it in writing. What contracts have been secured in relation to this project? So Tyler Technologies, again, is the main one. We have a change management consultant, we have staffing augmentation for reporting permits and data...data conversion consultant, and in the very beginning, we had a project management support contract. So those are the...the main contracts that were utilized for this. That was end of six.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question seven, why is it necessary to replace the Wailuku Clean and Safe trash receptacles 11 years before their estimated use life?

MR. BAZ: Yeah. So the trash receptacles were purchased in 2007. This was the first time the County purchased outdoor equipment from this vendor. The receptacles turned out to be poor quality, and unable to weather Maui's climate and salt air. The feet that the cans sit on are rusted and the cans are falling over, the paint on the cans have been scratched and new paint doesn't stick for very long. One can, at the corner of Main and Market, was hit by a car in 2019, two other cans had trash fires in the can and melted the interior liner to the metal. Subsequently, trying to scrape the metal...the plastic off the metal damaged the cans, which are now rusting. So Staff has been looking at the different types of community trash receptacles and found other vendors which provide much higher quality receptacles with better durability. And those cans are being ordered for Pā'ia as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. BAZ: The higher quality ones. Just to be clear.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Excellent.

MR. BAZ: The higher quality cans are being ordered for Pā'ia. Yeah. Okay.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good idea. Okay. Question eight, please provide the following information related to drone technology: A, if drones with LiDAR technology were purchased by the County, do we have licensed personnel to operate them; B, which departments have expressed an interest in using drones, and what would they be used for; C, what type of work can the Principal Archaeologist accomplish with a drone; D, what would...oh, sorry...would drone equipment provide cost savings to the County?

MR. BAZ: So for A, yes, we do have licensed personnel, but they're limited and they do have other duties as well, but...but yes. The answer's yes. Which departments have expressed interest? So far, the initial interest is from the Department of Finance, Department of Public Works and Department of Management. However, we are collecting information right now from other departments that might be able to utilize them, and then again, how...how they could utilize the drones. What type of work can the drone, through the Archaeologist, accomplish? Well, as was presented in Mr. Sinenci's Committee, the Archaeologist will be able to quickly and accurately survey a large tract of vegetated land with accuracy within, actually, five centimeters, so about the thickness of your finger there. LiDAR can produce a bare earth map as well as it can . . .*(inaudible)*. . . environment, it can locate cultural sites that may be hidden from the naked eye. That's all the benefits of that. I hope I'm not...we'll have to put it in writing here. Would drone equipment provide cost savings to the County? Yes. We're still working on collecting information, but we do know the Department of Public Works has spent \$35,000 for LiDAR services in the last year.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. You think we can do these last two questions before you need to leave, yeah? Okay. Excellent. Last two questions are regarding key activity goals and measures. Question one, relating to goal two, provide strategic management and improve operational effectiveness, measure two states, project executive management...oh...project executive management to all levels of County operations by doing random on-site visits at County operations facilities and operation locations. Are there written reports resulting from the random on-site visits, and to whom are those reports available?

MR. BAZ: So written reports are not prepared as a result of the random on-site visits. Any needs or deficiencies that are noted during the visit are then discussed with the departmental leadership. If there's, you know, a budget amendment that gets required or a VIP project that needs to be planned for that, or there's something that needs to be addressed, we'll just address that individually after the visit. So...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Question two, relating to goal six, mitigate the construction impact to neighborhood business and users. Measure four states, provide new reasons for people to visit Wailuku during construction. The FY'21 estimated number of community events is 18. Have 18 events been held to attract people to Wailuku during construction? Do you anticipate holding 18 events in FY'22?

MR. BAZ: So of course, during Fiscal Year 2021, we have been able...unable to host in-person events and gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and requirements. So we have pivoted and used the money that would have been directed towards community

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celebrations of the new public art, towards marketing and videography is intended to increase exposure of the public art, and to encourage individuals to visit the district on their own since gatherings are not possible. Additionally, we are working to launch our rider awards program for the Bee that will incentivize people to ride the shuttle and will offer discounts and gift certificates to businesses impacted by the construction. Anecdotally, Calvary Chapel is currently being impacted by the construction, and we have been able to arrange for them to continue worship within the district and in accordance with the emergency rules, at the 'Iao Theater. It served as a way to provide income source to the theater as well, while they're ensuring potential customers continue to come to the neighborhood regularly. There was a real win-win for that. We're hopeful by end of summer, we should be able to resume some type of in-person gathering and events, and they do have multiple artists they've selected through the Small Town Big Art program waiting to provide events and participate in our activities as soon as in-person gatherings can safely resume.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Those were all the submitted questions. Managing Director, do you know when the Deputy Managing Director should be available?

MR. BAZ: He actually just texted me, and he's upstairs, and he'll run the press conference so I can stay here and work with you guys on questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Good job, Mr. Nishita. Mahalo. Okay, Members. So that's that portion of our process. We'll go onto the next portion of our process, which is to invite the Members to ask follow-up questions or new questions. We'll start with the subject matter Committee Chair, I think that's Member Molina...yeah, followed by Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, and then we'll go to Member Sugimura. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and good afternoon, Mr. Baz. Just a question for you, just following up on the professional services request of page 359 of the Program Budget. Was the reason for this increase due to, maybe, an increase in workplace violence incidents throughout the County?

MR. BAZ: So what we found is...as you're aware, there was a workplace violence incident that did require us to hire an independent investigator. That...that cost us a pretty significant amount of money, and we did not have any budget for it. So as to be prepared just in case there...there is another type of incident like that that we would need to investigate, we wanted to make sure there was money available. As far as an increase in violence in the workplace complaints, anecdotally, no. We...you know, they trickle in here and there. A majority of them are handled at the Department level, as per the Violence in the Workplace Action Plan itself.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you. And then on...again, Program Budget, page 355, development of parking stalls for the Wailuku Municipal parking lot. What's the approximate completion date you're looking at, at this point?

MR. BAZ: I have to recollect now. I think it was about a year and a half. So that would bring

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us close to the end of 2022. And Staff can text me if that's wrong.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. We can get that information later. And finally, the Bee, the shuttle service, if I heard you correct, that was 486,000 budgeted for the Bee...for the shuttle?

MR. BAZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good. And then as far as the pickup times, I've heard some...I don't want to say concerns, but it's just...I...what was it, like, every 15 minutes, the shuttle will come and pick people up from point A --

MR. BAZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- to point B, is that what it is?

MR. BAZ: That...that's the goal. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Oh. Okay. And how's the ridership been?

MR. BAZ: We can get you that information on ridership.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. I can wait on that then. Okay. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I have no other questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. Member Vice-Chair Paltin, followed by Member Sugimura.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Just sound check if you can hear me with my video on, and disclaimer on if I cut you off because of the time frame.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. BAZ: You broke up a little bit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It was very good when you started, and then it got bad.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: How about now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That...I think that's better. And then Member Paltin's disclaimer is that she doesn't mean to be rude, none of the Councilmembers mean to be rude, but if they got the answer, then they'll stop...they'll ask you to stop speaking so that they can ask their next question because they're on a time limit. Good? Okay.

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Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I just was wondering if MEMA at all could use the LiDAR drone for damage assessment after natural disasters, or if that's been talked about at all?

MR. BAZ: Yes, it has, definitely.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. And I just was wondering as well, is there a note with Finance not to reuse the vendor with the junk rubbish cans?

MR. BAZ: Well, I think what we learned was to specify different, you know, specifications in the bids to make sure that we get a good quality.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And you, as Management Department, you oversee and manage the rest of the departments, is that kind of correct?

MR. BAZ: Yeah, according to the Charter, Article VIII, yes, that's my responsibility as the Managing Director.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And have you ever inquired with Finance to see like how we're getting...disposing of our vehicles and our equipments and...and what type of monies we're getting and that we're handling like, you know, certain batteries or equipments or, you know, weapons responsibly at the end use of life?

MR. BAZ: So from the...yes, I have. It's been a little bit, so I don't know if their policy's changed. But in general, what's been happening lately is that when a new vehicle is procured, they'll include the replacement vehicle as like a trade-in, so if there's any value to that, that can be, you know, incorporated in that and it helps to reduce the cost. So it's not necessarily money we would make but maybe money we would save. And then if there's no value to it, you know, the...the Department does have a process of disposal. If there is value to something, that is in...that's in Maui County Code as far as how that gets disposed of.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. And my last question is, I had heard that there was a parking RFP that went out on March 26th. Was that for all of the parking lots across the County?

MR. BAZ: That's more so for the plan, not necessarily to make all...it would take...you know, what we want to do is collect the best information and recommendations to present to...to you, the Council, as the policy decision makers because it will take an action by you to make, you know, parking a paid thing throughout the County or at any parking lot.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: But the RFP was kind of like for a study or something?

MR. BAZ: It was for those things that I had mentioned in the response to the Park Maui. So you'll get it in writing here by...very soon. But it's to...for the County asset and

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assessment consultation, so it's...again, it's looking at what County departments...we'd be reviewing existing assets, what parking lots and things we have, and understanding any challenges about utilization, researching solutions, you know, getting community input as...so that when we present this to you, you know, we have a good understanding if this is something that may be adopted or any recommendations from the community. As I mentioned, Maui County Code updates that may be required...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Director, just wondering if beach parking specifically was included and if they're looking at how the State is handling 'Ahihi-Kina'u and Mākena? Member Sugimura and I did a site visit, and it's very interesting, and there's plenty of resource right here on island to consult with, and...and plenty of opportunity. So I guess main...main question, is beach parking included in the RFP?

MR. BAZ: Yeah, it...yes. I guess the short answer is yes to both.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Awesome. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Member Sugimura, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Sandy. And I just wanted to just continue on that conversation because as Tamara talked about, she and I went for that site visit, just to encourage you to look at beach parking. At 'Ahihi-Kina'u, when we went to visit it, the automated parking, all done with charge cards, right? So you...all residents were free, and all the cars for non-residents were \$5. And in the month of January, where there are not that many visitors here, the natural area reserve made \$7,000. I was shocked, you know, at the amount of resources, as Tamara calls it, that may be there. I commend DLNR because they put it together, they didn't do an RFP. They had a very ambitious, dedicated Mr. Landon who did all the research, and he put...he put the bank...he put...you know, he researched with Budget and Finance and he did everything. But I...I want to just mention that. I was going to mention it, but Tamara beat me to it. I want to commend you on the SeeClickFix app that I heard from Police that was implemented by your office, and I...I use it a lot. And I encourage the community to register abandoned cars and other...other things that are going on in the community. And...and...and alert goes directly to the Mayor's Office or Managing Director's Office, and then appropriate action is taken. I...I just did one this morning for an abandoned car in front of First Assembly of God. The other thing that I wanted to just say on the MAPPS, if you notice that a lot of the questions were from my office. And I'm glad to see that October 2021 is the launch date. And in this, Sandy, because it's so important I think, some of the frustrations from the community is the communication of what the County is doing depending on like with the different departments who would use MAPPS. And are you going to have community engagement with this launch date?

MR. BAZ: So yes, after the user acceptance training that's going on right now, they're going to be moving into the next phase of integrating with the consultants, that we're going to be, you know, submitting plans and things like that, as well as the user training. So as

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we get closer to going live...that...that will happen again over the summer, and we have the whole project period with timelines there to present to you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So that'll be in the information? That's good because I think there's a real need for this, and I've said ever since I was elected and took a seat here, I kept on hearing about this MAPPS coming, coming, coming. So I'm glad you have a firm date to that. And I look forward to smoothing out some of the communication anxieties that are out there with, you know, with this process. So appreciate that. Thank you.

MR. BAZ: Thank you. And just to confirm, yeah, we are working with Karla at our Parks Department, our Director of Parks and Recreation, as well as DLNR on parking and fees at beach parks.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good. I mean, it...it was so effective. But I want to say one more thing is thank you very much for the...the Safe and Clean project that was started in Wailuku Town, and it was community...it was community-driven., got recognized by National Association of Counties. And I love to hear that Lāhainā wants it, Pā'ia wants it, and I think Kahului wants it too. But it's a really effective program, just safe and clean, and it's, you know, its title says whatever it is. So thank you very much for continuing it.

MR. BAZ: Sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Johnson, followed by...oh, Member King. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon...yeah, it's afternoon. Good afternoon, Sandy. I just have one question for you. So the County Archaeologist has saved the County money and prevented lawsuits by avoiding the desecration of the Hawaiian sites. Following that logic, would the Department be interested in a researcher position that studied deeds and lands that the County owns to make sure there's no conflict with Native Hawaiian land rights and kuleana lands?

MR. BAZ: Thank you, Member Johnson, for the question. I...I would assume the answer would be yes. I don't know if it would be in my Management Department or Department of Finance, they're...you know, they have a Land Management Division. They do manage all of our assets. And so having a researcher to be able to research County assets and...and any encumbrances or issues with them would be beneficial.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And you...and you recognize there'd be a cost savings to that?

MR. BAZ: The potential definitely could be there. You know, there's initially going to be a cost of the personnel, but if we do something and we...you know, that cost can prevent future costs, then yes, there will be cost savings.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Baz. I have no further questions,

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Chair. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Member King, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Sandy. Good to see you. Thank you for rearranging your schedule so you could stay with us a little bit longer. My main question is, you know the American Rescue Plan money that we're going to be...some of it's going to be coming in directly to the County. Is that your office that would be applying to the U.S. Treasury directly for those funds?

MR. BAZ: No, I believe Department of Finance is.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Department of Finance would? Okay. So where would it go if that 35 million comes in? Does it...does it...does it go to your office for disbursement? Who makes the decisions on how that gets disbursed?

MR. BAZ: Oh, yeah. So...so no, it'd go to the Finance Department for disbursement. The decision making on the disbursement would be the Mayor and our executive team.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then the money from the previous CARES Act, was...that's been spent already? I know they extended the deadline, but it was kind of late, it was after they had made everybody scramble like they had to get it done by the end of last year. Are you still expending those monies?

MR. BAZ: So you know, so Budget Director is saying all the money is encumbered for the CARES Act, not necessarily all spent, but yeah, we do have it all allocated and encumbered.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. What...what did you use when you ordered the extra N95 masks? Is that CARES money or is that some other pot?

MR. BAZ: So yeah, it'd be committed from the CARES Act money.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. From the...last year's?

MR. BAZ: Correct. Yeah. From the...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. Any idea when those are coming in?

MR. BAZ: I...I do not. I can check on that. I was made aware recently that there was a bid issue, so I think they're going to be rebidding it, but I would need to check with the Chief of Staff.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. Wow, that...okay. Can you let me know when you do find out? Because I just have a lot of people asking me about that. And...

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MR. BAZ: I understand, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you for that. And that's really all the questions I have. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Sorry to catch you in the middle of a bite. Too late for one more question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Did you swallow?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Sandy, we have the American Rescue Plan Act that's about 35 million, then we have...is it about 44 million in the Rental Assistance Program? And then...

MR. BAZ: So 40 million for both, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 40 million.

MR. BAZ: Those are...around those numbers. I don't know that we have a definite amount about the American Rescue Plan yet.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Well, we keep reading about it, about 35 million coming in two...two phases; so half of that first and then the second half. But we're...we're getting a little concerned that we sort of feel left out...as least I do, feel left out of the decision making or at least the discussion of how those monies should be spent. So does the Mayor primarily rely on that special committee that you have, or is it your office and the Mayor or...who makes all the decisions on how the money is spent?

MR. BAZ: The...the final decision and the responsibility is the Mayor's, but he gets input from a lot of different sources. Yes, the...you know, the...the business committees. We have...we have...I think he has about six or seven different committees that provide recommendations for, you know, activities, whether it's use of Federal monies or not. And I...and I believe the...that...is there still a task force that...

MS. YOSHIMURA: Economic.

MR. BAZ: The economic...yeah, the economic recovery task force right now is developing a plan, right, for the...I'm sorry, I apologize, I've been focused on other things, so I don't know exactly what the status of that is. The Chief of Staff has been managing that, so when he comes up next, you can ask him this question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, good. Yeah, I will.

MR. BAZ: Okay. And well...and...and of course, the departments will put in their requests as well for COVID-related activities.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And then before my time runs out, is it just bad luck, but why is Maui still struggling with double digit COVID cases? Yeah, we hear about the clusters in the jail and every place else, but you know, nobody else is experiencing these...these issues, so what's different about Maui? What aren't we doing?

MR. BAZ: Well, the answer is not going to be in five minutes, but honestly, it's...it's a variety of factors. One of the bigger ones is that the...the variant that is...the California variant that's here does spread quicker than normal. It's not as deadly or...or as, you know, make you sick as much as the normal virus or some of the other variants, but it does spread quicker.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. BAZ: So if you look at our...our numbers are higher. The hospitalization rate has remained low; in fact, it's lower now even though our case count's higher than it was like back in August, the higher hospitalization rate. So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wait, now...

MR. BAZ: -- main thing to do...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The what?

MR. BAZ: The main things to...to...the main things that we can do to...to work on this is...is more diligent mask wearing, washing of hands. You know, people get...there's COVID fatigue, right? They...they...they are tired of being isolated, they're tired of having to wear masks all the time, and they get complacent about certain things. They got together for, you know, the...the holiday season.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I get that...I get that, Sandy. So the other concern I had, which may be a thing of the past, I hope, is the fact that we never got our fair share of vaccines like all the other counties.

MR. BAZ: Oh, that's...that's definitely a thing of the past. Yeah, so --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. BAZ: -- we actually...yeah, we've been pushing the Department of Health, and they have actually provided us more vaccines theoretically than...than as a percentage-wise, and we have caught up. In fact, depending on, you know, what day it is, we're usually right behind Kaua'i as far as the number of...percentage...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And my last question...my last question to you, Sandy, is we're still willing to negotiate space, office space. So you know, we need to know some kind of...get some kind of indication from...from you and the Mayor because we need to know how much to put in the budget in terms of, you know, whether we're going to

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relocate OCC or what's going to happen. So we need to keep that discussion going.

MR. BAZ: Okay. Thank you. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I'm done.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee. And then Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But I did want to mahalo him for his thorough responses to our questions. We were searching where to place the archaeologist position two years ago, but we did not fathom how the Department of Management has expanded this position to...to one that benefits all facets of the County, so mahalo for that. Thank you.

MR. BAZ: Mahalo. You can mahalo Dr. Six for the detailed responses.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member...Member Sinenci, did you have any questions, or you're pau?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Pau. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Very good, very good. Okay. Aloha, Managing Director. I just have a few questions. Okay. First the...on...in the Budget Details, page 10-7, the Wailuku Business Interruption Fund was increased from 29,000 to \$87,670. My question is, how is this fund administered? Is it used for anything besides trash fees, landscaping, electric monthly fees, et cetera?

MR. BAZ: So you know, it...we again had to shift in...in how we were implementing it. One of the things that it's doing right now is that, you know, since Calvary Chapel was impacted directly, there's no access to their facility at all, we did work with them and Iao Theatre. So we're paying for the...the utilization of Iao Theatre for the...them to be able to still to continue to operate. And we're looking at...there...there may be one or two other businesses that are going to be significantly impacted that we would provide them with some financial assistance. But in general, it...it wasn't really required that we provide the financial assistance that was originally set out in...in a grant or some kind of feature like that. But we have been able to work with the businesses directly on where...those that have been...had direct impacts to make sure that we're responding to them appropriately.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And so that is all general funds, correct?

MR. BAZ: Correct.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And is there a reason that there was a fund created for this?

MR. BAZ: So I think there's...it's a misnomer that it's a fund, it's not actually a revolving or special fund as...in your Appendix A. It's just the title of it was a pot of money fund, so

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it's just set aside specifically for that. There's no...you know, it doesn't...it expires at the end of the fiscal year if we don't spend it for the...the purposes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then so moving into the next fiscal year, how much do you anticipate the 87,000 being for the Īao Theatre usage?

MR. BAZ: So I did confirm in this to...to Member Molina's question, the projected completion date right now is July of 2022, so it will be this whole next fiscal year. So they'll...will probably be a portion of it. Other things again that we're working on, the incentive program for the Bee, radio ads on where to park especially, you know, now that the parking lots are being impacted and we're going to, you know, be actually shutting it down as soon as the Vineyard Street renovations are complete. You know, so we got to make sure we are able to assist people with where to park, you know, information about the Bee, again more marketing about the businesses, things like that is how we can help them the most is what we found.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. So how much to the Īao Theatre per month?

MR. BAZ: I'll have to get back to you on that, unless my staff's really quick on the fact side. I'll get back to you on that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. For the archaeologist position, is that a service...civil service position, or is it at-will?

MR. BAZ: So it is a civil service position, and it is covered under collective bargaining, union employee.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. And I guess my last question will be in regards to the American Job Plan, Biden's plan...President Biden's plan. Are you prepared...is your Department prepared to work with the departments to take advantage of that funds as soon as it becomes available?

MR. BAZ: Yeah. So the application...so the Treasury Department hasn't, you know, given us the real go ahead of the monies. For the capabilities of it, you know, the general idea of what it is in law there, but they're going to be, you know, obviously providing some...some more specific details. But yes, you know, we have identified future needs at the department levels, as well as at the community levels, to be able to utilize the funds.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that. I listened to Transportation Secretary Buttigieg's press conference, and he talked about, you know, really modernizing a lot of our infrastructure...our neglected infrastructure, and...and we're definitely there with the...I guess the rest of America. So it...it would be great if we're...we're ready to have shovel-ready projects to take advantage of that funding. Okay.

MR. BAZ: Right. So yeah, yeah, just, Chair, if I might just for...real...real quick, it's \$1,500 a week for the Īao Theatre rental. And then as far as the American Recovery Plan

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and...and now American Recovery Act, there are many, many components to it. The money that's coming directly to the County is actually a very...pennies of the total plan, \$1.9 trillion. And the County...the County as an entity, Government entity may not benefit from it directly, but the County...the State of Hawai'i will benefit from it in a number of different factors, including transportation, education, and...and many other areas. So thank you for bringing that up.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Managing Director. Okay. My time is pretty much pau. Okay. Members, any need for follow-up questions? Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Just to follow up on the American Recovery Plan Act. Sandy, you know, the...the infrastructure...there was quite a bit of money that was added after the fact for infrastructure. And I know that there's that...like you said very small pot of money we can apply for directly to the U.S. Treasury directly for the County. And then there's the HOME's money that was just announced yesterday that's...looks like there's something like 6.4 million available for Hawai'i, other than Honolulu. Honolulu will get their [sic] directly. But for infrastructure, is it...are they going to allot it like that or do we have to apply based on shovel-ready projects that we have? Is there...do you know...do you know what's going to happen with that pot of money for infrastructure?

MR. BAZ: From the little information that I've heard so far, they're looking at identifying projects that are already in the works, like they're already in the TIP, the Transportation Improvement Plan, to fund quicker is where they're kind of at right now.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So it won't be a matter of...do we have to go through...is there some process that we can submit those projects directly from Maui County, or does that go through the MPO?

MR. BAZ: I would have...I would have to work with the MPO. They'd be the best for that information.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Because...

MR. BAZ: If it's even available at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Because the reason I'm asking is because I was asked by our MPO...one of my MPO members about using some of the South Maui District funds for a grant writer for I guess the next phase of the North South Collector Road. But I thought that's kind of what the infrastructure bill was about, was to try to fund those types of projects that are already in the STIP.

MR. BAZ: Correct. But we'd have to still write the application and...and manage that process. The money would be for the actual capital work. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. . . .(timer sounds). . . Okay. All right. Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Okay. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a quick follow up. You know on those trash receptacles that are now deemed, you know, basically unusable for Wailuku, the ones that are still good, you guys...folks are just going to dispose of it in the landfill, or will there be some other purpose for it, Mr. Director?

MR. BAZ: If the...they are a County asset. So if they're usable, we'll definitely use them, if we can, in other areas. Yeah, we're not just going to throw them away. And we actually...we wouldn't be able to dispose of them in the landfill anyway because it's heavy metal, right. So the metals would have to be recycled.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right. Thank you for that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Other follow-up questions? I have just one quick follow-up question, and that is, Managing Director, you mentioned using the better quality trash receptacles for Wailuku and Pā'ia. Are you using any of those trash receptacles for Lāhainā?

MR. BAZ: No. The...the clean part of the Lāhainā is through Lāhainā Restoration Foundation, you know, and their current activities. So I mean we could talk about that with them, but it's a historic district as well, so it does, you know, matter what kind of bin we bring in.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. I think maybe that's what Member Paltin was mouthing to me. Okay. Okay, Members, seeing no other questions, we'll move on to the next. So under this Department, there are some CIPs and rates and fees. No changes to the parking permit fees. And there are eight priority proposals. And we'll start with Member Paltin's proposal, and that is number 26, followed by Member Sinenci's proposal, number 27. Number 26 is...where'd it go? Countywide proposal, it's a conditional funding proposal. It would be found on page 357 in the Program Budget. Okay. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Can you hear me okay? Okay. Thanks. So you know, when I used to work as a civil service person, some of our trucks that were still usable, but not like maybe for emergency services usable, were traded in for like \$200 which, you know, if...if I could have bought them for \$200, I sure would have. So I just was wondering like, you know, if we could develop a program to track responsible and transparent disposable...disposal of County vehicles and equipment, you know, in case if the public wants to know hey, that thing was still good, I want my taxpayer monies to get the most out of it, or I want the equipment to be...I want to be sure the equipment that's being replaced is disposed of responsibly, whether it have like lead batteries or whatever the case may be. I just was wondering, is there a way for the public to easily access that type of info, that we're responsibly disposing of our equipment, that we're getting the highest value for vehicles?

MR. BAZ: I'll work with the Department of Finance on this. It is...they...you know, they are

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the...manage the...the fixed assets, and they do...they...I know they have a fixed asset system. So you know, we could identify what the asset was and what happened to it. It's not necessarily readily accessible at this point, but it is something that can happen. But yeah, I'll...I'll work with the --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. BAZ: -- Department of Finance on this issue in the future.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Great. Yeah, I just was...you know, every budget, I seem to ask this question. And with the whole fleet being requested by the Police and, you know, everybody has needs for new vehicles, it's...it's...it could be a big number or a small number that we're missing out on. And I think it kind of deserves a little further scrutiny to make sure that, you know, we have policies in place as to how good the vehicle is, or if it's a hazardous equipment that we're getting rid of, that we're just being accountable like how we like members of the public to be accountable as well, to hold us accountable too.

MR. BAZ: I...I am aware that the...the County of Maui used to auction off vehicles. At some point in the past, they decided to not do that because the amount of staff time and challenges that they had . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . was actually costing them more than the value that they would receive at auction.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Members, any questions for Member Paltin or the Department on the proposal? Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. This is a great proposal because it doesn't necessarily cost any money. But I've been asking the same question for years, like why isn't it available to the public? But I just wanted to mention that I bet you if you hired an auction firm or an auctioneer that they would probably do this work for free if they got a cut, and it wouldn't cost us anything. But have you thought about doing that, like putting out an RFP to do the vehicle...you know, used vehicle auctions?

MR. BAZ: Yeah, we can...like I said, we can discuss it with Department of Finance. You know, some of the challenges to the auctions that we've done in the past is we have to have a, you know, correctly zoned property that we can store the vehicles on until the auction site. We have liability with people coming and looking at the vehicle. Generally, they would be sold for pretty much the upset price of 50 bucks, maybe a little bit more if they were...a little bit more value to them. You know, so...I'll talk to them about it. It's definitely something that we can look and see if there is value to a program like that. I'll be definitely interested in that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, especially if you can find someone who actually has a site where they could store it themselves, you know, if they were getting a cut. But I get the...I've...I've been getting questions about this for three or four years from people in the public saying well, I'd like to buy a car like that for 50 bucks, you know. So you

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know, it's their taxpayer money that bought it and, you know, they'd...they'd like...everyone would like a shot at that. So thank you.

MR. BAZ: Yeah, many years ago I did actually attend a couple of the auctions and wasn't successful in buying anything, was necessarily worth anything. But yeah, I had that same interest as some of the members of the public. But thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Members, any other questions for Member Paltin or the Department on the proposal? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Oh, sorry. Okay. I just have one question. Member Paltin, under...under which funding would this condition be added to?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just took a stab in the dark on page 357, Index Code 904016B, either 6132 or *(audio interference)*. I am *(audio interference)*. I just want direction.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Managing Director, which of the two that Member Paltin mentioned would make the most sense, or what would be your recommendation in the alternative?

MR. BAZ: Well, my recommendation is...is to work with the Finance Department because they handle management our assets. But I'll have to...let me...I got to...I'm going to pull up...I don't have the details in front of me, so hold on, let me get that up.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I think that the...the *(audio interference)* was out of the Program Budget. I'm not sure of which the *(audio interference)*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. It...on your proposal, it has 300...page 357 in the Program Budget, but perhaps Managing Director Baz would know where in the Budget Details, which line item.

MR. BAZ: Yeah, Chair, the...the index code identified is for the...the Maui redevelopment function, so that would not be something recommended. I suppose if anything, we could put it into 904011B, which is the main Department of Management program. And then as far as 61...6132 versus 6112, I would assume it would be 6112.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. You got that, Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I got 904011-6112; is that correct?

MR. BAZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I will ask for consensus or...or revisit.

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**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICE CONSENSUS.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Is it easier if I just go consensus and you raise your hand?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Consensus? Okay. I see everyone's hands, so that is a consensus. Okay. Member Sinenci, with priority number 27, it's a Countywide priority, a conditional proposal, it would be on page 358 of the Program Budget, or page 10-3 on the Budget Details, or page 12 on the budget bill. Okay. Member Sinenci, you have three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Chair. And yes, Members, this would be earmarking 26,000 to accommodate the salary increase for the principal archaeologist. The current position pay is considerably less than State and private practice pay. The current principal archaeologist is uniquely qualified, and the position is very difficult to fill. As Director Baz mentioned earlier, she's consulted with 60 County projects, and provides cost savings to the County's...particularly from consultant fees of up to \$150 an hour. So the Director also mentioned that this a civil service position and subject to collective bargaining. So Chair, I...I realize that Director Underwood will be here on Monday with the Department of Personnel, so if you wanted to wait for...for his remarks on...on this proposal, then...and we can wait. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Any comments from the Managing Director?

MR. BAZ: No, I addressed this and other questions as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members, questions for Member Sinenci? Okay. Seeing none. I have a quick question. So Member Sinenci...and if you don't have the answer, it's okay, we can wait until we get Department of Personnel with us on Monday. So the 26,000 for an increase in salary doesn't include the corresponding increase in fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Unless...I'm guessing. Do you have any comments on the fringe part of it?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It...it did last year, so...when we...when we did calculate the original amount. So I mean, we would...we would support the fringe and the...and the increase as well. And...and I'll...I'll go ahead and check with Michele.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I actually...I don't know if...I actually was going

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to ask Mr. Baz this, but I don't know if you can answer this. Because I...I had brought this up in the second year of my first term on the Council, and it didn't get any traction with the Council. But my...my vision of this position in the beginning was to have it be an appointed position so that we could, you know, pay the person what they were worth, what it...what it takes to get an archaeologist hired and to stay on staff. But is there some reason that we can't...we couldn't do this as a...as an appointed position? Or is there some reason why the candidate prefers to have it a civil service position? Do you know?

MR. BAZ: So...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: If not, we can ask Personnel.

MR. BAZ: When this came up last year, I did mention to make it an appointed position, it would have to be within the Office of the Mayor. By State statute, the only exemption from civil service...well, the main exemption from civil service is...for...for other employees is within the Office of the Mayor. And you know, so...so...but the decision was to put it in the Department of Management.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So that's the main...do you...do you think that Dr. Six prefers to have it civil service if it's going to constrict us on what we can pay her?

MR. BAZ: I mean, they have to ask her that question. The...the civil service provides for continuity and consistency and, you know, some kind of security --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

MR. BAZ: -- in position. The Mayor's term is, you know, ending next year, right? So it's...you know, there's...there could be a shift in...in that at any point as well. And...and...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I understand that. And I think it's...I think it's a fair tradeoff, I just wondered if she had an opinion on it. So okay. We'll wait until we can ask the Personnel HR Director. But thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Okay. Any other questions, Members? Seeing none. We will hold off on this until we get to talk story with the Department of Personnel.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The next priority proposal is number 28, and that's also from Member Sinenci. It is a Countywide priority, new funds, and it would be on page 358 of the Program Budget, or page 10-3 in the Budget Details. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And again, this is an Archaeologist Assistant II, and the ask is for 45,000 salary with fringe. The position will save the County money by performing tasks being done by expensive consultants. And as Director Baz read,

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doctor's...the job description would be to assist with the cultural layer, record oral histories and ethnographies from kupuna, conduct preliminary research on project areas, work as an archeological monitor on County projects, help agencies at...with HICRIS submittals. And I did hear Member Johnson's proposal if, you know, we wanted to also include deed research as part of preliminary research, we could add...we're open to adding that into the assistant's duties. And of course, Chair, this is also a civil service with fringe, and the same...subject to collective bargaining with the Department of Personnel and Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Comments from the Department?

MR. BAZ: So if the Council chooses to put in the position, we will go through the same process we did for development of the archaeologist position. You know salary is...is not something that we can identify. You know, we appreciate the money being put in, but as we look at what classifications are available in the State civil service system and what gets processed and approved through our hiring...creation of position and hiring process would set the salary amount. But yeah, we will need some sort of a budget if the position does get approved. And then as far as the position title and things like that, they'll be...that'll be subject to development of the position itself and creation.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci, 30 seconds.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director. Oh. And...and in response to Member King's comment about an appointed position, I think we wanted to put it in the Management Department so that if it was an appointed one, it would not necessarily be filled. So as a position under the Managing Director, the position would have to be filled. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Questions for Member Sinenci or the Department on the proposal? Okay. Seeing none. I have a question. Member Sinenci, 45,000 plus fringe, is that for 12 months? Oh, you have to unmute, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, it is, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So we'll probably need to reduce that so that there would be time for search and application and hiring, the hiring process.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes. Exactly, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. And then my second question, I heard you just say that you would look at adding deed or title search responsibilities to the job description. Do you know if that would be in alignment with this position?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We're...we're trying to look...you know, as one of the...the duties as mentioned by Dr. Six was to conduct preliminary research. So I'm not sure if we

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could do that on...on just any, but on...probably on County projects we could...we could at least start with that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Those are my questions. Member Sinenci, did you want to hold this for comments from Department of Personnel as well?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, thank you. We just wanted to get feedback from Director Underwood. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Got it. Okay. Members, the next priority proposal is also from Member Sinenci, it's number 29, drone tech...I'm sorry, it's Countywide, additional funds, Program Budget 364. And there's a similar proposal from Chair Lee that is priority proposal number 8 on your matrix. And we'll have Member Sinenci introduce his, and then...yeah, I guess if Chair Lee would like any feedback from Managing Director Baz on her proposal as well, we can do that. If not, we don't need to.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, just --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- point of...point of information. Chair, just for...did...didn't we come to consensus on Chair Lee's proposal for this?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think so.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We covered this the other night.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Last night.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Last night. Seems like ages ago. However, I'm not particular, if...if Mr. Sinenci wants to add this to his list, that's fine, because we both support the same thing.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Yeah, I believe Chair's priority was...the funding was conditional.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So we can...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- it was.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Okay. Thank you. So for --

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I just heard from Staff --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- my priority...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that we did not get consensus on Chair Lee's proposal last night.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm sorry, were you talking to me?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think she was saying that we...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, I was talking to everyone.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We did not, you said?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. I guess I miss...I...I remembered wrong.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Actually, me too. I thought we had consensus. I thought we...we knew there was a duplication, and I thought we were taking mine, but...but if his is cash, if he's adding to the...if he's adding to the budget, that's fine with me because I was going to, you know, the old word, proviso something.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, we...I think we initially had consensus, and then we decided we're going to talk to the Management...Department of Management, and so we marked as a revisit after. Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah, this is a Countywide proposal, 40,000 for the drone. The drone can be used for archaeology studies to obtain mapping data for the cultural overlay map to evaluate projects. Other departments can use it for post-event assessments, analyses, and restoration of volumetric beach and coastal morphology change detections, create elevation maps, slope maps for water and wastewater infrastructure, flooding and sea rise analyses, vegetation growth, change in monitoring, roadside...sign inventory and maintenance, road pavement and striping, condition assessment, dune monitoring, landslide analyses, and urban surveys, including modeling and planning. I did have some notes from Mr. Sereno, I believe. He also added that the entire project areas can be surveyed in a fraction of the time with a much better review of the areas. Of course, some of things that I...I also mentioned. The County has spent about 41,000 on consulting services for LiDAR mapping projects, and having our own drone would eliminate the need for these services. I believe the Maui Police Department has drones, but these are not the same types of drones that have the LiDAR technology on it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Department, comments?

MR. BAZ: So yeah, no, the...as the presentation in the Committee showed, the data that can

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be created with this would be very useful in a number of different areas. So you know, in...in general the support is there for this equipment. It's a combination of equipment and software, different things like that to make it happen. And you know, my...my job then will be to get those that are interested in using this to...to...to do that without costing us additional salaries or other implementation costs.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Managing Director. Okay. Members, questions...oh, before I open it up for questions. Okay. So just to...there we go. Okay. So last night when we had Finance, we...we talked about Chair Lee's proposals, but since the Department of Finance could not provide comment on the proposals because although the funding fell under their Department, it...it wasn't their subject matter. And so what we did was marked all of those conditional provisos until we came to the appropriate subject matter department so that we could get comment from those departments. So that...that's what happened when we had Finance. I know it feels like ages ago, but...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Consensus.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Consensus.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So no questions. Members, consensus by a show of hands? Okay. Member Sugimura, is that...is that your consensus? Oh, okay. You're on mute. I will take that as consensus.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICE CONSENSUS.**

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And for clarification, that would be consensus on Member Sinenci's proposal for 40,000. Chair Lee's proposal was for 50,000. Just so that everyone understands the difference in the proposals, and that they were different amounts, and that this would be...the 40,000 with General Fund and not out of the American Rescue Act. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah...and just so that you know those...that was just some estimates, but we...we'll probably have some more correct quotes by...by this week...in the coming week. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So we'll...we'll have a review of that when we get to decisions week. Okay. The next proposal is from Member Molina, it's proposal number 30 on your matrix. It's a district priority, it's new funding, and it would be on page 10-7 of the Budget details. Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I have an announcement to make, and I would like to reduce my request to \$200,000 instead of the 350,000. I have been advised that the contractual service...services appropriation

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in the Mayor's Budget for the Pā'ia Clean and Safe Program already includes 150,000 for the Clean element of this program, thus, no need for the additional 150. But the community has continued to express an interest in implementing the Clean and Safe elements of the program concurrently. And as you heard in testimony this morning from Ms. Thompson about the concerns as to what's happening in the town, it's quite obvious something is needed there. And also, you've written...received written testimony from kama'āina family, such as Aunty Mopsy Aarona and Ms. Kuoloi Vetter (*phonetic*), expressing much-needed support for this type of program. And as a background, the Council appropriated funds to purchase trash receptacles for the program which had been completed. But to add additional background for the Wailuku Clean and Safe Program, the appropriation is 285,000, whereas the Pā'ia Program is requesting 350 because Wailuku has Mental Health Kōkua in close proximity to the program area. Now, as far as the Pā'ia element of the program, access to Mental Health Kōkua would require the need to transport individuals to their facility, thus the need for a little bit more money. And...whereas in Wailuku, the participants can walk over to Mental Health Kōkua, whereas if things are...services are needed in Pā'ia, you have to transport people. So the next step for a single organization to implement the Clean and Safe Program...that would be the next step. And these additional funds, you could...it could be used to rent a storefront, for example, for that Mental Health Kōkua office in Pā'ia or, again, to pay for transportation to Mental Health Kōkua in Pā'ia. And we have...with your permission, Chair, we have Ms. Erin Wade, who's been working very closely with our office on this program and the community in Pā'ia to provide additional responses to the Members if they have questions for this. So upon the completion of Q&A, if Members have any, I would respectfully ask Members for your consensus for this much-needed program here in Pā'ia. So I yield the floor, Madam Chair, for any questions. And then that way too, we can give Mr. Baz a break as well too, so...if we have Ms. Wade online to answer any of the questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just wanted to ask you, Mike, you're going from what amount to what amount again?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: It was initially for 350, but I'm going to...going down to 200,000 now because 150 of it is already in the Mayor's Budget --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- for a portion of that program.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I wonder if we can hear from Erin Wade with her

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experience on what she sees, next steps, and how we can help move this. Is 200...200,000 enough?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Wade, are you on?

MR. BAZ: Sure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Managing Director Baz.

MR. BAZ: Yeah. No, she's not currently on. I did have a discussion with her ahead of this and...and can respond to the questions. But if you want to continue your own discussion, I can get her to come online.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Maybe you can answer it, Sandy. So I'm just wondering if this 200,000 is enough to...this is hiring of...well, of contract services for a nonprofit to implement the Pā'ia Safe and...the Clean and Safe Program. Do you concur that it's 200,000?

MR. BAZ: So...yeah...so she did indicate, yeah, that we had money already set aside for a portion of this, but 200, 250,000, somewhere around there would most likely be sufficient. But it's really up to...you know, we put an invitation for bid...or...or request for proposal out there. And so it's going to be, you know, who responds and how much they want to charge for us. But we are supportive of moving forward in this in general.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Paltin, followed by Member King.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: My apologies. I don't know the proximity, but I had thought that the Aloha House was near to that area, and they had mental health services, or is that incorrect?

MR. BAZ: Actually, as you guys were talking, I was just...talked back to the Budget Director to tell her the exact same thing.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. BAZ: So we can work with the...yeah, Maui Youth and Family Services and Aloha House, as well as other support services...or actually, yeah. You're right. Right up the road. And so we'll work with them to see if there's support that they can provide.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then I guess my question would be for Member Molina. Would you care to decrease the amount to travel to Wailuku and use the nearby area instead?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I guess for me, it's a little bit too early to make that assessment

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or determination. I don't know...I think the...if I'm correct, Aloha House is up along Baldwin Avenue, near, I think, where Job Corps is. I think those services...Maui Youth and Family Services. So either way, I think...it's definitely not walking distance from...you know, most...as you saw in the pictures, most of the clientele, they tend to hang out either at Baldwin Park or at the Pā'ia parking lot. So it's...it would be quite a walk for...for those citizens. So I think either way, transportation is still going to be needed.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then if the clients don't desire services, would Aloha House still be able to help them? Or would...would any of these agencies, or the Clean and Safe be able to help them?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I...I think that might be a question better for Ms. Wade or...or...or Director Baz to make that determination. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. BAZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Or the agency itself, yeah. Even if --

MR. BAZ: So just really quick...yeah...really...really quickly.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Go ahead.

MR. BAZ: We can't force anybody to get services. We can't force them into our supportive housing. We can't force them into drug treatment. So what the...the Clean and Safe Program Staff do is build a relationship with them, and really make it so that, you know, they...they have a desire to change their lives and...and get those services. And they'll also be working with the Maui Police Department's CORE program, as well as the...you know, the bus that you just saw, as well. So there's different options now available from when the Wailuku Clean and Safe just...was...was created.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member King, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. So I was...you know, I was going to suggest that maybe...it sounded like there...you were putting that out to bid, Sandy. Is that...is...is this a bid contract?

MR. BAZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So maybe...so maybe you want to put up to 200,000 in case it's a little bit less, you know. If it's more, than you'll have to come back with a Budget Amendment anyway. But I just want...I just wanted to ask, will this be including some sort of, like, private security or security guard or something too? Because it sounds like enforcement is a real issue.

MR. BAZ: Not in...in general, no. These...these Clean and Safe Programs don't...aren't hiring

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private security companies. The approach is different than just being a...a monitor security person.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So then does the Program draw in police?

MR. BAZ: Correct. Yeah. They...they work very closely with the police department, again, with the...the different services that, like Sgt. Pontanilla have at the...at the CORE program within the Police Department, as well as, you know, all the rest of the service providers as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then it...if it's...I mean, don't they have a community police officer? We...we have two in South Maui, so I...I would assume that they have one in this area, but they seem to be asking for a community police officer.

MR. BAZ: I...I...I would need to discuss that with the Police Department directly. But the...understand that the district that encompasses Pā'ia is also Wailuku, Kahului, Makawao, Kula, and that's all one huge district, right? So --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Wow.

MR. BAZ: -- resources are spread thin.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Wow. Okay. And then South Maui's its own district because it has a...its own station. Oh. Okay. All right. No other questions. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Chair Lee, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So as Member Molina said, Aloha House is not close to the town. It's a good four miles away or so. It's...it's almost by the junction to go to Hāliimaile. So it's...I don't recommend that you reduce the...the amount...the funding amount. And then, Aloha House handles drug addiction, alcoholism. I don't believe they have the ability to handle mental issues...you know, mental health issues like Mental Health Kōkua in Wailuku. So you know, the idea of transportation may come into play if that person has to be taken to Mental Health Kōkua or to the hospital. So again, better to have a little extra money than not enough. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Councilmember Molina's proposal is...is really important and I rise in full support. I just want to add to that is that I would hope that if we do take them up to Aloha House, that they would have the beds for them, which is why I put in my proposals. But either way, I...I want to also address Alice Lee's question to...they do address mental health in addition to drug addiction. So it's a two...it's a twofer. And I...I...that's why I...I agree with you. We got to raise that money to about 350 as original on. That's all I have to say. Mahalo.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. Okay. Seeing hands...no other hands for questions. I will call for a consensus or revisit.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Consensus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Consensus by show of hands? Okay. I'll mark that as a consensus.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICE CONSENSUS.**

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. The next priority proposal...the next two are both alternates, and from Member Sinenci and myself. And it's for a title search position. So the difference is, Member Sinenci's proposal is 50,000, and my proposal is 100,000. It would include the position and the equipment and fringe. Member Sinenci? And then if you're looking for it, it would be on the page with all the alternates...Member Sinenci's alternates, and then my alternates.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Do you have a number...do you have an item number?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's not on the matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's on the alternates page. So Member Sinenci's proposals, and his proposal has an alternates page. And same with mine.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Sorry, Chair. I don't have that page, but I believe, as mentioned earlier, the deed researcher would specifically look at properties that the County would be...would be acquiring, and for housing projects. That was the...the focus of our...our deed researcher.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. And you know, it would be similar for my proposal. I will first get comments from the Department, and then I'll call on you, Member Johnson, for questions.

MR. BAZ: Thank you, Chair, Member Sinenci. I...I apologize. I don't have anything in writing to get a better understanding of what the position would entail. But from what I've gathered from the conversation, this actually would be a great addition to the Department of Finance's Land Management Division. You know, they are currently going through a...a search process like that to identify County parcels and what encumbrances there are, what their, you know, land-use classifications, things like that. So I'm sure they could use the assistance with additional personnel.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry. My...I think my computer is exhausted, as we all are, I'm sure. Okay. Member Johnson, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to add to...point of information, I guess, Lesley Milner wrote in the chat that the alternates are on number 18 in Granicus if you guys want to check them out, so...I...I also rise in full support of this...these ideas. These...this is a great way to get ahead of the game, to be proactive instead of reactive. The County's always getting sued for...over...over these kinds of issues, and I think it would prudential...financially smart to do, as well as morally. I mean, we're...you know, we have to make sure that the things that we're doing is in alignment with, you know, not just...just not paying attention to our indigenous folks who have land...land claims. So I...I totally agree with this. Mahalo. Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. And these are both...mahalo for your support. These are both alternates, so we'll see if they make it on the final ten. Okay. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I was wondering if in any position (*audio interference*) expected to go back to because when I think we were purchasing the Honokowai Reservoir, they were saying, like, the title search goes back to, like, a certain point, but it doesn't go all the back to the Māhele. And then there's the joint resolution situation as well. So I just was wondering if you had an idea in mind as to, I guess, minimum qualifications or how far you would like whoever is in this position to be responsible for going back to.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: (*Audio interference*) question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No...right. When we looked at some of these...the deeds and how far it went back, I guess, you know, one of them was, like, Kingdom of Hawai'i and...and so it gets back to...to that kind of...you know, maybe from...from there. And then...then coming forward to modern time.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I...I feel like I can probably support that. And it wouldn't replace the need to get title insurance, right? We would still be getting title insurance, regardless of what happens in the...I guess, the deep dive title report.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes. . . .(*timer sounds*). . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Any other questions for Member Sinenci, myself, or the Department? Okay. Seeing none, again, these are alternates, so I'm not going to be asking for consensus. We'll just see if it makes it into

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the priorities that are submitted on April 15th. Okay, Members. That is everything. There's a revolving fund for employee parking fees if anyone has questions on that. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, not on that. I'll wait until you get to the end.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And I need to go back to Chair Lee's priority proposal, which is to earmark 50,000 for the LiDAR drone and the...the Rescue Act. Not sure if the Council would like to do both or one. We...we got consensus on Member Sinenci's. But since we don't know the --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But I'm withdrawing mine with --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. You withdrew? Oh. Okay. I'm sorry. I didn't hear you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. It...it's fine that we can go ahead and...and push our LiDAR, just...just for consideration for the Members that we get the final quote that we're expecting by next week...hopefully by next Thursday.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. So I see no questions on the revolving fund. We'll call on Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I wanted to bring up the...this was a...a proposal that was also what is...you know, the proviso proposal. And it had to do with number 10, earmarking \$100,000 for a public engagement program to disseminate COVID information. And the reason why I was just going to ask the Managing Director is because he said earlier that people are not being observant of the rules. They tend to be lax nowadays. And I had to hope that either the Administration or even the Council...but the Administration has the money to create a promotion that says we're not out of the woods and have, let's say, that as a central theme, and have radio ads and social media ads and so forth. So I wanted your feedback on that, Mr. Baz.

MR. BAZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes. You know, we're definitely not out of the woods yet, and it's an ongoing challenge to get that information out there. We've spent quite a bit of money on radio and TV campaigns. You know, we do press briefings and social media postings, things like that. So right now, we're work...focusing on two things. One is making sure that people are wearing masks, and working on, actually, some physical signage at locations like beach parks and things like that so they understand that, you know, they...they need to wear masks, and that there's social distancing, what the rules are. You know, at the point...we...we've found that education at its point is probably the...the best way to get it done. You know, subliminal education through TV and radio and all that works, but not...not as well. The other thing that we are actively promoting

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is for people to be vaccinated. You know, we want to try to make that as...as great an opportunity as possible. And so we actually had a meeting with the Department of Health this morning on some strategies to assist in...in marketing vaccination as well. And if anybody's listening to this, and if you're...if you want to...if you're over 16 and you want a vaccination, please go to [mauinuistrong.info](http://mauinuistrong.info). We have a direct link to many, many different vaccination providers on there and a lot of other good information on there as well. But we appreciate the...the...the support, Chair, because it is something that, you know, we can continue to talk about, we can continue to spend money and marketing on, and it...it's a mindset that if people don't have the understanding . . . (*timer sounds*) . . . that we are still in this pandemic, they're not going to really follow the rules. But...and I apologize for taking up your time.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Managing...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I say one last thing? One last --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you make it quick.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So...so Sandy, should I be withdrawing my proposal because you guys have it covered? We're not out of the woods yet.

MR. BAZ: Yeah. I mean, any additional money for Fiscal Year '22 would be helpful. But...but as of right now, we're...we're doing okay. If you'd like to support it, we'd be...we'd be happy for the additional marketing funds.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, but my point is, it's...would...would come from the recovery fund.

MR. BAZ: Oh. Then...then yeah, you can withdraw your proposal, and we can identify that. Or if there's any CARES Act money that we disencumber or...or anything else that we can do, public service announcements, things like that as well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because I...Sandy, I...frankly, I feel that maybe the...the Committee that's advising the Mayor is...is not on the streets like we are. We have constituents calling us all the time about everything. And so, you know, they need to have many more town halls...not press conferences, but town halls where they can say something. So that's...that's something that I think you should bring up to the Mayor because that's why we want to participate more in how that funding is...the monies are spent because we...I think we're very close to the...the...the community and the public, much more than...than a blue ribbon committee. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Okay, Members. We are pau with Department of Management. So I will ask Managing Director Baz if he has any final thoughts or closing comments in one minute or less?

MR. BAZ: Just...Chair, no. And thank you very much for meeting. I appreciate the time. If there's any further questions as we go through, I'll be happy to...if you can send them, we'll be happy to respond to them. Otherwise, we'll look forward to talking with you at

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the decision-making level as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Managing Director Baz, for being with us and for answering all of our questions. And please extend our big mahalo to Deputy Managing Director Nishita for taking over so that you could stay with us uninterrupted. We really appreciate it.

MR. BAZ: Okay. Will do. All right. Take care. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You too. Have a good night. Aloha.

MR. BAZ: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members. I...sorry, my...my screen keeps kind of freezing so I'm not sure if you're raising your hand, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm just wondering about Chair Lee's...all of her Rescue Act priorities that she submitted, so are we going to hold off on all of them. They're all good ideas, but her source or program is the Rescue Act.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I'm going to be requesting a legal opinion on it. So we may as well just...these are proviso items. So I would suggest we just leave them there until we get a...a final opinion on whether we can proviso that those funds or not...because we have to approve them to add to the Budget.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee. And then...so the next departments that we would be asking for feedback on would be Police and Public Works, those are the other departments. Okay. Okay, Members. So I was hoping that we would've been done by 5:15 and then we could take a 45 minute break to 6:00, but here we are at 5:25. So my thought is we can take a break to 6:15, and then we reconvene. I would like for us to approve the posting document for the RPT rates, and then we can meet with the Office of the Mayor at 6:30. I think we should be able to decide on something in that 15-minute...oh, I'm sorry. Okay. And a reminder from Staff to please check your emails. We did receive the salary information that Member Paltin requested, so mahalo to Budget Director Yoshimura for getting that information to us. Okay. And my apologies, I need to correct myself on the record. So the resolution would be the range of rates, so not the rates itself. So we just need to post the range for RPT rates and thresholds. So . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, the...I was going to ask about the...if it's the range. But did we...is that on Granicus already, the proposed range?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: You're...you're going to distribute it when we come back?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I was going to...I was going to share my screen. But I can also --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- distribute...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I...no, that's fine. I just wanted to make sure I didn't miss something.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Yeah. No, you didn't miss anything.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So I just made it as broad as, you know, we could so that there's enough leeway...below the what was proposed by the Mayor and then above what was proposed by the Mayor so that it would give us a nice range.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Awesome. Okay, Members. Oh. Member Sugimura, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. So I just want you to know that during the break, I'm going to drive home again. You anticipate a...a long evening going over the Mayor? Are you --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. So --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: OED is part of the Mayor's Office.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we have 20 questions that were submitted by the Members. And then we have about...okay...like, 20-ish proposal...priority proposals because we have...OED is part of the Mayor's Office, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: One more request before you continue. So do you think you

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could ask Staff to give us a accumulation of all of the adds or consensus that we have so we can know how much we...we are adding onto the Budget up to this point? Because we're at a break area.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'll...I'll talk to Staff about that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. Some of them...some of the proposals aren't done yet, even though there was consensus. Like Member Sinenci's 40,000 for the LiDAR is not a solid number. So it wouldn't be a solid number, it would be an estimate. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. For me, if...if they need to do it over the weekend or whatever, we can wait...for me, I can wait until Monday because, you know, they get dinner break too, eh? So they...if they don't have time to do it during their dinner break, then maybe it can be done, you know, over the weekend or whenever. So those numbers --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'm sorry, I...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: -- can be provided then.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I misunderstood the request. I didn't know Member Sugimura was asking for it today. Yeah. That...that's not possible. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I wasn't asking for it today. I just wanted to get a number of where we are --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- so we can gauge, you know, how much we're going to be needing to increase taxes or what are we talking about. So just so we have a...a guideline. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So we wouldn't necessarily, like I said yesterday, be raising taxes. We haven't gone through the Budget to make reductions if we plan to make reductions. So it wouldn't automatically be raising taxes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I understand. I just wanted a base. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Are you sending us the tax ranges, or it's on Granicus?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: When we get back, I will share my screen.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. You're welcome. Okay. Any other questions? Okay. So does that plan sound good? We'll return at 6:15, which is 45 minutes. And we'll take up the Office of the Mayor at 6:30, after we complete our discussion on the range of rates for posting purposes. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then perhaps the espresso and cream...cream would be a recommendation? Just, you know, just shoot it and then, like, you'll be ready. And like, we'll be able to, like, power through Office of the Mayor with OED. And then we'll have the weekend, and then you can recover so that when we get to Monday, you know, everyone will be rejuvenated. Okay. Member Paltin, you have a question?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You sure we should blow that load right now? Or should we wait until decisions week? Or should we get it...refills on our own? Because I'm a little nervous to take it and, like, need it later.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's true, Tamara.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I don't even know, like, my reaction.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Do you know what? All right. All right. Perhaps we can bust out our super stamina spray, and then you just kind of like shoot it on your face, and then it'll just like get you going. Okay? All right? So everyone --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We need to go...we need to go though, or otherwise we're going to have to extend our dinner break.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yuki Lei needs to drive all the way Upcountry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other questions or comments? I'm going to recess. We're going to reconvene at 6:15. Okay. Very good. It's 5:32 on April 9th, and the...am I missing something? Okay. What...one moment, Members. Okay, what? Okay. Okay. Before we break, Ms. Milner, you have something?

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair. Just to follow up on your announcement about checking your email. Members, if you don't respond to your email, we cannot leave those packets in your offices. So we need a response from you this evening if that's possible. So just wanted to flag that for you so you knew what we needed. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Milner. Oh. Member King.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: I still don't understand what she needs. What are you saying you need? I know the packet's in my office --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Permission. Permission.

MS. MILNER: So we already have permission from your office, Member King. So we're all set.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh. You needed permission to get into the office?

MS. MILNER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And mine too, right?

MS. MILNER: Yes --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You have mine too.

MS. MILNER: -- and yours, too.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh. Okay.

MS. MILNER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I didn't know that...what you were asking for. Okay. Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Already good. Look at that. So ahead. Okay. All right. 5:33, April 9th. And the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 5:33 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 6:25 p.m.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. It is 6:25 on April 9th. And we are first going to take up the range of rates resolution. And I will share my screen. Okay. Can everyone see that?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Very good. I can make it a little bigger too, if you would like. Okay. How's that? Is that okay, or do you need it bigger?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's okay, yeah. You're going to scroll down, right, later?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. So on Appendix B, page 10, you'll see the

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Mayor's proposed rates...RPT rates. And for this part of our rate determination process, we first post the range of rates. In the past, it used to be, like, \$1 to \$20 or something and it could be anywhere in between, but I think it makes more sense for it to be closer to what it'll actually end up being. So we'll...we'll start with the owner-occupied and tier 1. So the threshold...the proposal for the range for the threshold is a valuation of 600,000 to 800,000, at 1.66 to 2.61. And I guess I will ask if there are any objections to that. And if there are, please propose your...or make your proposal for what you would like the range to be. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Just a question. I just have a question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Is there...is the number...is the number of the Mayor's proposal on here? Or are we supposed to be looking in the book for that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's...it's on Appendix B, page 10.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: B.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And the proposal is for it to be up to 800,000, and the proposed rate is \$2.41. So it's 20 cents above. And it's \$1...\$1.20 below. So if you would like the range to be wider, just let me know and I can make that adjustment. And again, this is just the range. So if you're thinking about proposing something below \$1.66, then let me know, and I can make it less. If you're thinking about proposing something higher than \$2.61, then let me know, and I can make it higher. Member Johnson, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So...sorry. I just...just a process question. So in tier 1, we could lower that to 1.64, and then in, like, tier 3, we could push that up to...to cover that. Is that how...is that...is that how you can explain that process? Or do we got to do one at a time, one at a time?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. One more time?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So there's tiers, right? There's tier 1, 2, and 3. If --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If I were...so let's just say, for example, if I were to propose two cents off the tier 1, can I also simultaneously propose at tier 3 an increase in four? Or do I got to wait until we get past tier 1, get to tier 2? I...I...is that...it's just a process question is all.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So I...I was planning to take it up per classification...per tier, and then that way once we move forward, you know, we're not going back. So we just --

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are there any objections to, you know, this range and this threshold for the tier? And if not, then that's what's going to be posted. If you have an amendment to that, we can make that amendment. Not a problem.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh. I...okay. It was just a process question. That's all. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Normally, when you...we start with a range, it's a wide range because we, you know...obviously, we haven't discussed this. So I can't imagine somebody having a proposal today when we haven't gone through all the...the facts and information. So it's...today is really to establish a wide range so that we can work from that going forward, right?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So if you want it to be wider than that, let me know, and I can make that adjustment.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And my other question is, we're only taxed on...on the dwelling, not the land, right?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We've combined the two.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I thought...I thought we separated...I thought we separated it because that's what the Director was telling us we should do.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. In the last take, we combined them.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So the 600,000 is house and lot?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So what about the 500,000?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What...what...you want it to be 500,000 instead of 600,000?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, it's...well...well...okay. So the...it says up to 6 to 800,000.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So the...okay. I'm going to share my screen again. Okay. So tier 1, here, is just a threshold so that if we...last year, we posted what the Mayor had proposed, which was 800,000. We had a discussion during...during Budget Session about making a change, like what if we wanted to change that amount. Because we didn't post it with a threshold...so a range to the threshold, we were locked in at 800,000. So if we wanted to have gone less than 800,000, or more than 800,000, we couldn't. So if you would like to have flexibility to establish the threshold for the tier, then we have to establish a range for each of the tiers as well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. What was the last...what was last year's tier? What was the range?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 800...up to 8.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Up to 8.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There...there was no range. There...there wasn't a range to each tier. It was a fixed amount. So tier 1 for owner-occupied was fixed at 800,000...up to 800,000 --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- would be tier 1. 800...so for tier 2, it was 800,000 to 1.5 million. And then tier 3 was over 1.5 million. So if we would like to have flexibility within the tiers, then we would need to establish a range for those tiers --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for those tier thresholds.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That...that's fine. And the rates themselves, you have the...the present rate and the...as well as the range for considering a different rate.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So the current rate --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So everybody needs to know what the present rate is, yeah?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So it...when we post the range of rates resolution, the current rate isn't on that resolution.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I meant, like, for now. So as we were discussing...for discussion

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purposes. Because I...I can't...I haven't memorized all the different rates for all the different classifications, yeah?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So on Exhibit B...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What page is that on? What page is that on?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Page 10. Page 10 of Exhibit B.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So we're on the...this. You can also look on the synopsis.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Exhibit B shows the change --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm looking over...I'm looking on this. I'm looking on this.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So that's the ordinance and the appendices.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So when you get to Appendix B, you can go to page 10. And then --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I got it. I got it now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- if you're looking at the Ramseyer...if you're looking at the Ramseyer version, you'll see the change from current to proposed. Okay? Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. So I just wanted to clarify. So the proposal...the...the sheet that you're showing us means that we wouldn't be able to go any higher than 800,000 for that range. Are...because you...you have it --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- from 6 to 800...so that's what we're agreeing to. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Want...I wanted to understand that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So if you want it higher than 800,000, then you can let me know and I can make that adjustment. Okay. Mahalo, Member King. Member Paltin.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I think I'm okay with the rates. Just...I mean, to clarify that this is after the homeowner exemption. So if somebody's home was a \$1 million, and then they got the \$200,000 homeowner exemption, their value is 800,000, and they would qualify (*audio interference*).

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. That's correct.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And then the first 800,000 or...or whatever it...yeah, the first 800,000 would be charged at a certain rate, and above that would be the next higher rate, yeah?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's correct. So it's progressive tiers. So everyone that has a property in this classification would pay a tier 1 rate up to 800,000, or whatever we establish. And then if the valuation of the property is more than 800,000, then that excess would fall into the tier 2 rate. And for that portion of it, it would be taxed at the tier 2 rate. And then if it's a \$5 million valued property, then anything above 1.5 million...so...I don't want to do all that math...that...it would get, you know, taxed at the tier 3 rate. Okay? Any other questions? Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So last year it must've been 2...2.41?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Last year it was 2.51.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh. 2.51. Okay. So it...he dropped it down 10 cents and came up with more money?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: The highest tier of non-owner residential is 60 cents more, I believe.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, 60 cents more. So tier 3 of non-owner occupied, there's a proposed...the Mayor proposed increasing by 60 cents.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, but I...just the first category, 0 to 800,000. The estimated revenues from that point dropping at 10 cents on the rate per thousand increases the amount by 300-something thousand?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: We never had the certification yet.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Are...are you talking about the valuation? Are you talking about that center column?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I'm talking about the center column, right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay. Okay. So that's the valuation of the property. So

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they're estimating that the valuation of the...these properties that would fall into tier 1, under this classification would be about, yeah, like, \$300 million more. So I...I...I think for all of them, they're all...you know, the...the property values increase.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members. Any other questions? Okay. I will share my screen again. Any objections? Okay. All right. So the first classification is owner-occupied, tier 1 threshold up to 600,000 or 800,000. So it'll be between those. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No objection. Unless...I don't know --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- Kelly, did you want to go higher?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, no. I just thought...yeah...I mean, that was my first thought is, I...last time, we've gone, like, a little bit below...or a lot below and then a little bit higher. But you know, if everyone's okay with that, I'm okay with that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I think what's happening...Chair, maybe you can...I guess we would...can ask Finance when they get here. But what's happening, why...why the...the amounts, the valuations are higher because I think there's a lot...the properties increased, but I think there's more properties too.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any objections to this \$1.66 at the low end to \$2.61 at the high end? Any objection?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objection.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. No objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Except, I would ask you why did you --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No objection.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- pick \$1.66?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. I used the same numbers from last...last year's range of rates resolution.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. So the next tier is tier 2. And so it would be...so above 600,000 or, you know, like 800,000 to 1.5 million to 2.5 million. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I have a question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It's kind of confusing. Are you...is what you're saying is that the range would be 600,000 to the 2.5 million? Is that what basically what it is?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It...yeah...it could be. On the lowest end, it would be 600,000 if tier 1 is set at 600,000.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then high end, it would be 2.5 million if we decide to set tier 3 at 2.5 million.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. So can you just use those two numbers so it's not so confusing because it...when it says 6 to 800...I know it's kind of confusing for the public, I think, to see all those numbers.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So my...my understanding is we would need to have that threshold there so that we can set that tier to that way.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh. We can't just go low and high and then set it in between somewhere?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Because if we do it that way, it'll be fixed at that amount because that's what we posted the range to be.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So we're posting the range for the low end and the range for the high end? That's the way you've got it then.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yeah. Thank you, Member King. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Why are you going up a million dollars to 2.5?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: To give us flexibility if that's something that we would like to do.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I mean, that's quite a jump for somebody. I mean, you know, my house is just a regular old house, and we're assessed...because of the lack of inventory, we're assessed at, like, \$740,000, yeah?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You can imagine a little bit better house must be, like, at 900,000. But these are all artificial values because of the lack of inventory. So somebody could get really hurt by going from 800,000 all the way up to 2.5 million. If you're going to raise that second tier quite a bit, they can get pretty hurt on that.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I think if you raise...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Then let's not raise that second tier. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: If you raise the valuation high on the second tier, then they'll most likely pay less because, say somebody's house is worth 2.5 mil, it's going to be in the third tier, which is the most they would...I mean, second tier. But I have no objection with the range as it is. I probably wouldn't put it up to 2.5 in the decisions, but it's just a range. You know, if...if somebody's house is worth 2.5 million now, they qualify for the second tier, which is less taxes per thousand that they're paying. If their house...if we made the range to 1.5 and their home was 2.5 million, then they would be in the third tier because...so they would pay more taxes than if we set the second tier ceiling at 1.5. But I'm okay with all the ranges. I don't see myself needing to go outside of those.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Can you tell us what the range was last...last year?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There wasn't a range --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: 100,000 to 1 --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There wasn't a range. There wasn't a range to the thresholds. That's why this year, we're putting a range to give Council that flexibility to amend the range...to amend the thresholds to the tiers if that's something that we want to do. If we...if we put in on the range of rates the fixed amount that was proposed by the Mayor, then we are set at that amount, and we cannot make changes to it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. That...that's fine because we're just talking ranges. But maybe you could just tell us what it was before, you know. So we...as a --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One point --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- reference point.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So tier 1...tier 3 was one...above 1.5 million for all of them.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: For all of them?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. They were all at tier 1 up to 800,000; tier 2, 800,000 to 1.5 million; and tier 3, anything above 1.5 million.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So you're actually giving people in the 2 million and 2.5 million range a break then, right?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...yeah...I'm not giving anyone anything. I'm just setting a range to give the Council --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, no. But if...if you...if we pick that rate...you know, if we pick that 2.5, we're giving them a...the guys who have the...really, the \$2 million home, they're getting a break.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, I mean, we can...we can have an in-depth discussion on that when we get there.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For now, we're just setting a...a range.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I...I just wanted to make a quick comment. If you look on...if you look on Exhibit B, and you look at the thresholds that are on there, those have not been changed on the Mayor's Budget. So that's what it was last year. So last year, the thresholds are the same as they are on...on...until you get to commercial. Then he's got changes in the thresholds. So that'll show you what it was last year, if you're looking at the Ramseyer format.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The...what's Ramseyered is the second and third columns, right? Not the first column.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because he didn't change...because it didn't change from...that...that's...it didn't change from last year, so it shows...I'm just saying, it shows you what it was last year. You're asking what the thresholds were last year. That's what's on this Ramseyer format. Anything in black is the same this year as it

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was last year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But we have to remember that, right...for now, he's changing it to 2.5.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, she's just giving us the range...she's not changing --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- she's...she's just saying --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, no. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: -- that...yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm giving Council flexibility if you folks want to.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, no. I understand that part. I understand that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you don't want flexibility, we don't have to give ourselves flexibility.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no. I --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Or we could change it to 2 million and not 2.5, if you want.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, no. I'm not...I'm not trying to debate the merits in...or demerits of what number. I'm just saying that, if you look at the left column, it...it doesn't reflect what's on the screen. That's all I'm saying.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, because the resolution is the range. So we're posting the range, and not the current.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you want me to share my screen with the Mayor's propose...proposal? Would that be helpful?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We don't need it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I...I think so. I'm not saying that it's true, but I think some...some of the members might be not following quite in step because those of us who were on the TIG went through this in depth. So I'm just speaking on behalf of the quiet ones, okay?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, quiet ones. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm not that quiet, but okay. Real...real quick, I...what if I wanted...what if I wanted to propose...how do we raise taxes on homes over \$4 million? Is that doable in this system?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So this is for owner-occupied. And if you would like to make the threshold 4 million so that tier 3 would end up being anything above 4 million, then we would have to change the 2.5 to 4. Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to because we're capping ourselves at 2.5.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson, do you want to make it 4?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, not yet. I'm just understanding the process. I...I'm...I'm going to mull it over here. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Because whatever we post cannot --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Then yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- be changed. Okay. So now we're giving ourselves lots of flexibility with it being 4. Okay. Member Paltin, followed by Member...oh, actually, I'm going to go to Member Sinenci first because he hasn't spoken, Member Paltin. And then I'll go to you, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair, for my opportunity. So it looks like the question up to 2.5 million and beyond. Correct?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That's got some...so then we've got some --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So tier --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- homes that are up.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So tier 3 would be 4 million...properties valued at 4 million and up would...would be assessed the tier 3 rate. And then whatever we set at tier 1 to tier 3...so the threshold that we set at tier 1 and tier 3, would all fall in be...in tier 2.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So it's --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So if it's 800,000, then from 800,000 to 4 million would be assessed at tier 2.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. I...I was just saying I've seen some MLSs at 20 million and up...or for some...you know, the...I mean, just to put into perspective that we got some homes that are in those types of ranges too. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. So all of those 20 million, you know, 5 million, 15 million would be assessed in tier 3, whether it's 1.5, 2.5, or 4 million.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Well, I...I just was...wanted to add for Member Johnson because he wasn't here when we did the tiered setup. The software that we got would only allow for three tiers. So if you set it at 1.5, or if you set it at 4 for the highest tier, we're only allowed three tiers. And if the...it takes to \$4 million to be in the highest tier, then everything above \$4 million. But if you set the highest tier at 1.5, then everything above 1.5. But we didn't get the software that would allow for more than three tiers, and then we had to combine the land and building rate because otherwise it would cost more for the...all those different categories, right?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. And the building and the land were generally the same rate...were always the same rate --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: All the same.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- on...for the past --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- decade.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So that's just, like, a software function. It's not anything else. That's the specifications and limitations of the software we got to tier things.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. And so we can tier up to three tiers, or we can have it all be the same rate. So that...that's also possible. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I'd...we had an advantage before because with Marcy Martin with us, whenever we had a question, she was right there and she would tell us how many homes are in...are in this category, how many are in this category, how many in this category. Then...then we had a real clear picture of how the...the tiers should break down. Just giving them background. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. And so while we don't have the number of properties, what we see in the center column is the estimated valuation. And so if you multiply that valuation by the rate, then that's approximately how much you would get in RPT revenue. Okay. Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I have a question. So --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Just not sure if you saw me. So I'm wondering how you chose 2.5 million, and did we have Marcy Martin...I was going to ask if she's going to be here in the conversation, but I guess not.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. No. No, Ms. Martin is not going to be here. So we are just posting a range. We are not setting it at 2.5, it is just to give Council flexibility. And if Council does not want flexibility, we do not have to post a range.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Right. I heard you say that. Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So we don't have them with us, unfortunately.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, we don't have them with us.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I think we can do this on our own. I think we'll put our big girls' and boys' pants on and we can do this ourselves. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So to...one more question. Because I came in when you already had it posted on...do you have...I...I looked in Granicus, you don't have it in Granicus.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, it's not on Granicus. It is on my screen.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Can you share it with us so I can print it and look at it --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- what you're doing? Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Ms. Milner, will you please send the proposed range of rates to the Members? And so it won't have the amendments that we're making. It'll...I'm making them on the screen. So that's what we're doing right now. Okay. I will share. Oh, yes? Okay. So here we are, owner-occupied classification up to 800,000. The current rate is \$2.51 per thousand. The Mayor's proposed rate is \$2.41 per thousand. All right. And for our range, owner-occupied, tier 1, 600,000 to 800,000 is the range for the threshold, \$1.66 to \$2.61 is the range for the rate. Are there any objections to tier 1?

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Mahalo, Members. Okay. Tier 2. 600,000 to 800,000 at the lower end, to 1.5 million to 2.5 million at the highest end is the threshold. The...the range for the rate is \$1.66 to \$2.90. Any objection?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objection.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Members. Okay. Mahalo. Tier 3. The range for the threshold is 1.5 million to 2.5 million, and we had a request to make the higher end to 4 million. Any objections to 4 million?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So if you...if we're talking about changing tier 3 to 4 million, then that would change tier 2 to go up to 4 million, right?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. If we make that change to tier 3, then we'll make the corresponding change to tier 2.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So I...I don't support that. I...I think we should leave it at 2.5.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Anyone else --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Because what happens when...if we...if we go up to 4 million, then we...then all of the houses between 1.5 and 4 million go back into the second tier. So that's a lot of lost revenue.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Anyone else wishing to speak to the proposal? And again, it's...we're not setting it. It's just a range. Member Paltin, followed by Member Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: To me, it wouldn't (*audio interference*) to keep the rate as it is. I wouldn't mind to change the dollar amount on the highest tier, but maybe we're not there yet.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I appreciate that concern. It's a valid...valid concerns that you...by raising it up, you are kind of giving the people who have a \$2 million house a break. I simply went through...you know, did some research on the home values right now, and there are plantation homes that are valued at 2 million. They might have a big lot, but that's kind of insane to me. But once you get

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into...past 2 million, you're getting the pools, you're getting the...you know, the...the more luxurious homes. So that's kind of the...the thinking I was going through, Members. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Okay. So for the range of the tier 3 threshold, we will leave it at 1.5 to 2.5. Now we're on the rates to...the range of rates for tier 3, \$1.66 to \$3.95. And I heard Member Paltin propose something higher. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: For...for flexibility, I propose 4.50.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 4.50.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Flexibility-wise, I would propose --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members, any objection to 4.50 as the highest end for flexibility in proposing the range? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Could we make it on the same comparable level as a non-owner-occupied, which my...according to these is 5.45? Just bring it up to what it would be considered a non-occupied one.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...okay. Let's...okay. So you're proposing higher than 4.50 to 5.45.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Because if the non...non-owner occupied homes that are under 800,000 are paying that bill, I think those guys over in tier 3 could pay that bill.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee, followed by Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I support Member Paltin's suggestion. My fear is that we're...we're allowing...giving people reason to appeal when the owner-occupied rate is the same as the non-owner-occupied rate. So I...I just worry about those kinds of things.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I agree with Chair Lee, and also because the owner-occupied are people that live here full time so, you know, we want to take care of our...our local residents, even if they do have a \$4 million home. They still own...there's still a difference between a...you know, a resident and a non-resident.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member King. Member Molina

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, I...I support Member Paltin's proposal.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any objection to making the higher end 4.50?

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All support. So we'll make that change. Okay. Okay. I'm going to move the next classification. And I think this should go a little quicker now, now that we've gotten warmed up. All right. Non-owner-occupied, tier 1, threshold is proposed to be the same. Any objection? Okay. I'm seeing none, no objections. Okay. The range for the rates for tier 1, non-owner-occupied is, at the low end, \$4.40 and at the high end, \$6.60. Any objection? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objection.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'm so sorry. I was wondering for non-owner-occupied if we can raise the range to 1 million on the high end? And my...if...would you like me to say my reasoning why?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Like someone said, like, plantation houses can go for a million dollars and the low end of the non-owner-occupied are the ones that a lot of people have for long-term rentals. And I think, as of yet, they don't qualify for some kind of exemption, like the homeowner exemption where it takes 200 grand off the top. So during these times, I wouldn't like to raise taxes on second homes that are used as long-term rentals because, you know, we...we...we put in more money for rental assistance programs. This...this would be the type of thing that I think owners would pass on to their renters. And with so many people out of work, I'd just like to have a little bit more flexibility in the range if we decide we need it at the...when the time comes. It's not that I'm advocating for 1 million, but I think it would be nice to have that flexibility when the time comes, if we should need it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. Members, any objection to making the high end of the threshold 1 million? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. So you mentioned...so if...if we're raising tier 1, we also have to raise the other ones as well?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We will --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The other (*audio interference*).

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No...well...so for...okay. For tier 1, if we change the 800,000 here to 1 million, then we would make the corresponding change here to 1,000,001. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Any objection --

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to...to the high end of the threshold to 1 million?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. I'm seeing no objections, so I will make that change. Okay. Back to the range of rates for tier 1, any objections? Okay. I'm not hearing any objections. We're going to go to tier 2. Tier 2, 600,000 to 1 million to 1.5 to 2.5. Any objection? Okay. Hearing none, we'll go to the range of rates, 4.60 at the low end, 7.20 at the high end for tier 2. Any objection? Okay. Hearing none, we'll go to tier 3. Threshold more than 1.5 million or more than 2.5 million. Any objection? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Here I'm...I'm reading that as \$10, yeah? Because on my...on mine, it says 7.50. And I reading that wrong?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Keani, he's talking about tier 3.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, if I can...I like what you wrote on your screen. On my...on my paper, it still only says up to 7.50 proposed by the Mayor. So I'm fine with what you have.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: This is what is proposed by the Mayor. So non-owner-occupied, tier 3, which would be above 1.5 million, the current rate is 6.90. The proposed rate is 7.50. So that's what the Mayor proposed. So is...is that the 7.50 that you're talking about?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am. So that's why I...I like what you had on your screen better. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. So we're...we're doing the range. So...okay. So I think there was no objection to the threshold. The range of rates is 5.50 to \$10. Any objections? Okay. Seeing none. For apartment classification, the current tax rate is \$5.55 and the proposal from the Mayor is \$5.55. For the range of rates resolution, apartment, \$5 at the low end, \$7.45 at the high end. Any objection? Okay. Hearing none. Next classification, hotel and resort, the current rate is \$10.70, and the Mayor's proposed rate is \$10.70. For the range of rates, hotel and resort, at the low end \$9.37, at the high end, \$16.41. Any objection? Okay. Hearing none. Okay. Mahalo, Members. The next classification is timeshare. The current rate is \$14.40. The Mayor's proposing \$14.40. For the range, timeshare, at the low end \$14.40, at the high end \$16.41. Any objection? Okay. Seeing none. Short-term rental, tier 1, 800,000. The current rate is \$8...sorry...\$11.08, the Mayor's proposal is \$10.70. Tier 2 is 800,001 to 1.5 million. The current rate is \$11.08, the Mayor's proposal is \$10.85. And tier 3 is one point...anything above 1.5 million. The current rate is \$11.08, the Mayor's proposal is \$11. And for the range of rates, short-term rental, tier 1, same thing, a range from

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600,000 to 800,000. Any objection?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Are you sharing your screen?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I...I'm just refreshing my Granicus because they said it's on line 51 in Granicus. I'm not...I'm not ready to say yes or no yet.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Can you see my screen?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I don't see it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's not showing on channel --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's not there.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, nothing on the screen.

MS. MILNER: Chair, would you like me to share my screen?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, please. Thank you. Okay. While we're waiting...okay. Tier 1 is the same proposal, which is 600,000 to 800,000. Any objection?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You're asking objection to the range?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. No objection to the range.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I...I have a question, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just wanted to ...just recall, last year, we didn't make these tiers, isn't that right? That's why they were all 11-0...they were all the same rate, 11.08. Because we didn't...we didn't make tiers last year in this category; is that correct?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We...we did make tiers. We made them all the same rate.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So we...it used to be one rate? Because I remember people testifying against the tiers and then we made them all the same rate and then they weren't happy with that rate anyway. So this looks like what the Mayor did was try to change the rates for each tier.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: All right.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. I heard no objection to the range of rates for tier 1...sorry, the range of threshold to tier 1. The range of rates, at the low end, \$8.28, at the high end, \$16.41. Any objection? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So I think I was the one who proposed one rate for short-term rental last year. And the reason that I did that and the reason I would like to do it again is when you look at workforce housing, 800,000 is what some developments consider affordable --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, for now, can...can we just decide on the...the range? I...I understand --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- what you're saying, but if we can --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- just set the range.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I thought we were on rate now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So if we can just set the range to the rates.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh. I would set the lowest tier to 11.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Members, any objection to making the lowest tier 11?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I...Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I would propose that lowest tier start off at 10, rather than 11. It's still below what the Mayor proposed.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll call on each of you and you can let me know whether you want 10 or 11 at the low...of...for the lowest rate. Member Molina, 10 or 11?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Let's stay with 11.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Johnson, 10 or 11?

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 11, please.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I get...I'll start at 10.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 10. 10.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura? I...I'm sorry, Member Sugimura, you're on mute.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: 10, please.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So...and I...I'll...I'll vote for 11. So we have eight of us, and it's a...it's a tie, four-four. But for the sake of flexibility, I will go with 10, so we'll change that to 10. Okay. Okay. And no objection to the 16.41 at the high end? Okay. The next tier 2 threshold 600,000 to 800,000 to 1.5 million to 2.5 million. Any objection? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing none. Mahalo, Members. We'll go to the range of rates for tier 2. \$11 on the low end and \$16.41 at the high end. Any objection?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objection.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. For tier 3, more than 1.5 or 2.5 million. Any objection to the range of threshold for tier 3?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can we put the 11 to the 12?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. We're not there yet. We're on the threshold.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. Now...so if there's no objection, we're going to leave it there. Now for tier 3, range of rates, Member Johnson proposed at the low end, 12. Members, any objection?

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I object. I...we want flexibility, but you had...leave it like that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I agree. Leave it at 11.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. 11.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. We'll leave it at 11 and 16.41 on the high end. Any objection?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objection.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. I have no objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Okay. All right. For the agricultural rate...I don't know why my screen isn't sharing now. Sorry. Ms. Milner, will you please share the Mayor's proposal? So for the agricultural rate, the current rate is at 5.94, and the Mayor is proposing 5.94. And I'm just going to try to do two at a time. Conservation, the current rate is 6.43, and the Mayor is proposing to keep it the same. And...okay. So for the range of rates for agricultural, on the low end, it's 4...\$4.66 and on the high end, \$5.94. Any objection to that range of rates for ag? Seeing no objections. For conservation, the range on the low end is \$4.80 and on the high end, \$6.43. Any objection to that range?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objection.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Okay, and for commercial, the current rate is \$6.29 and the Mayor is proposing to keep it at \$6.29. For the range, at the low end, \$5.60 and the high end, \$7.29. Any objection? Okay. Seeing none. We're almost there. For industrial, the Mayor proposed \$7...I'm sorry...the current rate is \$7.20, the Mayor proposed keeping it at \$7.20. For the range, industrial classification at the low end, \$7.00, at the high end, \$7.48. Any objection? Okay. Seeing no objection. The last classification is commercialized residential. The current rate is \$4.40, and the Mayor proposed to keep it at \$4.40. For the range it's, at the low end, \$3.35, and at the high end, \$4.60. Any objection? Okay. Seeing none. We have concluded our range of rates resolution that will be posted on Monday. Mahalo, Members. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, that was easy.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Nothing to it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Only took us an hour longer than we wanted to.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Here we go. We have the Mayor's Office with us.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Are we going to do his in tiers?

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Maybe this kind of tears. Okay. Okay. All right. I don't know. I don't know if I can do it. All right. We have...aw, shucks...my box is covering...okay. I...I'm...I see Director Joann Inamasu, and I'm guessing Chief of Staff is there as well, but I...I...my box is covering a portion of your square, so I can't see everyone there.

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

MR. MIYAKE: No, I...I...I'm here, Madam Chair, and Budget Director.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: It...thank you. It looks like we also have Alex de Roode from the climate change office. I thought I saw Makale'a earlier.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Makale'a Ane.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief of Staff...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, Makale'a is here too.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I can...all right. Chief of Staff Miyake, if you would like to introduce all of your team that is on...who are on.

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you. Good evening, Madam Chair and Committee Members. Here with me this evening from our office is Budget Director Michele Yoshimura, OED Director Joann Inamasu, and joining us on BlueJeans is Makale'a Ane and Alex de Roode from the Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency Sections. In light of the pandemic, our Budget Office worked closely with all the Department heads to identify and preserve all essential services with minimum impact to the community. We look forward to the discussions this evening, and we'll be available to answer any questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Miyake. We'll dive right into the submitted questions, starting with question one, overall budget. If Council were to ask for 11 percent cut in programs and activities funded by the General Fund to fully fund recommendations proposed in the draft comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan at \$57 million without increasing real property tax revenue, A, what programs or activities would you cut; and B, what impacts would the cuts have on residents?

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MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Chair. We have presented a balanced budget with the necessary modifications needed to operate and do not have any recommendations for reductions at this time. Any cuts primarily to the grants administered by Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency and the Office of Economic Development will impact the community and residents of Maui County.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. The next set of questions are regarding operations. Question one, proposed services for the Office of Administration Program are up 971.3 percent from \$157,000 to \$1,682,000. What services are being proposed for FY'22, were these services previously included under a different sub-object code description, or are these new services?

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Chair. The Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency Division was recently moved into the Office of the Mayor at the Mayor's Administration Program. This in...this increase includes the programs associated with that division.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question two, relating to sub-object code 6132, professional services, were vendors selected? If not, what happens...what is the proposed procurement process to select them?

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Chair. I'll defer to Alex or Makale'a to respond.

MR. DE ROODE: Thank you, Chief of Staff. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Members.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. DE ROODE: I can...I can field this one. So for this sub-object code...index and sub-object code, this is professional services for the funding for Climate Action Plan and Maui County Resiliency Strategy. These funds are intended to be used for implementation of climate action items and resiliency strategies that are...that will be identified in the Climate Action Plan and Resilient Strategy. And therefore, we have not yet selected the service providers that would...that would help with these services. We intend to go forward with an RFP in Fiscal Year '22 to contract for implementation of identified actions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. De Roode. Question three, is it possible for items purchased under miscellaneous other costs to be covered under any of the office's other sub-object code description? Please explain.

MS. INAMASU: Hi. Good evening, everybody. This funding allows us, meaning OED, some flexibility and the ability to respond immediately to unforeseen needs. This also allows OED to assist when other programs...program funds, such as small business promotion, culture and the arts, ag promotions are not readily available. And this is when we try to...we use that to react to that.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Inamasu. Question four, because the global pandemic is ongoing, please explain the proposed increase in travel expenses. Are there

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virtual options to offset some of the travel monies being proposed?

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Chair. The transitional shift to include Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency Division into the Office of the Mayor increased the travel budget.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chief of Staff. Question five, relating to the appropriation for budget software training and implementation, what portion of the amount is allocated for staff training? Is any funding being allocated to the vendor for on-site training? How much is it for the software license?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, thank you. So we are currently undergoing implementation of the budget module. We have some training going on now, but our implementation will probably be July 1. So we don't have the exact cost yet of how much it would cost for training. We intend to bring in somebody to do on-site training for all of our departments since we will be shifting to a new system. And the software license is about \$10,000 per year.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Question six, why was the grant to eradicate Miconia, other invasive species decreased by 20 percent from 500,000 to 400,000?

MS. ANE: So this line item was considered for reduction because of the timing that this current fiscal year's grant was executed, as well as the addition of the feral animal control funding that was added to DHHC. So this would allow for the other invasive species to also access that funding in DHHC as well.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ane. Question seven, how will the Central Square budget module be used? How will supplement IFAS and OneSolution?

MS. YOSHIMURA: The budget module is part of the Central Square system. IFAS became OneSolution and is now run by Central Square. So they're all like the same system. But this system will allow us to...to...to produce our budget without having to do multiple other spreadsheets. So it'll be a direct input into the financial systems, rather than us trying to do Excel worksheets, as well as Word documents. And thank you, Chair, for the funding this year to pick up the software module. And hopefully, next year, we'll have it all implemented and you'll see a more transparent system. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Question eight, please confirm the State's appropriation in excess of seven...\$75 million to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Is the county expected to receive a portion of that funding? If no, please indicate why.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair, for that. This is Budget Bill HB 200, HD1, SD1. As of April 5th, this is still pending. HTA continues to monitor this bill. Therefore, funding to the County is still uncertain at this time.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Inamasu. Question nine, please provide information on the proposed professional services for indigenous and nature-based solutions to climate change.

MS. ANE: So this funding is under the \$1 million for Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency projects that was in the Department of Finance. These are to compliment the BMPs identified in the Department...the County Department's vulnerability assessments. And the Budget details that were provided to highlight that the indigenous peoples are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change due to their dependency upon and close relationship with the environment and its resources. Climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by indigenous communities, including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination, and unemployment. But indigenous people traditionally aren't included in these decisions, and the...and the roles they play to...to create solutions for climate change aren't really included in policies and climate...climate change solutions. So we really wanted to make sure that within this broader \$1 million for climate change solutions, that we really included indigenous people and indigenous solutions to climate change, as well as nature-based solutions. So we didn't put, like...we didn't say, oh, we're going to grant 200,000 for indigenous solutions to climate change, we really just wanted to highlight the fact that indigenous knowledge plays an important role in all of these solutions and so that, when we do release RFPs, that this is a central point, to include the impacts to vulnerable populations, as well as nature-based and indigenous solutions to climate change. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ane. Okay. Question ten, does the County anticipate additional Federal funds to assist with rent, mortgages, and mediation services when the eviction moratorium ends? If yes, how much is anticipated?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, the County just received \$40 million for emergency rental assistance and utility assistance, and that program will kick off in about ten days or so. As indicated by the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, they participate in statewide discussions for future funding that may be available through HUD or to some Federal agencies. So at this time, we don't anticipate any...well, I shouldn't say we don't anticipate, but we don't have anything anticipated in the next few months, other than what we've gotten on that \$40 million. But we are monitoring it and we are...we do have a seat at the table if (*audio interference*) available.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. Question 11, please identify the additional boards and commissions planned to be broadcast by *Akakū*.

MR. DE ROODE: Thank you, Chair. The goal is to cover all boards and commissions meetings of *Akakū*. Since the meetings are now being held virtually via Blue Jeans, the meetings are being recorded and sent to *Akakū* for public viewing. The additional funds would also allow for formatting and linking of the meeting.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief of Staff. Question 12, what entities are being

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contracted to support renewable energy projects, conduct greenhouse gas inventory updates, and implementation of resiliency strategy?

MR. DE ROODE: These entities are, again, not currently identified. This will be for work to be done in FY'22 to continue to up...update our greenhouse gas inventory, both for County operations and community scale, GHGs, as well as implement other measures, such as energy audits or renewable energy assessments. So at the...at that time, we will use an RFP process to select contractors and vendors.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. De Roode. Question 13, regarding the future Upcountry Maui Ag Park, what will the current initial planning phase consist of? When do you anticipate funding will be needed for the development of the park, and at what amounts?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. The funds right now are used for the Upcountry Maui Agriculture Park will be intended for planning, design and construction of improvements, along with the relocation of existing booster pumps. As far as additional funding, we will look at that as far as any other expenses that may arise, and possibly come forward on...in Fiscal Year 2023 for additional expenses, but amount to be determined at this point. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Inamasu. Okay. The next set of questions are regarding county grants. Question one, relating to grants and disbursements for business development and technology, A, how will County funds be spent to support small businesses equitably?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you. Historically, the majority of the funds have been utilized to support grants through our office. In the evaluation of a grant application and/or new programs, the economic benefit and impact to the community and the County is reviewed. Funds were also used to support the Kama'āina First Program that was established in June of 2020 to help small businesses throughout Maui County. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director Inamasu. B, what is the Council for Native Hawaiians' role as it relates to the Popup Mākeke program?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. I will make one correction, and this is also within the Budget itself. The agency is Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, CNHA. So I just want to make that correction. And I will...I know I'm probably going to come across it later again, but I just wanted the share that the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement is the creator of Popup Mākeke. And the event was established in April of 2020 in response to the cancellation of the Merry Monarch, and in support of all of the vendors that lost the opportunity to sell their goods at the event. It is another means of supporting small business. Thank you, Chair.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Budget Director.

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MS. YOSHIMURA: Sorry. So on page 13 of the proposed Budget bill, we will have to change the name for...from Council for Native Hawaiians to Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. And we'll include that in our response to the Committee. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. And just a quick add-in. So they're the creator and the operator of the Popup Mākeke Program. Okay. Question 1C, how many Maui County businesses participated in the Popup Mākeke Program? How was funding allocated for shipping, entertainment, et cetera? What was the source of funding in FY'21? Were CARES Act funds used?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. Maui County businesses that participated, a total of 33. As far as shipping, entertainment, and all of those additional factors, those were all taken care of by CNHA. The vendors, as far as shipping, whether it be to CNHA or out to the consumer, all of that was taken care of by a sponsorship as...and this past year was Hawaiian Airlines that took care of all of that. So there was no cost incurred. Thank you. As far as the source of funding, the...when we did that the end of last year, it was CARES Act funding that we utilized to do the support for small business. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. 1D, each Council district except for Pukalani, Kula, Ulupalakua was appropriated \$140,000 in FY'21 Budget, but the appropriations in the FY'22 program Budget show differing amounts. Please explain the discrepancy.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you, Chair. The amounts vary because the provisos/line items have been accounted for separately. So if it's...it was related to agriculture, it was listed under agriculture and taken out of the district funds. The proposed amounts for Fiscal Year '22 reflect the full amount of 140,000 for the district funds prior to the inclusion of provisos by the Council. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. 1E, why was the technology business promotion grant increased to \$600,000, and what types of programs do you anticipate being funded?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. The increase would allow OED the ability to support different opportunities in high-tech, whether it be in the various sectors of agriculture, education, and workforce training and other...other lines of projects that we may come across and...and seek out. Hope that makes sense. Thank you very much, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. 1F, relating to a \$200,000 grant for sports and events, please explain the types of programs and events this funding will be used for. How did this new grant come to fruition?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. This line item, this is not something new in OED. This line item previously existed here in our office to support these sectors. This

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is an opportunity to diversify our economy in anticipation of larger gatherings. There is opportunity for utilization of our venues for hosting state, regional, and national tournaments here on Maui, the ability to explore opportunities in health and wellness. Ecotourism and edutourism events are other niche markets that we can look into. All organized...all of these would be organized with health and safety in mind as it relates to COVID-19. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question two, relating to grants and disbursements for culture, arts, and tourism: A, please provide examples of the types of programs to be funded by the culture and arts program grant. Please explain why this funding is important.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. Currently, there were a couple of grants that were funded through this funding stream, through this item, and it was the Maui Academy of Performing Arts. They had a theater, it's called...carport theater was a program that they did, and also through partial funding for the Pacific Whale Foundation Paddle for Life, they had an element in there on teaching Hawaiian culture to the paddlers and to the other people there participating. This funding supports arts, cultural programs, along with cultural and arts educational programs, and that's how it's utilized. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. 2B, please provide a master plan for capital improvements for the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, the MACC, please explain what the proposed \$318,000 in funding will be used for. Please provide information and costs associated with the MACC's education and innovative programs in FY'21 and cost savings achieved due to COVID impacts.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. For both the CIP, the capital improvements, and as well as the education and innovative programs, I will be providing you some information in writing on those two items. With regards to the proposed 318,000 in funding, the MACC will continue to provide community support by providing services to students, seniors, families in need, along with local artists and performers. Opportunities may be delivered virtually until County, State guidelines allow for in-person events. And I know that Art Vento from the MACC testified this morning, so I think he shared some of the answers to this, but as I said, those two items on this question, I will provide information in writing. Thank you very much, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. For question three, there are four parts, and I'll read them together: A, what is the Maui County Visitors Association, MVA, and how are they associated with the Maui Visitors Bureau, MVB? How was the \$200,000 grant to educate visitors on cultural and environmental impacts and emergency disaster preparedness as appropriated in FY'21 used? B, please provide a copy of MVB's program explaining how the proposed \$1.3 million in grant funding will be used. C, please provide information on the number of employees, position descriptions, and director salaries for the MVB. And D, how did MVB spend \$800,000 in County funding in FY'21 to date?

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MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. With regards to item A, the matter of how is the Maui County Visitors Association tied with the Maui Visitors Bureau. MVB, the Maui Visitors Bureau is the d/b/a of Maui County Visitors Association. And the 200,000 that was in question was to support the Wai'anapanapa reservation system, the Mālama pledge rack cards, and the Mālama pledge video. There are also other projects that are being finalized at this time. Item number B, which is the budget, I will provide that to you in writing so you'll have that to evaluate. Item C, with regards to the employees that they have there, due to COVID, back in October 2020, they reduced their staff to five individuals from ten. They took it down from ten, then that was due to COVID and the decrease in HTA's budget. Current positions that they have with MVB is the Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, Senior Operations Manager, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, and the Director of Sales. Let's see. As far as the salaries, all of that is administered by HVCB, which is their parent company, and not part of the County grant. Item number D, I was unsure where the \$800,000 figure came from when I looked at the Budget, but I just wanted to share with you because what I saw on that page when I looked at, it was 1.3 million plus the 200, which is 1.5. So what I wanted to provide to you is at least a significant item that came out of the Budget, and I shared that with you during my overview, it would be the Maui Jim Maui Invitational at 395,000; the Sentry Tournament of Champions at 150,000. They also do some meeting and conventions and incentive meetings and more educational sessions at 105,000; social media to keep us visible at 83,000; and online marketing to...part of the promotion of the Maui County Mālama pledge is included, so that marketing is at 84,000. And you'll also see that in the Budget that I submit to you in writing. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Question four relating to grants and disbursements for agriculture promotion: A, how will the \$135,000 increase for the agricultural industry be used? (i) Will the expansion request for supporting agricultural industry implement the strategic plan alignment created in FY'21? Who will be responsible for the implementation?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much. I'm sorry, were you going to do B, or just A right now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I can do B too, if you think...if you'd like to answer them together. B, which Lāna'i programs were supported by the Moloka'i and Lāna'i agriculture production grant, and how much in grant funding was provided to each?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. For the first one, with regards to the increase for the agriculture industry, this will provide OED the opportunity to support additional agriculture programs...excuse me, projects and/or grants. We did see a heightened amount, and we expect a little bit more coming through in support of agricultural, and there's a lot on testimony this morning too. With the...the strategic plan alignment, the FY'21 County funds have supported farming and sustainable agriculture. These efforts were also supplemented by CARES Act funds. Responsibility in this partnership will be between the County and the agriculture industries, so different stakeholders. With regards to the Lāna'i program, Item B, there was one grant that was given to Lāna'i Aquaponics LLC, also as Kumu Ola Farm, and that was in the tune of \$26,319. That

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was the only one funded on Lānaʻi.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. 4C, funding for the MEO agricultural Microgrants Program has been significantly cut back in FY'22. Will Federal funding be able to ensure the continuation of the Microgrants Program? In the latest version of the Federal relief package, are there other grants that can assist the farming and ranching communities?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you, Chair. We are still awaiting with regards to additional funds for the Microgrant Program for agriculture...we are still awaiting clarification on the allowable use of American Rescue Plan funds. Once we get that clarified, that may help us as well. We have been in contact with other Federal agencies on possible grant funding. They too are awaiting clarification, and we will continue to research. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. And D, will the new poi taro farming program support farmers that grow crops other than taro? Is the Hawai'i taro farm grant replacing an existing grant? If yes, please identify the grant that is being replaced. Please identify the partners in the new agricultural partnership. Will this partnership include other islands?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. As far as if they only grow taro...excuse me, grow crops other than taro? Yes, they do, not only taro. Is the taro farm grant replacing existing grants? No, it is not. Identify the partners in this new agricultural partnership. This will be a public/private partnership to perpetuate diversity...diversified agriculture and support farmers. And with regards to other islands, at this time, no.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. And the last of the submitted questions is regarding special purpose revenues. The Council is in the process of updating the West Maui Community Plan. The Department of Finance and the Department of Parks and Recreation have been in discussion with Maui Land and Pineapple Company about the 50-acre park, a condition of the Pulelehua change in zoning. This was a priority condition from FY'19. Are monies being allocated towards the land purchase at the agricultural real property tax classification?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Thank you, Chair. I think when Director Teruya was here the other day, he had indicated that his Department...or his real property manager has been working on this with Maui Land and Pine, and he does not include any funding in the open space fund for any parcel. But we are working with them to identify the site, and then we can do an appraisal. And if that moves forward, then we will come in with a Budget Amendment or, if we get anything before you guys hold the Budget, then we can put that proposal forward, but we are currently working on it. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. And that concludes that portion of our process. It's 7:58, Members. Let's take a ten-ish minute recess, yeah? And then when we come back, we'll open up the floor to the Members to ask their questions. All right. So we'll be back at 8:10. Any objections to that? Okay. Great. It's 7:58 on April

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9th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now in recess.  
...*(gavel)*...

**RECESS: 7:58 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 8:11 p.m.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: ...*(gavel)*... Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee return to order. It is 8:00 p.m. on April 9th. And next portion of our process is stretches. DJ Pajimola, you ready?

MS. PAJIMOLA: Ready.

*(music playing and stretching)*

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yay. Mahalo, DJ Pajimola. Now everyone's happy. Okay, we'll go to the subject matter Committee Chair first, followed by the Committee Vice-Chair, and then we'll go to Member Sinenci. Okay. Member Molina, are you ready?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you very much for that music. I feel all stretched out and warmed up for a long night all the way up to midnight, I think, maybe, yeah. That's okay. We have Saturday. But anyway...good evening, Mr. Miyake, and Ms. Ane, and Ms. Inamasu and Ms. Yoshimura. Hopefully I don't have to say good early morning, like 1:00 a.m. or 2:00 a.m. But anyway, just on the Program Budget number...page 374 under goals and measures, looking down where it says mayoral appointee successfully confirmed by the Maui County Council. You have the numbers 100 percent, and you know, I do chair the committee that, you know, approves or disapproves nominees of the Mayor's, and you have 100 percent. Can you explain that to me? Because I know we've had some rejections. So if you could kind of...maybe I'm reading this thing wrong, but it says here, number of mayoral appointees confirmed by the Council for FY'21 was 35, and then number of mayoral appointees successfully confirmed by the Maui County Council, 100 percent. And then for 2022, you have 45, and then 100 percent. So can you explain how that 100 percent...or what it means? Because I know we've had some rejections.

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you, Member Molina. Yes, that was our estimated goal, to get 100 percent of our appointees confirmed by the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. So it's just a broad...just a goal and not the actual...

MR. MIYAKE: Correct. It was just an estimate.

Ms. YOSHIMURA: In Fiscal Year '20 is when you folks did the confirmation...Fiscal Year '20, I think, is when you did the confirmation.

MR. MIYAKE: Yes.

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MS. YOSHIMURA: Fiscal Year '21, I don't believe we had proposed any nominations, and then...oh, no, I'm sorry. For Fiscal Year '21, we did have one, the Prosecuting Attorney, and that was approved by the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well, yeah. But I'm looking at category 2. It says conduct a comprehensive review of applicants for qualifications and ability to fulfill their duties as board members and commissioners, not directors, yeah. That's, I guess, where I'm coming from. I assume that's what that means, the Mayor's nominees to various boards and commissions.

MR. MIYAKE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: All right. Let's move on from that. Next, for the, I guess, Budget program training, 50,000. Can you just explain to me what is this central...training for Central Square budget module?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Madam Chair, that would be the budget module that we are putting forth with the IFAS upgrade, and so we can have a better system in place to produce the annual fiscal year budget.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. And then my last question, page 391 for OED, I guess, the increases in salary. Does this have to do with, I guess, collective bargaining or anything of that sort, 149,181?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you, Councilmember. Yes. Because of the bargaining and all of the increases that happened for Staff and for others in the County. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you very much. That's all I have for now. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, followed by Member Sinenci. Oh, and if you want to do your disclaimer, you can do it now.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. We're on a limited time, so if I get my answer, I might interrupt you, but I don't want to be, like, rude so I'm just laying a rude disclaimer.

MR. MIYAKE: No problem. Thank you, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Miyake. Okay. Ready? Okay. My first question is, when we...when the County receives money from HTA, that's not the same as the TAT. They generally allot each County a certain amount of that HTA fund; is that correct?

MS. INAMASU: It was actually part of the TAT, that's how it was to fund cultural programs here in the County. And because we did not get an allocation...they work on calendar year. We did get allocation last year, but not this year, and they had already told us that they wouldn't be, based on just the economic situation.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And it's not just us, it's all of the counties get...like a equitable distribution or don't...it's not like Maui County is singled out?

MS. INAMASU: We're not that special. They didn't segregate us out. It's all...it's statewide because of their financial situation. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And then for the *Akakū* airing of all the boards and commissions, does that include the Maui Redevelopment Agency?

MR. MIYAKE: Yes, Member Paltin. All the boards and commissions.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Perfect. I wasn't sure because it's...it has an ending of agency. And then that 800,000 question about the MVB, I had thought in Committee or at some point, Ms. Duong had given us a breakdown of how 800,000 had been used. I'm not sure if my...I wrote my question wrong, but I had meant to say, like she gave us a breakdown of 800,000, and I was wondering how the remaining was intended to be, like, itemized. And then I guess, you know, the...like what kind of social media services are we getting for 83 grand and, you know, as we're seeing people returning and I'm not sure that we needed to advertise because we're beyond our capacity right now, was there no coordination by anyone to...like, spring break, Kā'anapali is at 80 percent. We don't...we're not going to have enough cars, and all the restaurants are limited to 30 percent. And so, you know, the cluster that we're seeing right now, was there any, like, pre-coordination to try and alleviate some of that stuff?

MS. INAMASU: You know, I can't speak confidently that there was or wasn't any type of coordination. I know that MVB, along with the destination management plan that HTA generated in collaboration with the counties, does focus on a different type of visitor. And I think she's mentioned that to you as well, more of a mindful visitor, and you're looking at quality versus quantity. But when you're talking about spring break, I can't say that there was a coordinated effort in trying to do all of that at this time.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Inamasu. And I really appreciate that, but what we're seeing in reality is kind of the opposite of mindful quality versus quantity in real time. And with all the options folks have for lodging, I guess, you know, they got those tepui tents or short-term rentals, Airbnb as well as hotels. I guess, you know, two years, three years ago, this was the last thing it seemed that Maui Visitor Bureau want to do. And they've pivoted, which is cool, but I just question if they're the right agency to take this different direction.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you, Councilmember. As far as with their efforts and their outreach that they have, in collaboration with HVCB, I think that message can go throughout the state and beyond, meaning that they can use their sister companies, the sister agencies on the neighbor islands to also get that message out. I know that our visitor count is a lot higher, but doing that together and in unison with HTA, HVCB, getting that out. The plan was, I think, just solidified or approved by their board about maybe a month, month and a half ago, so the matter of implementation is now, and starting now. So to

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have caught that spring break crowd, that would...the timing would have been a little different. I don't know if that helps you, but I can definitely get some information from Sherry, and relay that to the Committee. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Department, for answering all of our questions. Thank you for all the updates and details. My question is for Ms. Ane. Makale'a, my question was just about the proposed professional services for indigenous and nature-based solutions to climate change. So I know you mentioned that it's to address --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, we can barely hear him.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Sinenci, let's try turning off your video and see if that helps your audio. And then I can restart your clock, unless Ms. Ane could understand what the question was?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Can you hear me now?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's not better.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Shucks. I'm on my old computer, but...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Now it's good.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Huh? Can you hear me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So for Ms. Ane, what were some of the benchmarks for the professional services for indigenous and nature-based solutions to climate? I know it's for a year, so did she have anything in mind to address solutions to climate change from an indigenous perspective?

MS. ANE: So thanks for the question, and this is a really exciting topic for me. And Alex and I are very committed to incorporating vulnerable populations and indigenous solutions to climate change in all of the...and equity in all of the solutions that we are working towards. And so this is the first time we've administered this \$1 million for climate change, sustainability, and resiliency. The first...so in FY'21, it was the first time that the Administration had put this into the Budget, and so the RFP just went out. So we haven't identified specific benchmarks for each of the...each of the projects that are coming in. So we definitely will keep you in the loop when those projects are identified, and we have selected contractors and created benchmarking, but no benchmarks have been made at this time. But you can go online and look...or we can forward it to you,

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but the RFP that was just released is really centered on equity, nature-based solutions, and vulnerable populations.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo for that, and thank you. And then my next question is for, I guess, Ms. Inamasu. How much funding does MVB receive from HTA or some other sources as well?

MS. INAMASU: My apologies. I don't have the exact figure from what they get from their parent company. I can definitely get that information and do it in writing for you if that will help.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. That's all the questions I have, Chair. I'm going to try and jump on my Surface Pro. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds good, Member Sinenci. Okay. Chair Lee, followed by Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I just have a few questions. First of all, I want to thank Tyson Miyake for being such a big help with all the people who call with complaints or inquiries. I really appreciate your assistance. Joann, MISC is receiving less of an allocation this year. Is there any reason why? You know, like, did they not spend down all of their allocation last year? Was there problems with reporting? What is the reason why you're giving them less?

MS. ANE: I can actually field this --

MS. INAMASU: Thank you, Makale'a. Thank you.

MS. ANE: I can field this question. MISC was transferred over to the Office of Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency last year, and I guess we just looked back at the historic funding levels going back five years, and it was really...I think, 2020 was an anomaly where it was funded at \$2.5 million; 700,000 for LFA, 500,000 for Miconia and other invasive species, and really that was just a huge jump from all the funding it had traditionally received. So we really wanted to keep it on an even keel. But also, there was the addition of the feral animal control funding for \$1 million that was put in DHHC. So overall, our funding for invasive species was at a really high level.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I understand. Now, I'm not sure if this is for Alex, but I see on page 412 there is over \$8 million to expand the film and television industry. You want to give me a rough idea what is the \$8 million for?

MR. DE ROODE: I would defer to --

MS. INAMASU: That would be me.

MR. DE ROODE: -- Ms. Inamasu for that.

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MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Joann?

MS. INAMASU: Thanks, Chair, for that. If you're looking at...you said page 412, is that correct, and you're looking at the \$8 million? Is that --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. The Program Budget...Program Budget, I think.

MS. INAMASU: Oh, am I looking at the wrong --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But before you give me your answer, is it possible to consider some kind of intern program with local kids so that they can learn the business, or have an...you know, have an opportunity to take part running the cameras or doing something so that they can, you know, decide whether this is something they would like to do in the future? We did have, in our 'Imi Pono contest, a winner that did exactly this. Her presentation had to do with television and promoting businesses, et cetera. So, you know, this...I think this would be a good fit for her or people like her...kids, students, okay? Now you can finish your explanation.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much. When I'm looking on page 412, that is part of our goals and measures, and for what it...the \$8 million is actually anticipated revenue being brought in by different film projects --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

MS. INAMASU: -- coming into Maui. So that helps with that. But with regards to your idea and your suggestion on the internships for film, I have had that discussion with Tracy, and he is actually exploring that. And I will look into the winner with the program and see if --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, good.

MS. INAMASU: -- we can connect with Tracy because I think that's a good opportunity. We have some schools that have outstanding programs, and we...you know, to help foster some of that talent. And you know, yes, Tracy and I have had that discussion, and we're still pursuing something like that, of that sort, so we could help the students here, our local students.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Great, great. Thank you. Appreciate it.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's all I have. That's all I have.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member King, followed by Member Johnson.

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Aloha, everyone. My first question is for OED. I actually have a couple of questions. One is, you know, the \$8 million you just talked about as being revenue coming in, it seems like even this year during COVID, we brought in at least three times that much just with those two projects in South Maui. One of them was reported to bring in, I think, 7 or 8 million, and the other one brought in, like 20 million. You might want to talk to Tracy and see if you can get his goal up a little bit higher for the coming year.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's...that's what I noticed. I think it's...and I think he can do it. He's doing a great job. The other question I have for you is about the grant awards and, you know, it's been taking a lot of...a long time for people to get their grant awards, even for this proviso. So are you going to make a concerted effort to try to get the money out a little bit faster next year so that people aren't, like, into the second half of the year before they get their money?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you. Yes, we are, Councilmember. We're actually starting things up a little early this year. We're going to start out with our workshop coming up in a couple of weeks on April 21st, and we are looking at deadlines of applications by May 31 so we can start everything going, and the pipeline starts going through. The provisos will be due July 1st. They can do it earlier, but we're trying a different, little earlier on deadlines so we can start pushing everything through.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, that's good news, and I know you were brand new last year, so I'm just assuming that with a year under your belt, that things will go smoother this year. My next question is for the climate office, either Alex or Makale'a, but I wanted to ask Alex because I know that you sat in on the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting today, and this is one of the subjects. I was...I'm looking at a Budget priority of having a...getting a new staffer in to look at putting together requests for qualifications and RFPs for...one is the green manufactured housing plan...the pre-fab housing plan, and the other is research and development of locally sourced building materials, meaning things like Hempcrete. The Housing Department does not feel like they're able to take on another Staff, I guess, to do this kind of work, but I think it fits better with your office anyway. So if you were to get an additional EP, because I don't think this is all full-time, would you...is there other work that you would be able to...because I know you guys are short staffed, so I just want to give you a chance to speak to what else that that person could do in your office.

MR. DE ROODE: Yes. Thank you, Member King. Certainly, we could use, you know, more bandwidth in our office. We have quite a big charge that our office has been given, and a lot of work to do, and a lot of work ahead. In the area of green building and affordable housing, there is a significant Climate Action and Community Resiliency component to that, so we see that as an area that is aligned with the mission of our office. You know, we would have to figure out some logistics for that, like office space is very limited, but it sounds like a project that could fit under us. And if it needed coordination with

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Department of Housing and Human Concerns, we could also try to facilitate that coordination.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. And then possibly even work remotely with that person, like we've all been doing anyway. But also would you be able to utilize this extra person going forward with the circular economy project? Because that's coming up...that's supposed to start this summer with ICLEI?

MR. DE ROODE: Yes. Makale'a, do you want to speak to that a little bit on the circular economy side? Right now I think the answer is yes, we could tie that in. We have, you know, aspects related to equity in housing that also relate back to our resilience plan that will be in development coming up here in FY'22. So tying them into those efforts, I think, would be valuable.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: All right. Do you want to add anything, Makale'a? You don't have to. No pressure.

MS. ANE: Yeah. Alex did a great job really highlighting the fact that there is limited space on the ninth floor, but there are other priority positions that were going to be identified, I believe, and so we . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . would like to be able to rearrange and work with additional people and figure out a space and a schedule to bring on more people, additional people. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great. Thank you. I think my time's up. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Member Johnson, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good evening, Department. Thank you, folks, for staying up with us so late today. I'll make my questions short. So on page 381 in the big three-ring binder, does eradicating the Miconia and other invasive species include Lāna'i? And if so, who was the recipient of the grant?

MS. INAMASU: I believe that if we're talking about MISC applying for this grant, and I just wanted to point out that in the Budget, we do not identify an organization, so any organization could apply for these funds. So if MISC is awarded the contract, I believe that they only service Maui and Lāna'i, and there is...I think Pūlama Lāna'i does do work on Lāna'i, but I don't know if you guys have Miconia specifically, but maybe other invasive species they can apply for. So...yeah, so it just depends on who applies for it. And if it's kept open with no proviso for an organization, then it is...you know, somebody from Lāna'i can apply for these funds.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, MISC hasn't come to Lāna'i in about five, six years, but that's a different story. So my next question is regards to the film industry, all right? I've already ranted about how low .1 percent of the tax rate is on our film industry. So we spent \$130,000 on film promotion, and because of the .1 percent tax rate, we need to get millions of dollars back to recoup that loss. Does the Department

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still want to promote big films, or focus on spending more money to help more local film makers? I think that's piggybacking off what Chair Lee was saying.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Councilmember. With regards to that, that is part of the State's law as far as State tax, I guess, the minimal amount. But also consider when you look at a production, like say, Temptation Island, they spent \$8.2 million on the production. Of that, 1.6 million came back to us in local business. So yes, there's that tax incentive that they get, but to look at the 1.6 to local businesses and 40 cents of every dollar spent went to local wages. And it would be the same with the White Lotus that came in. There was \$22.5 million spent on the production, and of that, 4.4 million to local businesses, and the same thing again, 40 cents of every dollar went towards local wages. So we're helping the economy in a different way. Those projects that they did with their tax incentive in supporting education and our schools, that will continue, but to look at maybe whether it be the food trucks or the vendors, the grocery stores, and also the labor in putting people back to work. The hotels that they utilized, that's another thing too. So we have...Tracy's been working hard. We have a lot more productions coming in, so at least putting some people back to work, especially within that industry. So thank you very much, Councilman.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I appreciate that, Director Inamasu, that yeah, at that time, people needed jobs. I understand that. I often tell my daughter...she wants to be a nurse. I said why do you want to be nurse? Why don't you be the doctor? So these folks who are working in that industry, why do you want to work on a food truck? Go make a movie, you know, so we got to support them. Why do you want to just be the cameraman? Go be the director. That's kind of where I'm coming from. All right. So my next question is on page 8 of this giant three-ring binder, there was a letter from the Mayor, and he mentioned that there's \$2 million going towards the Lānaʻi Community Ag...yeah, the Lānaʻi Ag Park. And I looked high and low for this 2 million. I've only seen 1 million in open space fund. Can you clarify with that? Is it 2 million or is it 1 million? That's kind of...I looked high and low for it. Maybe I'm not seeing it, but can you help me clarify that? Page 8.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember Johnson, that was my error. There was \$2 million for the Lānaʻi Affordable Housing Project, and \$1 million for the ag park.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. Thank you, Director Yoshimura. Chair...I thank you, Department. I have no further questions. Chair, thank you so much. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Member Sugimura, ready?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I love this OED because I used to work in that office, and I had so much fun. It was not like working in Government. We could...we did a lot of good projects, so I'm very...I'm very partial. I wanted to talk about the electrification of transportation because it's something that is, I think, very important. And I see in the budget, Alex, there are \$72,500, and I wonder if you're looking at the whole new transportation plan the Federal Government has rolled out. I don't know if we got the specifications, but do you have plans of expanding this more, or what are the

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plans that you have for this 72,000?

MR. DE ROODE: Thank you, Member Sugimura. So the 72,500 for FY'22 are specifically to cover operations and maintenance and networking fees for ten new Level 2 public EV charging stations that are in the process of being contracted under FY'21 funding. So we...we'll have that contract in place this fiscal year. Work will begin towards the end of this fiscal year and go into next fiscal year, and we'll have ten new Level 2 chargers, dual port. And so this funding will help to support those once they're in place because there are ongoing, you know, O&M and networking fees with each of those. Beyond that, we are looking at other opportunities that will be coming from stimulus funds, as well as through energy savings performance contracting. We're exploring opportunities to expand that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good. It's exciting times. So, you know, I want to see where we go with it because it really is where we need to be. So keep up your good work on that. And I actually also wondered, with COVID and what the Department is looking at in terms of...I know during last year, a lot of the events that were planned had to be cut back or, I don't know, eliminated, but they definitely had to pivot in order to change with the requirements. But the question that I see here is that just by looking at the kinds of events that are scheduled, like for example, Lāhainā Boat Day, it has \$10,000, and I just wonder, you know, what would those funds be used for. Because I think it's going to be a long time before we have cruise ships that come in. And then the other one was community theater, includes repair funds that...I did visit the Īao Theater, and they're having some historical challenges, so I wonder if this \$53,045 is enough, and it may be something that they asked you for. So if you could educate me on that?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Councilmember. With regards to Lāhainā Boat Days, it is something we're including with the anticipation of cruise ships coming back to Lāhainā Harbor, and utilizing, I believe it was the seniors and some other groups there to help with the greeting and welcoming of the visitors. With regard to Īao Theater, I do also realize as far as the shape that the property is in and the theater itself, and they're doing small repairs with that. If the Council can find additional funds, I know they can use it slowly. I think right now it's all Band-Aids that they're doing. They're doing their best to try and do that. The facility has been utilized in a safe manner. Rest assured, they did get their plan approved, but it was for photo shoots and different things. So if there is additional funding, that would be wonderful. I know they can use it. When I spoke to her last, and this was a little bit back, maybe a couple of months, they were also looking at some other funding, seeing if they can help to leverage some funding there too. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. INAMASU: -- they do need help. Thank you, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I met with...I met the Executive Director in the theater. It was COVID time. It was, you know...and anyway, there was a hole in the ceiling. I guess she went to, you know, check that there was a water leak and her foot went

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through the ceiling, and I'm just like oh, my goodness. There's so much to do, but it's a historical building, Annalise was there from Planning, and...yeah, it's one of the commitments that I have. I want to, you know, make sure that theater can survive. And of course, a lot of the events that normally happen...so you're planning on, like, Aloha Festivals? . . .*(timer sounds)* . . .

MS. INAMASU: If I can answer that. Aloha Festivals plans to go virtual.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Thank you.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. I just have a few questions. In Budget Details, page 11-35, there's \$50,000 allocated to the Lāhainā Town Action Committee that's allocated for the...for Halloween in Lāhainā and in Central Maui. Do you intend to keep that in there for the Halloween events...with the uncertainty of the pandemic?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much. Yes. The Lāhainā Town Action Committee did help us through this past year through the pandemic, everything done safely. They did everything drive thru. I think it was Front Street area, and also Keopuolani Park in Central. It was a big hit, and I think it was...it was a nice relief, I think, for families not only with candy, but there was characters there and different things to show as they drove through. So I can't remember the number, I know it was like 1,200 individuals or something that drove through, or vehicles. Must be individuals, but it was actually a popular thing. And the Lāhainā Town Action Committee did a wonderful job in pulling that all together, and I think the people truly enjoyed it. So we want to support some of these, but always...please, and I know I've mentioned it before, all of these events they submit safety and health protocols to get approved, it's not just that we allow it to happen. We look at crowd control, and PPE, and all of those things too. So thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. So whether we're still physically distancing in October--hopefully not--or not, there's a plan for using that fund?

MS. INAMASU: Correct. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. In the Program Budget, page 415 and...414 and 415, goals and measures, Goal 1 is to expand WIOA program, OP number training providers and outreach training providers were cut in half, actuals from 65 to 35. Will you please explain why? And then I'll just say with the number of displaced workers we have experienced in this last year, I would hope to see the program have a large increase in its goals and objectives, being as critical an area of focus as it is.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you. With regards to our dislocated workers, you are right. There are a lot of them out there. It's a matter of getting them qualified. This is a Federal program, and there are certain qualifications in the matter of being able to service individuals.

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Also, part of it is also the limited funding in servicing them. So Linda Puppolo heads our Workforce Development Programs through our office, and working in tandem together with the University and many other partners, Goodwill is one of them, but trying to see where they can leverage funds to be able to serve a broader population. As we look into Fiscal Year '22, we are looking...the way the Department of Labor allocates the funding is based on population, and also based on the unemployment rate, and that was through last year. Our unemployment rate was actually rather high, highest in the nation. So we're looking at an increase there where we can then service more people, and as Chair mentioned about the dislocated workers, definitely we are trying to help them. We did get several other grants to help these workers through the Department of Labor, and we are in the process of finalizing another grant through the Economic Development Administration to fund other programs as well for work, whether it be dislocated workers, youth coming through the pipeline to get them educated and upskilled, and adult workers as well. Thank you. I hope that helps to answer your question. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. Members, any need for follow-up questions? And again, on any of the three programs, Administration Program, Budget Program, Economic Development Program, there aren't any CIPs, and no changes in rates and fees to Kula Ag or rentals. I see Member Molina, followed by Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a quick question for either Ms. Ane or Mr. de Roode. I'm sorry, Mr. de Roode, I didn't recognize you earlier. You know recently, O'ahu finished their Climate Action Plan. Your thoughts on what they have in their plan versus what, you know, our objectives for, you know, our own plan itself, any thoughts, similarities, differences?

MS. ANE: Ours will be better.

MR. DE ROODE: The competition is on. Yeah, Member Molina, thank you for the question. The City and County of Honolulu used a different protocol than we're planning to use for our GHG inventory. We're proposing the use ICLEI's Local Government Protocol and Community Protocol, as well as add a component that would assess GHG emissions associated with solid waste in our community, and then opportunities to mitigate those. So I think our Climate Action Plan of Action should be more comprehensive. Additionally, City and County of Honolulu focused on the community scale, and we're looking to conduct our inventories...GHG inventories, not only on a community scale, but also drilling down into County operations. So we'll have, you know, more granular data about the County operations impact on...associated with GHG emissions.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: That's good, good to know. All right. Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I had one more question for Ms. Inamasu about the grant program on page 381 of the proposed Budget. You know, there's an

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environmental protection amount of money for 850,000, and is that sort of just an open pot of money, or is there another listing of what that's going to fund? Is there another listing somewhere in the book that corresponds to that line, or is it open for people to apply for?

MS. INAMASU: Councilmember, are you speaking of page...you said 381; is that correct?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: 381, it's under the County Grant Subsidy Detail, the third line down says Environmental Protection, and the proposed budget is 850,000 for Fiscal Year '22, but it looks like an open pot of money that you're expecting people to apply for? Is that yes?

MS. ANE: So this one...this is the traditional line item that is associated with my position and all the environmental programs. It used to be with OED, but now is with the...under the Mayor's office in our climate change office.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Is that in addition to the million dollars that your office is funded for?

MS. ANE: So this is the regular line item, and the million dollars came from the Finance Department's overall climate change and sustainability.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So this is the additional grant money you have to give out?

MS. ANE: Yes. And this is the one that like Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and the eradication and fire ants are listed under.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, they're listed on this page in separate line items, but then the one line item, it says...it just says Environmental Protection for 850,000 as a separate line.

MS. ANE: So if you look in the ordinance Budget on page . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . 13, that's number 10. That's the environmental protection funding.

MS. INAMASU: Councilmember, if I may just clarify for what Makale'a is saying. That is the...that line item is actually for discretionary grants.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. That's what I was asking, yeah.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, followed by Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: A couple quick questions. Is the Ka'ahumanu Church funding coming out of the Mayor's budget?

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MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember Paltin, yes, it's coming out of the Economic Development Revolving Fund. It's in Appendix A, part 2. We also have a proposal to amend that fund to include cultural restoration and cultural programs. So there's an additional bill for that item.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I didn't catch that part about...kind of my audio went bad. Can you repeat? I'm sorry.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Sorry. There's a proposed bill...there's an Economic Development and a Revolving Fund. So we're expanding that rather than having it expire at the end of June 30 this year. We had expanded the use of that fund to include cultural programs, cultural restoration, and that's where the funds for the Ka'ahumanu Church is coming from.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Did you have a scope of work? I did a site visit there, and I think that the church is built on dry stack rock from dismantled heiau. So kind of like you walk inside, it kind of sways, and it's not like a concrete foundation. I was wondering, what is the scope of the 150 grand? You know, do you need to take historic preservation measures as well? And the other question I had was about old Maui High. Like what is the state of the campus? I heard some unfavorable things about what it is right now.

MS. INAMASU: Do you want to take the other question?

MS. YOSHIMURA: For the Ka'ahumanu Church, we will provide you the scope in writing. Director Inamasu can give you information on the old Maui High School.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much. Let me just get my notes. I know a lot of that...the work that they've been doing is for restoration, and this morning, you heard from Cynthia Reeves about the relocation of MISC's office, so they are temporarily there at the old Maui High School, but also contributing to the work that is being done on site so that their work continues. I have not been up there recently, so maybe you can help us share some information that you've been getting from your constituents. Thank you very much, Councilmember.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: To the...on page 381, the Environmental Protections, and so I believe Ms. Ane said that it was a discretionary grant, meaning that there's no details that people can apply for that grant?

MS. ANE: Yes. So I believe this year, we're still going to be advertising with the Office of Economic Development, and then anybody that, you know, puts in for environmental protection funds, and even the energy funds can apply for that funding...if it's not all taken by provisos.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, and I don't know if...Member Molina, was this the one that you were trying to add monies to as well?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I'm sorry. Which...are you asking again...I'm sorry, Mr. Sinenci, I missed that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I believe I saw a proviso of increasing the environmental protections?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Member Sinenci, when we get to the proposals you...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The proposals.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. We'll get to that part.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I just wanted to...Ka'ahumanu Church, let the Members know, Ms. Paltin, that Architects Hawai'i has donated--this is through Annalise, our historical person in the Planning Department--Architects Hawai'i, because it's a historical building, took--and volunteered, by the way, at no charge to us--drafted plans, architectural plans, for the building, which was a problem in the past because to restore it, and because it's historical, there's different guidelines, but that was recently done. And the church's kahu, Wayne Higa, and he has been doing...I forgot, but he's been working on this for really a lot of years. So this architectural drawing is a big deal because now they can proceed and do things culturally and historically as the building is...I think it's like 180 years old. But there's more I can share, or we can talk to Kahu Higa. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Seeing no other requests for questions, we'll move to the next portion of our process. And I see that it's 9:00, and in light of that, I would really love to get out of here by 9:30, so my proposal to the Members is that I'll give you two minutes to make your proposal on your priority and...or up to two minutes, so if you could be quicker, that would be great, and then we'll ask for comments from the Department. And if Members have any requests for additional information or...that they would need in order to make a decision during decisions week, you can request that information at that time. And these will all be taken to decisions week, and then we'll vote on it then in hopes of expediting this part of the process. Any objections to doing that?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No objections.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I agree to 9:30.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Let's do this. Okay. Member Johnson, okay, you're up. Your proposal number 31 on the Matrix, it's Countywide, new funding, page 358 on the Program Budget. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Here we go. So thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members. Greetings, Department, for staying late with us. This is my proposal for agricultural grant writer. We propose that this position be created in FY'22 in order for the County to start applying for grants that will help fund programs and activities by the Department of Agriculture in the anticipation...that is anticipated to be created in FY'23. So I think the smart move, and as we all know how grants go, it takes forever. And as a former farmer, I don't want to get started with the amount of...how hard it is for the farmers to get down into the paperwork and all the requirements. So I would hope that you guys would look to this as a good idea to get ahead of the game. And for me, like the grants that we did get as a farmer really did help, but I'll be honest with you, there was one grant that we were really relying on. We didn't get it in time, and it...you know, we lost money on that, literally. So we have Federal funding coming down the pipeline, and I just...I know how long that takes, so I'm just trying to get ahead of the whole game, and that's my suggestion for you guys. That's all. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Johnson. Department?

MS. ANE: So I mean, I think this Administration is very much aligned with supporting resiliency and food security in Maui. And getting ahead of the game would be awesome to bring on a grant writer and to be able to start applying for these grants because Federal funding, as Councilmember Johnson has said, that it takes a long time to apply for these grants. And to set us up, you know, in one year, it would be a great head start to bring on a position. But as we mentioned before, space on the ninth floor is limited, so we would have to make accommodations and be able to look at things differently and how to hold this position. But I think it does fit in with the resiliency office and looking for resilient food security systems for Maui. I don't know if Chief of Staff Tyson has anything to add?

MR. MIYAKE: No, that . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . was good, Makale'a. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Briefly.

MR. MIYAKE: I'm sorry. I didn't hear, was that me?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chief of Staff, briefly?

MR. MIYAKE: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I guess, if you had anything additional to add.

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MR. MIYAKE: Nothing further, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief of Staff. Okay. Any requests for Member Johnson to provide additional information to the Members so that they're prepared for decisions week? Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was wondering, was this meant to be a civil service or a contract?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if I may? I kind of wanted to do as the same amount as the grant writers that we have already, so it would be civil.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. My question was for the Department. You know, is there anyone up in the Administration that will be taking on some of the Agriculture Department and starting to address some of the...I know we had...that there were some people up in the Administration that are starting to plan for the Department; is that correct?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Department?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Councilmember. Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you very much, Councilmember. With regards to the agriculture part of it, we . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . have our grant writers in our Department that will also help to currently supplement some of that. I just also want to let you know that the grant writers in our Department are appointed, and not civil service. So our entire office is appointed.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then they're --

MS. INAMASU: I just wanted to make that clarification. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- and all of those positions, Director, are built, those appointed positions?

MS. INAMASU: Yes, they are. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Mahalo, Member Johnson. The next person with a proposal is Member Sinenci. It's number 32, and it's Countywide, conditional proposal, existing funds. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Yes. And Members, this is the...my Countywide proposal number 32 to earmark \$150,000 for the second phase of ESG investments in

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environmental, social, and good governance investing in Maui County. The project focuses upon equitable and sustainable communities, innovative community driven and culturally appropriate 21st Century solutions. The ahupua'a investment solutions are based on native Hawaiian environmental and sustainable perspectives and practices. It supports community stewardship that is both accountable and transparent. The Maui ESG project assisted with a pilot project to measure and monitor streams in Ke'anae and Wailua Nui as a next step toward implementing and securing ESG investments in the East Maui Watershed. The project employed a dozen dislocated men and women in the region, and built up their technical and scientific capacity. As we've already seen, large pension funds, including our own ERS systems, are constantly seeking out long-term investments that would last longer than 100 years, and particularly in large land purchases as we've seen with the Canadian pension fund. But with the projected purchase of Wailuku water system, the ESG can support the integration of accountable ESG standards into community developed innovation, infrastructure, and resiliency projects, and also work with the Wailuku community to develop community-based ESG standards, and a community-based audit as a requirement for investments that are culturally sensitive. And so we did propose, Chair, that it come out of two different areas in the Department. And I don't know if maybe Makale'a, this might be something that could fit within the climate mitigation . . .(timer sounds). . . or we did see some technology in business. Thank you, Chair.

MS. ANE: So I guess this...the ESG funding had come out of OED's budget last year, so they know this project a little better than I do, but Alex and I have been working with Shay Chan-Hodges on this project and attended some of their seminars. And I think I just...for me--I'll turn it over to Joann soon, but for me, I just wanted to make sure that as we're advertising for foreign investors to come in, even though it's under ESG investments that we...like you have alluded to with Mahi Pono, that we make sure that they are investing in the people and organizations, and not our natural resources and public trusts. So if they are going to help with acquiring, you know, water systems, that we do figure out a system where the County or, you know, the public is holding it in public trust, and not a foreign investor, even though it's ESG. So that's all I wanted to say about that.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Makale'a. She raises some very good points and, you know, we always look at the matter of hiring local workforce, local talent. So we are also trying to train people here so that they can get these jobs, and it's not the others that are coming in to replace our local workforce. So thank you very much, Councilmember. Thank you, Makale'a.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for keeping it concise, Director. I see a question from Member King. Is it to request additional information --

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- or is it question for the Department?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: A question for Councilmember Sinenci.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Just on the 150,000. So would you be looking to...would this be funding another conference? Would it be funding the creation of a COC that we learned about in your Committee, or both?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right. I think...so more towards the COC, Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Particularly with, you know, a lot of the interests that coming out of the Wailuku community. And when we're looking at the acquisition of the Wailuku Water Systems, especially with the State coming in and purchasing all the conservation sections of the acquisition, it's important to bring in the community-based programs and the stewardship part of it so that these investments are...I mean, that's what ESG investments are.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, I...not to cut you off, but I don't think...I understand the whole idea, and it think it's important also, but hopefully not just for Wailuku because that Wailuku Water Company provides for more than that. But no, I understand.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. The next proposal is from myself. It is number 33 on your matrix. It's district priority, additional funds, page 381 in your Program Budget. It's to increase by \$200,000 an earmark for Ho'ahu Energy...Renewable Energy Co-Op Moloka'i...yeah, Ho'ahu Energy Co-Op Moloka'i for capacity building and training for renewable energy jobs on Moloka'i. Okay. Department?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Director...I mean...excuse me, Chair. We can say it...no, I don't want to say. But thank you very much, and I know you and I have been in conversation with regards to this. I have also spoken with...well, we've been communicating with Alex in the matter of trying to support at least the initial part of it. So we are still trying to get that and work on that, but I think this is a good project with the matter of workforce development on Moloka'i in renewable energy. I have to share the budget with Alex, so Alex, I'm sorry I didn't share that with you yet in looking at that program, but I think there's good opportunities there to continue that, enable them, certify them, and allow them to earn some sustainable wages for something that's upcoming. But thank you very much, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Members, questions?

MR. DE ROODE: Chair, if I could just add a quick comment?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. Mr. de Roode.

MR. DE ROODE: Thank you. Just to clarify that I know this proposal is also tied to keeping

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the grant funds flat from FY'21 to FY'22 because it looks like it's a reduction from FY'21 from 275,000 to 75,000. So we're actually also...200,000 of that is going towards professional services, and 75,000 for grants. So we're just setting it up that way so we have more of an ability to fund more diverse activities, but if there was an additional 200,000 that could support this effort on Moloka'i, that would be great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. de Roode. Okay. Members? Seeing no questions, we'll go to the next one. It's from Member Sinenci. It's number 34 on your matrix. It's Countywide, additional funding, page 381 in the Program Budget. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Members. And we've seen...we've heard testimony by Mr. Adam Radford and MoMISC as well, Ms. Buchanan from Moloka'i, and so in support of the...to eradicate Miconia and other invasive species. So we just wanted to...I don't think this is the time to step back from our mitigation of invasive species. I think we should maintain the momentum, and to keep consistent the effort and employment to combat invasive species. Today, Mr. Radford --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you can propose your item, and then we'll get feedback from the --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- so we're not advocating for our priority proposals right at the moment. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So this is just to increase it back up to 200,000 for Miconia mitigation. And I know that Member King had also an alternative to bring it up to 300,000 and bring it back flat from last Budget session. Thank you.

MS. ANE: Sure. Absolutely. Yeah, we can...I would support that 100 percent.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Ane. Seeing no hands from the Members. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. The next one is from Member Molina. It's Item 35, Countywide, it's a conditional proposal, page 381 in your Program Budget. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. So I'll do the condensed version of this proposal. An additional 500,000 for the environmental protection grant to increase the Mayor's appropriation from \$2 million to 2.5. MISC has advised us that primary focus of this would be on fire ants and coqui frogs. They move fast, so increased funding will allow eradication to reach into areas that have not as of yet been funded. And MISC may have applied for other funds from State funds to CARES Act funding,

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and was unable to secure a grant. And with the uncertainty of tax revenues and historic of the economy, MISC could experience an additional reduction of 20 percent from the State. So you know, they've been making a lot of headway, and especially now that efforts are in Maliko Gulch to help enhance that area, and also for community empowerment programs to help community members assist MISC to help with this eradication. So we're making headway. So my opinion is that if we continue...if we, you know, sit on our 'ōkoles on this and not continue the momentum, then, you know, that the problem would just get worse. So that's basically why I think it's important to get this additional funding, to keep it consistent with the previous fiscal years' amount of 2.5. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Department?

MS. ANE: I'm not sure if Director Yoshimura wanted to say anything, but I had just had a question on...so we're increasing environmental protection by 500,000, but we're talking about MISC's coqui frog and eradication efforts. So I wasn't sure where it was directed. Like, are you going to add the \$500,000 for a specific proviso under the environmental protection funding, or is it just for any organization to apply for?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah. It'll be for any organization to apply for, not necessarily just MISC, yeah. It'll be for anybody that qualifies.

MS. ANE: Okay. And then that could maybe hopefully get MISC to go to Lāna'i...or wherever. . . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Maybe, yeah. That too. It's wide open. It's just the additional funding. And of course, in my area, it's the coqui frogs and fire ants and everywhere else, so just to get it consistent with the previous fiscal years' funding of 2.5.

MS. ANE: Awesome. Mahalo for prioritizing invasive species.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay. The next priority is from me. It's number 36. It's a district priority, conditional proposal, page 381 and 409 on the Program Budget, environmental protection. And my proposal is to earmark \$150,000 for a sustainable Moloka'i food pantry. The food pantry would be...so we don't have a food hub on the island, and this food pantry would serve as a...I'm sorry, a food bank, so we don't have a food bank. We have churches that volunteer that accepts food bank donations, and then the churches distribute. And so this would be an effort to have a community food bank, which would also have fresh produce, potentially axis deer, and other proteins, and it would be somewhere to store all of that produce, protein, and, you know, canned goods and dry goods from the Hawai'i Food Bank. Okay. Department?

MS. ANE: Yeah. I think we've had other grants that kind of spanned food sovereignty and resiliency, and we funded them through this office. And as long as we can tie them...I mean, the name of the line item is environmental protection. So as long as it can tie to the environmental protection part and, you know, reduce greenhouse gases and barging

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in food items, I think it fits in very well with our office and this line item.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. The next is from Member Paltin. It's number 37, it's Countywide, conditional proposal, page 388 on the Program Budget. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Just in time, we received the information, so I don't need this proviso.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. The next proposal is from Chair Lee. It's number 38, it's Countywide, it would be new funding, page 391 on your Program Budget. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'd like to withdraw this one. Other people have advanced almost the same thing. Mine wouldn't be particularly for ag, mine would be actually through define Federal funds for anything. But I'll withdraw it. Maybe I'll propose it another time. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Member Sinenci has the next proposal. It's number 39, it's a district priority, it would be new funding, page 408 in the Program Budget. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hello, Chair. And yeah, Members, we heard testimony from Mr. Ranney and Ms. Ness today about Maui Hub. They were kind of an extension of the Maui Farm Union. And so due to the pandemic, they kind of had to reorganize their organization, so they're looking for a one-time start-up cost ask of 259,000, and majority of it is for a refrigerated box truck and a reefer unit and...what else they've got...a one-time salary...some salary and some rent subsidies for 12 months. And I think helping them to receive some of the produce from our farmers gives another venue for farmers to sell their produce and keep up their farming business. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Department?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Councilmember. I did hear the testimony this morning, and their, I guess, popularity in what the work that they're doing and how they're reaching out the community. Just a question though, a couple questions for you. You did say it's a one-time subsidy, so they do not plan to come back again next year --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That's what...

MS. INAMASU: Can I end the question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes. Go ahead.

MS. INAMASU: Okay. And then it's for salary, rental assistance for 12 months. So that means they're looking to become self-sustainable after the one year; is that correct?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That's correct. That's correct.

MS. INAMASU: Okay. And the refrigerator box truck, and the other refrigeration?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

MS. INAMASU: Okay. You know, I did hear the information this morning as you . . .(timer sounds). . . mentioned, Councilmember, for the testifying with regards to the project, so I think they can help the community.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. The next item is from Member Paltin. It's number 40, Countywide, new funding, page 408 in the Program Budget. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. This proposal is an increase of 55,000 to the Common Ground Collective for expansion of their program to the foster farm installation project to increase local food security while assisting owner-occupied residents that need help, provided that the produce equivalent to either 25 percent of awarded monies be donated for five years of production, or 10 percent for ten years to partner agencies feeding the needy, or 25 percent of the awarded monies be used for sweat equity. And it's to, you know, pay it forward that we're helping the homeowner create these farms that produce food to increase local food security in the long-term. You know, sometimes when they plant orchards and things like that, we don't initially see any payback of food, like sweet potatoes and other short-term crops. So that's the proposal. Common Ground Collective, increase of 55 grand.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Department?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Councilmember. I understand the concept and what's to be done to help our local residents or homeowners to start to do their own gardens, and they did help with some of the backyard gardens as well. My concern would be the matter of the donation. I like the idea, but the matter of who is checking that for five years, that they actually are giving the donation. And I really don't want it to be us to check the dollars. I'm just saying that out there. But it...that would be the only concern. I do like the...the idea . . .(timer sounds). . . the concept on the give back, but it's a matter of tracking that they keep their word. So thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. My intention was for them to provide annual reports, not for you to...and then you would have the report.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Department. Okay. So as it was proposed, it said foster farm installation project generally. So if it will for a specific entity, then if that specific entity doesn't provide service to the entire County, then it wouldn't be considered Countywide. It would be considered non-Countywide or district. Seeing none. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Okay. The next is from Member Sugimura. It's number

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41, it's district, conditional proposal, page 408 on the Program Budget. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So this is regarding the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Ag, which is a CTAHR grant...I think they have a grant in for 150,000. And what I wanted to do is proviso. And I have here up to 50...50,000 for the Haleakalā Research Station, which Cindy Reeves spoke about this morning. And...but I want to change it 30,000 because she called my office and said that she is allocating \$30,000 for this project. And just to help them with clearing it up, as you heard that that's where MISC was located. So they're going through a process of restoration. I don't know what the right word is, renovations, of benefit for farmers, ranchers. And it's a 4-H livestock program, which Dr. Caires, Kyle Caires is very heavily involved in. So he's, you know, trying to restore it so that the kids have someplace to go. So this is just only up to 30,000 for the Haleakalā Research station, as she said she was designating 30,000 for this project. So that's my request.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Department.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Councilmember. I also heard that testimony this morning from Cynthia. So I can appreciate that. And I know that there's a lot of work to be done there, so definitely support. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah. Mahalo, Member Sugimura, for reaching out to Ms. Reeves because you're right, she did. My question to her was if the proviso would kind of infringe on some of her operational costs, and so it sounds like she already was going to go ahead and...and the 30,000 to the Haleakalā. My question is, would this be a district proposal for Haleakalā?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. It's district.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I guess so. I mean, it's not Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. All right. The next proposal is from Member Sinenci. It's number 59, and it's a district proposal, conditional proposal, page 45 on Appendix A, part 2. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair and Members. We heard testimony this morning from Mr. Crawford, Scott Crawford, the grant to Ke Ao Hāli'i to manage the 200 acres of Maka'alaie that the County had purchased, and is now putting in conservation. And so they're looking for \$30,000 to help manage for the safety and security related to...to their land management. This area has a lot of archeological sites, ancient archeological sites. So we're hoping that Dr. Six would help with some of our overlays once...when she comes towards Hāna continue in this area. So I believe, you know, just kind of, he

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mentioned fencing. He mentioned kind of fencing off some of the areas that are sensitive. And just for...if people are going to go onto the property, just for safety that they're using that monies for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Department.

MS. ANE: So currently, Ke Ao Hāli'i has, I believe, a 20,000 grant with...through the Open Space Fund and for security and safety. And I think this is aligned with, you know, keeping very important cultural sites protected as long as it fits in with that open space funding. That it is...is supposed to only be used for safety and security related items. But I think, you know, there is...yeah, we can work with them to make that they are aligned with that Open Space Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. I think the next proposal is from Member Johnson. It's number 60, it's a district, conditional proposal, page 45 on Appendix A, part 2. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So this is a...I asked a little bit about this earlier. On page 8 in the Mayor's letter, he mentioned 2 million. It turns out it's \$1 million for the Lāna'i Ag Park. So I'd like to request that it goes up to 1 million just for land acquisition related to costs for the Lāna'i Ag Park. I did a quick research study on...the price of a predator-proof fence. It costs \$60,000 for six acres up in Ka'ena Point on O'ahu. So the predator-proof...predator-proof fencing will take a big chunk out of the 1 million that's already in the Open Space Fund. So that's where I'm coming from. And so in total, it'd be 2 million, so it's \$1 million in addition. Okay?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Department.

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director Yoshimura or Chief of Staff.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Councilmember Johnson, so we...you have a million dollars in this budget for the past few years. I'm hoping to move forward with it. If it is going to...and make sure...\$1 million because that was my error. I did put \$2 million in that...on page 8 of the letter. It should be \$1 million, but, you know, we could support the \$2 million.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. I...I...this also comes back to me in a boomerang from one of the...many of the members on Lāna'i heard the \$2 million during a press release...or a press conference that the Mayor mentioned. So . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . we're going to ... there's definitely a need for it, definitely a desire for it. So thank you for...for that comment. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Next proposal is from Member King. Number 61, it's a district, conditional proposal, same Open Space Fund, Appendix

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A, part 2. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Can you hear me? Just saw a message that my microphone is muted by the moderator. I don't know why that keeps popping up. Thank you, Chair. So I think we've heard from a lot of the testifiers today on this one. So I won't go into too much detail. But it is...my proposal's for a 5.5 million from the Open Space Fund, natural resources, cultural resources, and scenic view preservation fund. And this is for land acquisition and related costs for the 257.7 acres of the land known as Mā'alaea across from the Ocean Center. Last year, \$500,000 was secured to begin the process of acquiring this land, and now we have agreements and support from the Trust for Public Land, DLNR, DOFAW and the landowners to proceed with the completion of this purchase with this additional 5.5 million. Additionally, organizations like Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and Mā'alaea Village Association support the proposal for the benefit and conservation of the land would have for environmental protection from ridge to reef. This...I...I can answer any questions, but I think we've had so much testimony that folks know. We did have an exploration of the impaired status of the Mā'alaea Bay waters in the CARE Committee a couple of months ago.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Department.

MS. ANE: So I guess my only question is, has this land been appraised yet? I think that's the biggest hurdle that I've seen working with Corp. Council and Finance. So that would be my first question. And then the second question was that it lists for future conservation, watershed, and storm water protection and management. I guess, just as long as we know that this Open Space Fund for safety and security measures, and that maybe that this organization's not going to come back looking for funding for that watershed and stormwater management out of the Open Space Funds. . . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. Okay, so that just...Chair, may I answer? Okay. So yeah, the first...oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're just getting feedback. And then...so we're not advocating for our positions.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, no. She was asking a question. So did you want me to answer her question?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, briefly.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So the second question. Yeah, they're not going to be coming back for more funds because DOFAW has offered to manage it. So the State will take over the management. They asked us to do the purchase. And what was the first question you had about?

MS. ANE: Was the land appraised? Is that why you got the...

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: They're actually doing that now with the 500,000 that was in this current budget. But the price was negotiated with the landowner. The price is below the previous appraisal that they had given us. So they are doing the appraisal right now with the current funding for this. If it comes back lower then, you know, we'll get a lower price. But it was actually appraised quite a bit higher in the past.

MS. ANE: Yeah. Hopefully...well, usually we've seen with the...when you put land into a conservation easement, you get it appraised at that land value, not when they were looking to develop it. So hopefully, it will come in lower.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. Right.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Chair Lee, you had a request of Member King for information?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. I was going to ask the same question. How much was it going to cost?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's...the appraisal isn't done yet, right?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. All right. The next proposal is from Member Sinenci. It's number 62, it's a district, conditional proposal in Open Space Fund. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And similar to Ke Ao Hāli'i this is earmarked \$20,000 for Na Mamo O Mū'olea, and a grant for safety and security related to land management. The 'āina Mū'olea is...ahupua'a of Mū'olea is the site of Kalākaua's summer palace. And I believe 90 percent of the board of Na Mamo O Mū'olea are lineal descendants of the area. And the site is also used for kind of science for...for students. And they're currently doing 'opihi monitoring at the site. And it...so the grant is in line with HRS 520-3, the duty of care to keep the premises safe for entry, or use by others for recreational purposes, or to give any warning of a dangerous condition, new structure, or activity on such premises. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Department.

MS. ANE: So this is a grant I was actually thinking of for the \$20,000. So it's definitely consistent with the funding that was appropriated this fiscal year and, you know, an awesome organization. So definitely support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Sinenci. The next proposal is from Member Molina. Number 63, it's a district priority, conditional proposal, Open...Appendix A, part 2, page 45 and 46. Member Molina. Wait. Anyone see Member

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Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I don't see him.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I see a big square that says MM on it, but I don't see his face.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll come back. Okay. Member Paltin has the next proposal. It's number 64, district priority, new funds, page 46 of Appendix A, part 2. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. This proposal is the same proposal as my FY'19. It just has a little bit more detail. Director Teruya said the ag land rate was about 25,000 an acre, which is a steal for Kapalua side West Maui. And as we heard previously, the holdup right now is whether we need that extra retention basin or not. And so that brings the total up to like 1.25 mil, give or take, you know, with the whole procurement whatever deal. But yeah, it's a condition of the change in zoning for Pulelehua because that area below the airport was supposed to be a park.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Department.

MS. YOSHIMURA: So Chair, this is the one that Director Teruya spoke about, so we have no further comments to offer on this item. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Michele, how much is in the Open Space Fund?

MS. YOSHIMURA: Chair, so the Open Space Fund that's available for Fiscal Year 2022 would be about \$15.7 million. We already have appropriations under the item totaling about...maybe about \$5 million, \$6 million. So there is about \$9 million that's not appropriated or not spoken for in the Open Space Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. The next item is also from Member Paltin. It's number 70, it's district priority, conditional proposal, page 49, Appendix A, part 2. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yes. This is a conditional proposal. And I just...you know, I didn't have any problem with the Mayor's proposal, but I'm not someone to speak on cultural matters. And I just wanted to make sure that the public had a opportunity to input if the fund set up specifically for Moku'ula and Mokuhinia if the cultural practitioners were okay with expanding that to Pakala or...also known as Kamehameha Iki Park. So like I would have...I would like to put a bill from the Budget bills and let it go to Committee for a thorough vetting by the cultural community. And I support the earmark for the 400,000 on page 49 in Appendix A-2. And I just would like to add the following language to the end, provided that the County works to ensure a fair and

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transparent and...fair, transparent, and respectful process, and take extra steps to maintain decorum in the process, protecting against community bullying and violence. There was some complaint during the West Maui Community Plan process. And I...I don't at all blame that on the Planning Department. Sometimes there were words outside that might have gotten a little loud. But you know, it's not to the level of police intervention. I just want the Parks Department or whoever is putting this on to just be cognizant that we don't want to...we just don't want to let that to happen. It...it...you know, it's a...it can be a controversial subject. So you know, passions arise. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Department.

MS. YOSHIMURA: Sure. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. We don't have a problem with the bill to amend the use of the fund to go to Committee and be heard as a separate item. The...and we do support Moku'ula-Mokuhinia projects in the master plan. And I know that's been a project that's been around for a long time. And yeah, we definitely support that item. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Department. Okay. We have six last alternate proposals. And I have a message from *Akakū* that we'll need to break at 10:10 in order to restart the feed on Facebook if we want to continue to do that. But if we can do this quicker, and we can get out of here by 10:00, that would be even better. Okay. Member King, \$200,000 for little fire ants. Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. I think we've heard...we've heard about the cuts in MISC. So I don't think I need to go over that. Mine's kind of complimenting what Councilmember Sinenci is proposing. So I can give...save some time hopefully.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. The next one is also from Member King, 50,000 for native tree planting education awareness.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great. Thank you, Chair. This is the Re-Tree event that was supposed to happen last year. And it did happen kind of in a really scaled-down way last year because of COVID. But they've got...you know, they're back to planning the bigger event this year. And these are...I won't read through the whole explanation, but it's a climate action related issue. So I wanted to kind of proviso the funds out of the Environmental Protection Fund on page 381 of our program booklet. And I just...the one thought that I want to leave everybody with was a study in California found that for every dollar spent on tree planting and maintenance, urban trees deliver \$5.82 in benefits. This is something that the Climate Action and Advisory Committee has been working on for a while too, to prioritize tree planting in the...in...well, throughout the state, but definitely in Maui. The original amount was 50,000. I dropped it to 45 because I noticed on their previous application that if they stay under 50,000 they can use the short form. So they had asked for 45, so that should be the amount on there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo Member King. Department.

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MS. ANE: I guess the only feedback that I had was that...upon reviewing their last application was that there was no funding for infrastructure to make sure that the trees survived. And they really depended on the organizations that they partnered with. And so that was concerning for me that we're going to spend money on the trees, but then there's no irrigation. A lot of the trees were going to be put in Wahikuli, which is very hot and arid. And so I just wanted to make sure that they are aware of that concern and address that in their . . .(inaudible). . . funded.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great. I can send you the list of organizations that they're partnered with too. They're...they are partnering with quite a few organizations.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Okay. The next is Member Molina. Number 63, this is not an alternate, this is one of his top ten. Number 63. Member Molina, it's a conditional priority, district.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yes. Thank you very much, Madame Chair. Sorry. I know you recognize me earlier. I had to step out for a matter with my dog. So anyway. Anyway, just briefly, this is a proviso, which was actually...I assume this would be for a Parks proposal. But nonetheless, it's a proviso of up to \$400,000 shall be for the Hāmākualoa open space preserve master plan. The Council had previously approved 140,000 for an archeological study for the Hāmākualoa open space preserve. And moving forward with the disposition of the preserve, a master plan should be developed. And the land has sat over five years without any direction, and it's become a dumping ground for trash and vehicles. So you know, we need to establish a presence at the preserve to allow the use of the public and to prevent further degradation of the beautiful coastline. So again, this would be for the establishment of a master plan, a proviso of up to 400,000. And that's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Okay, Department.

MS. ANE: So I would actually...would like to defer to Corp. Counsel, and if this funding can be used for a master plan. I know it's...it has to do with open space land that we acquired. But I'm not sure if it fits with that funding mechanism, and if it should come out of open space. I know we had done an ordinance or resolution to change the language to include safety and security maintenance. But I just would...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(inaudible). . .

MS. TOSHIKIYO: If I may really quickly. Yes, Ms. Ane. So under Section 919, it would be either for A, purchasing based on the following reasons, or for B, performing safety and security improvements. I don't really see anything in here that would allow it for the use of developing a master plan.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Toshikiyo. Oh, Member Johnson, economic specialist for Lānaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I beg your pardon. I didn't hear you. Okay. Thank you. So

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thank you, Chair. This is the economic development specialist for Lānaʻi similar to the County that provides on Molokaʻi. Community members were told this position was going to be created by the previous OED Director, Kay Fukumoto. And you know, during my time on Lānaʻi, I...I've witnessed small businesses rise and fall in my community. I'm sure Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez has seen that in our small towns. This helps educate and encourage our entrepreneur folks on the small island of Lānaʻi. And this Council...or this County often speaks on economic diversity. So let's put our money where the mouth is and help train some of our folks to be young and upcoming business folks. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Department.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair and Councilmember for that information. You know, it's always good to have Staff, just a matter of looking at dollars, and me looking at salary, looking at office space if at all, to be able to set up, to be able to help your...your individuals there on the island or job seekers...you know, employers. One thing with COVID, it has turned this into a virtual meeting type of platform. So whether it be our Molokaʻi Staff, our Kuhaʻo Business Center, or even here, workshops are offered virtually. I know on Lānaʻi we just don't have the body that's there. If that is the will of the...of the Council, it's...it's...I mean, it is additional money if...if we have that type of money to maintain that on an ongoing basis. And an office space with, you know, all the equipment to be able to service as a...somewhat of a one stop where people, if they have the need...if there is a population that has the need to...whether it be helping with resumes, helping with job searches, just infinite connections, scanning, and all of that too...and workshops. But right now, workshops for us are limited. We've turned everything into virtual. So . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I...I leave that to this body. So thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Mahalo Member Johnson. Okay. So we have reached our time limit on Facebook Live. We're going to have to recess because we're not pau. We tried. So I think...I think we can recess for like two minutes...oh, three minutes. Okay. We're going to recess for three minutes. Don't go anywhere. All right. It's 9:58 on April 9th, and we're going to recess for three minutes. So 10:01 or probably 10:02. Okay. 10:02. Don't go anywhere. All right. The Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 9:58 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 10:02 p.m.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee please return to order. It's 10:02 on April 9th. And we are on the next alternate priority from Chair Lee, earmarked for 50,000 for entrepreneurship agriculture development program. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I withdraw my proposal.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair Lee. The next is also from you, earmark 50,000 for homeless in Paukukalo and Wailuku Town. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I withdraw my proposal.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. And the last alternate priority is from myself, and that is to increase the proposal for the microgrants from 1.5 to...back to 2.5 million. Department.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair. That would be of great help. There is need out there for our farmers with respect to this program. So that would definitely help our community, our County as a whole. So thank you so much for that consideration.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Any questions? That is the last of our proposals. Oh, Member Sugimura, and then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So I wanted to know if you and I wanted to talk about the feral animal. I think it was Housing and Human Concerns last night, and then we said we would talk to OED. But you know what, overnight, I think that it belongs with the Animal Management Department versus OED. So your comments, Chair, what your thoughts are on that? And here the Department is too, so.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Department, do you have any comments on managing the feral animal grants? We know that DHHC Director Tsuhako would prefer for it not to be in...under their department. Do you have any comments about it being under the Office of the Mayor somewhere?

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Chair, for that...for this opportunity. We...in our office, we do not have that expertise on the matter of animal management. That's not something that we know very much of or excel, short of having to deal with certain situations at the Ag Park. But we by no means have that expertise in our office. So thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Hot potato. Okay. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: My question was about your proposal. I seem to recall that we were not allowed to get this grant if they had got other grant funding. And I thought that that wasn't your intent last year. And I just was wondering if you were going to specify about eligibility if they had gotten other grant funding.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'll do that during decisions week.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Member Sugimura. Oh, please unmute.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: My computer died. So sorry about that. I didn't hear what

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the conversation was after my computer died. So what is...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hot potato. No one won.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Nobody wants it?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Nobody wants it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: We'll open up our own...our own department. Well, it is definitely a big need. Keani, I guess you and I could talk about it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. We could talk about it during decisions week.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. And then one last thing --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- because the Department is here, I wanted to talk about the Kula Ag Park Revolving Fund. So I submitted the proposed legislation on that. But I just wanted to get Joann's comments on that. It is number 74 in my priority...Kula Ag Park Revolving Fund.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So I'll explain to them. So I'm establishing a new section in the Code to open up the Kula Ag Park revolving fund so that we can take care of addressing, like, fencing, which has been one of my big passions to figure out how to do this; upkeep of common areas; and use the...what would revolve into the fund would be the lease payments from the tenants. So altogether, there's about 30,000 a year. And then, hopefully, I'm still looking for fencing and other things and if so, then that would go there. So that's it. I just wanted the Department's comments on it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Department.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you very much, Councilmember and Chair. I think this is a great idea as far as establishing this revolving fund, having the lease rents put in there. There's about close...a little over 32,000 per year, if they all pay their rent, which they've been pretty good about. And that would definitely help. Right now, OED has been spending funding from our office for small projects. We're now in the process of doing signage, redoing signage, throughout the park. So as we move forward, this type of fund would definitely help us to proceed and help and make sure our tenants are well taken care of. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good. And I'm still looking for fencing, Joann. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. Seeing no questions. Okay. Well, so there are two grants that is received by the department. Are there any

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questions on those two grants? It's the WIOA and CDBG. Okay. There are three revolving funds. We will go over the Open Space Revolving Fund during decisions week because I know there are a lot of proposals, and there is only so much money in the revolving fund. So we'll not take that up now, we'll take that up then. Any questions on the other two? Okay. And the last thing is the...there's two bills under this Department, the one that Member Paltin asked to be referred to Committee, and the other one is amending Chapter 3.81 to...relating to Economic Development and Cultural Programs Revolving Fund. Are there any questions on that bill for the department? Okay. Seeing none. I think that's everything. We're done. Okay. And I'm going to gavel out before anyone talks anymore. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I have a question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member King, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. So I just wanted to see if you could give...ask if you could give us some direction on how you want us to approach our district funds, or do you have a deadline on that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. I don't understand your question.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: You know our district funds that we sometimes proviso stuff out of our district, the 145,000. When...when...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: What's that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The 140...the 140 on OED economic development and cultural preservation?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. We just wondered if you had a...if you had some guidance on when...when you want that from us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. If you can submit that...

COUNCILMEMBER KING: On the 15th when we do the other?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think so. Yeah, if you're ready to submit it on the 15th.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: They usually don't vote on it anyway, so it's . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I just want to thank Chair Lee for providing a very interesting digital...look at her background. I think it's like two dogs and they're sleeping together so cute.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's baby Koa.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Cute.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Her name is Koa Lee. By the way, Madam Chair, this is what I'm hoping we could do. You know, the district funds, that we could opt to transfer it to another district, portions of it. Can we think about that? You know, sometimes toward the end of the year, the middle of the year, some other district needs 10, 20,000. And let's say, I know I'm not going to use it that I know of, so let them. Let them use it. Let them have it. That's what I'm thinking of.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just think about it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. We can take that up during decisions week.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. All right. I think we covered everything. I will invite the Department to share any final thoughts, closing comments for the night.

MR. MIYAKE: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair and Members. Thank you for the opportunity to allow us to present our budget this evening. We appreciate the discussion and your time. We look forward to our partnership and working together. We are available to answer any further questions you folks may have. Again, thank you. Have a nice weekend. Good night.

MS. INAMASU: Thank you, everybody.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Joann. Thank you, Michele.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, everyone. And thank you so much for your help in expediting the review of this large Department with lots to discuss. Okay. And you have a wonderful evening and weekend, too. Okay, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Bye, Makale'a.

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MS. ANE: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good night, everybody. Stay safe. Behave yourselves. Get some rest.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: See you Monday.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members. So on Monday, we will be taking up Department of Parks, Department of Personnel, and Department of Planning at 9:00. Any questions or comments before I adjourn? All right. Well, you have a very restful weekend, and we'll see you on Monday, 9:00, all fresh and ready for another fun week. The Budget...it's 10:14 on April 9th, and the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

ADJOURN: 10:14 p.m.

APPROVED:



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KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

bfed:min:210409

Transcribed by: Lisa Hill, Connie West, Amanda Lane,  
Daniel Schoenbeck, Sarah Scott,  
Rita Noel Weltsch, Elizabeth Stano &  
Barbara Coughlin

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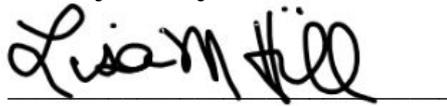
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CERTIFICATIONS

I, Lisa Hill, hereby certify that pages 1 through 22 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 17th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Lisa Hill

I, Connie West, hereby certify that pages 22 through 34 and 44 through 51 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 17th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Connie West

I, Amanda Lane, hereby certify that pages 34 through 43 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 17th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Amanda Lane

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 51 through 76 and 113 through 130 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 17th day of May 2021, in Kula, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck

CERTIFICATIONS (continued)

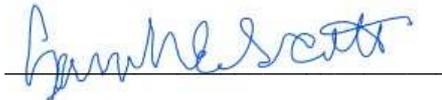
**BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**April 9, 2021**

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I, Sarah Scott, hereby certify that pages 76 through 113 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 17th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Sarah Scott

I, Rita Noel Weltsch, hereby certify that pages 131 through 171 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.

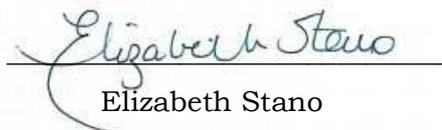
DATED the 17th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Rita Noel Weltsch

I, Elizabeth Stano, hereby certify that pages 171 through 197 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 17th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Elizabeth Stano

I, Barbara Coughlin, hereby certify that pages 197 through 212 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 17th day of May 2021, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Barbara Coughlin