

**BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

October 7, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:03 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member (Out 10:20 a.m.)
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (In 9:25 a.m.)

EXCUSED: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area Office
Clyde “Buddy” Almeida, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (All)
Nancy Zhao, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (All)
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor (All)
Jordan Molina, Director, Department of Public Works (BFED-7)
Oliver Vaas, Captain, Fire Training, Prevention, and Health and Safety Bureau, Department of Fire and Public Safety (BFED-7)
Parrish Purdy, Captain, Fire Training, Prevention, and Health and Safety Bureau, Department of Fire and Public Safety (BFED-7)
Marcy Martin, Director, Department of Finance (All)
Guy Hironaka, Real Property Management Specialist, Department of Finance (BFED-7)

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Jade Rojas-Letisi, Economic Development Director, Office of the Mayor
(BFED-20(12))
Carrie DeCoite, Grants Management Program Specialist, Office of the Mayor
(BFED-20(12))
Jillian Ugalino, Grant Coordinator, Office of the Mayor (BFED-20(12))
Deanna Aina, Grants Management Program Specialist, Office of the Mayor
(BFED-20(12))
Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor (BFED-20(12))
Aulani Delatori, Economic Development Specialist, Office of the Mayor
(BFED-20(12))
Erin Wade, Deputy Managing Director, Department of Management (BFED-7)
Shayne Agawa, Director, Department of Environmental Management (BFED-7)
Wendy Taomoto, Engineering Program Manager, Department of Management
(BFED-7)
John Smith, Administrator, Office of Recovery (BFED-7)
Marci Sato, Accounting System Administrator, Department of Finance
(BFED-20(12))
Emily Bartow, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Mayor (BFED-20(12))

OTHERS:

Jasee Law (BFED-7)
Kala Tanaka (BFED-7)
Kamakana Ramos (BFED-7)
'Olena Caprioni-Sadang (BFED-7)
Wa'ihii Lindsey (BFED-7)
Lehiwa Balagso (BFED-7)
Kamaehu Keo (BFED-7)
Kana'i Keahi-Vasques (BFED-7)
Pikake Ahia (BFED-7)
Moon Kalei Kauhane (BFED-7)
Miriam Keo (BFED-7)
Pua Pali (BFED-7)
Testifier 1 - Royal House of Hawai'i (BFED-7)
Kaleikoa Ka'eo (BFED-7)

(7) additional attendees

PRESS:

Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:03 a.m. Thank you, everybody, for being here. We have a busy agenda for us, and I'd like to welcome all of you. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of this Committee. And this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chambers, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room or space with you today, and minors do not need to be identified. Member...Vice-Chair Kama will be joining us.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, she's here?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: She did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry. Vice-Chair Kama, good morning. *(pause)* Member Kama, are you frozen? Oh, Member Kama, can you hear me?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don't...your...are you going to say good morning?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You're muted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you're muted.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: She's muted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She gave us a thumbs up.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I can hear you now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Very good.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I can hear you now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. All right. Next, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Ni hao. I'm home alone in my space, looking forward to your meeting, a hopefully productive one. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And all the way from New Zealand, we have Member Paltin. Thank you for joining us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kia ora tātou, from the future in Aotearoa, live and direct from the Kupe Waka Centre. I have here in the room with me Kaue Spitowski *(phonetic)*, Nālani Dudoit, Meghan Palakiko, Jenny Lasey *(phonetic)*, Kaleikoa Ka'eo, Kalani Ka'eo *(phonetic)*, Kamaehu Keo *(phonetic)*, Ihilani Garcia, Kana'i Vasquez-Keahi *(phonetic)*, Kanoa Casco *(phonetic)*, and everybody else is in the other rooms.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Welcome them, and thank them for joining us. Next...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Moon Kauhane. Sorry, they're walking in and out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Good morning, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. I'm alone on my farm today. I was putting in fence and I hit a waterline, so I'm kind of messy. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office, and I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wonderful. And Member U'u-Hodgins will be joining us. Member Cook, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning. Ni hao. And there's nobody in the Kihei office currently for giving testimony, but our Staff's on...out there. And looking forward to the meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez is excused, as well as Member Sinenci. And...okay. So, Office of the Mayor, Lesley Milner, thanks for working hard on these items. We've been meeting a lot with you. Cynthia Lallo, Office...Chief of Staff, arriving at 9:45 regarding the OED items, which is the second item on our agenda. Jade Rojas-Letisi, Economic Development Director, also arriving at 9:45. And Julian Ugalino, Grant Coordinator, arriving at 9:45 a.m. Department of Management, we have Wendy Taomoto, Engineering Program Manager, online. John Smith, from the Office of Recovery, as well as Erin Wade, Deputy...Deputy Managing Director. Department of Finance, Marcy Martin; Guy Hironaka, Real Property Management Specialist V; Marci Sato, Accounting System Administrator, arriving at 9:45. And Department of Public Works, Jordan Molina, who is the lead on the first item. He is doing this meeting virtually. Also, we have Oliver Vaas, which is the Fire Captain, virtually. Department of Environmental Management, Shayne Agawa, and/or a representative. Department of Water, John Stufflebean, Director, Deputy Director...or are we having Deputy Director join us? John? Kimo Landgraf.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, he is. Oh, okay. Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo and Nancy Zhao. They're both from Corp. Counsel. And Committee Staff, thank you very much. Lei Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk; Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney; Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary. And please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's meeting. We have two items on the agenda this morning, which is BFED-1 [sic], Bill 138, 139, 140 (2025), and Resolution 25-186, Relating to the West Maui Land Acquisitions (West Maui Community Plan Area). BFED-20(12), Administrative and Management of the Office of Economic Development Grants. I think all those people arriving at 9:45 think we're going to get there by 9:45 on the second item. We'll see. Any testifiers? We do? Okay. Online, or? Oh, you do? Okay. So, testifiers waiting [sic] to provide testimony should sign up with Staff, join the online meeting via the Teams link, or call in to the phone number noted on today's agenda. Written testimony

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is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, as...also, as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hands by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone...phone...I'm sorry, phone, star-5 to raise and lower your hand, star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up, raise their...and raise their...or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand when your name is added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in under the last...or the last four digits of your phone number when it is...when it's your time to testify. At that time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure that your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to or as anonymous. If you wish to testify anonymously or if you're in person, please verify with Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes, and I'll give you 30 seconds to complete if you're not done, and appreciate you making the time to testify. Once you're done testifying, and if you do not wish...or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion, and will now call on testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. Please call up the first testifier.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the first person signed up to testify is Kala Tanaka, to be followed by Kamakana Ramos.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, great.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, they'll be testifying from our Aotearoa Satellite Office, and they're going to be testifying on the three bills and the reso, but most will probably not take more than three minutes. So, take it away.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Paltin, they want to testify now, or not after the presentations? Now?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They'd like to testify now, so they can go on their huaka'i.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I get it. Okay. Thank you. Please state your name.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF MEETING . . .

MS. TANAKA: My name is Pa'ana (*phonetic*) Kala...Kala Babayan Tanaka. Aloha mai e ka Budget and Finance Committee. 'O Pa'ana Kala Babayan Tanaka ko'u inoa. A no Lahaina mai au (*phonetic*). I'm a lineal descendant of Lahaina. My ancestor, Pohlupu, was a kalo farmer and a 'uala farmer of Paunau, also known, other small areas, 'ili'aina would be Kuholile'a and Kahoma Valley. Yeah. He had many acreages and was a great farmer until, of course, the time when water started to become diverted and dried up all

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of his lands, and just the lifestyle of that part of our family changed dramatically. And so, for me, Lahaina is everything. I hope that, you know, with what is happening now, that we have a...really, this is a crucial time to...to see Lahaina come back in the way that we want to. And all those beautiful aspects, as our kūpuna had lived in reciprocity with the ‘āina, and the ‘āina flourished, and so we flourished. And so, we need to make decisions, hard decisions, that...that will create that for...for our future...not for me, but for all of our grandkids and further generations to come. My family has also been in battles for many, many years with this seller, Peter Martin, and...and I just remember being part of it, and him just denying us access and not acknowledging us, and that's a tough thing. And I know that I'm just one, one of many. And with these pieces of land that are in question, I just know that there are lineal descendants as well, too, that are in the same...same position as my family. And so, we're...we're...at this point, we...we are one of the families that are...are, you know, in...fighting against him. With regards to this land, I think it is important that the County do acquire this, yeah, for a number of reasons. He just has not had a...this Peter Martin has not had a good track record, and to me, what I've seen him do is...like the land, either he'll, you know, sell it off for more, he's like making a profit, but none of it is really in...it's in...never...not in benefit to us. And so, I think that the County has this opportunity in acquiring the land, looking at the extreme flood conditions, even though maybe they don't happen a lot, when they do happen--everybody remembers the last big flood that happened there in Lahaina. And so, flood control is a...is something that really needs to be addressed, and I know that the County can do that with this...yeah, with this...this acquiring of this land. In addition, yeah, we all are all aware of the over 120 lives that were lost during the fire because of evacuation routes, and so we have to...you know, the County needs to make...there needs to be better infrastructure. And so, I see this also as an opportunity . . .(timer sounds). . . to create that better infrastructure for evacuation routes. Sorry, I'll...I'll wrap it up. In addition though, with all of the drought, there's also that opportunity that we can turn these into greenways. And I understand that water is a problem, but we have all the knowledge that we need from our ancestors, yeah, our kūpuna of that place, of what might be the right things to plant to...to help to mitigate that, yeah, but we've got to be bold enough and be courageous enough to...to have that vision, and to sail beyond the horizon, yeah, for our future. And then finally, I...I brought it up again, but I want to close with this. There are absolutely lineal descendants, yeah, who still have . . .(timer sounds). . . claims to the land, and I think it is the duty of the County to be in service to our people and return those lands to those lineal descendants. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Before Members ask questions, we need to see Member Paltin on the screen because we're at are bare quorum.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, okay. Member...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Also. You can stay there. We just need her to sit next to you. Member Paltin? Oh, thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...if they can...if they can let Kuia in the meeting? We have two computers, but they're not being...the other computer is not being let in the meeting yet. We're just in the waiting room or something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you get that?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, apologies, we don't see anyone in the waiting room for this meeting. Could you reiterate, Councilmember Paltin, the name that we're looking for?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: K-U-I-A.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, we don't see that individual in the attendees list either. So...so, there's no one --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. KRUEGER: -- in the waiting room or in the attendees list under that name. Apologies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll try to log in again, but does anyone have any questions for...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so Member Paltin, we need to have you in the meeting, as well as...Chair Lee, can you get into the meeting? Should I call a recess? I'm going to call a --

MR. KRUEGER: One minute.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- one-minute recess. Be back. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 9:17 a.m.

RECONVENE: 9:19 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Thanks for the short break. It's now 9:19. Chair Lee said she's coming back. Member Paltin is online. And Member Kama is leaving at 9:30. So, we may have quorum problems. Everybody needs to be present. Okay. Go ahead. Next testifier, please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tamara, you got to stay there, please, on camera. Oh, you are there. Sorry, I just saw you.

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

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MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next individual signed up to testify is Kamakana Ramos, to be followed by 'Olena Caprioni-Sadang.

MR. RAMOS: Welina mai ka pi'i 'ana o ka lā i ka hikina a i ke kau 'ana o ka lā ma komohana, aloha. I am Damon (*phonetic*) Kamakana Ramos, and I lived on Maui all my life. Thirteen years. And today I would like to testify about this choice regarding buying land from Peter Martin. And I say buy the land. It may be a high cost, but I believe that buying this land has many great benefits for the people and their safety. Some of these benefits may be the land to further help the Lahaina Flood Control Project. Because if we run into iwi kūpuna, we have the land to continue going around the remains. And then being able to construct more emergency evacuation roads so people have more ways to escape in case a disaster were to occur. And being able to move the Salvation Army away from Moku'ula, as it is sacred grounds. And Salvation Army has helped people who are on drugs and haven't treated the area with respect. That is what I believe should happen, and I hope that you will take my testimony into account. Mahalo and thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for testifying. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier please. Thank you very much, Damon.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is 'Olena Caprioni-Sadang, to be followed by Wa'ihī Lindsey.

MS. CAPRIONI-SADANG: I'm testifying on Bills 180 through...138 through 140 and Resolution 25-186. Aloha mai, 'o 'Olena . . . (*inaudible*) . . . Caprioni -Sedang ko'u inoa. I was born in Lahaina, and my family has lived here for eight to nine generations. And I'm here today to help the community and its troubles for the Lahaina...for the 'āina in Lahaina. What I think we should do is buy the lands because if we live...if we leave the lands to Peter Martin, who knows what he's going to do with it. But some cons that come with that is it's very expensive, and Peter Martin will have \$20 million. County taxes probably will go up. But some good things that come with that are we'll have flood control, more evacuation routes, we'll expand the shelters...that's a possibility...and Salvation Army will be out of Moku'ula. There will be more greenways. We will return 'āina to...to kuleana lands...land holds, and we'll have . . . (*inaudible*) . . . Some bigger ideas would be we will save money on...for floods and other...and evacuations, and Peter Martin will be out of Lahaina. (*pause*) I'm done. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thanks for testifying. Any...any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Wa'ihī Lindsey, to be followed by Lehiwa Balagso.

MS. LINDSEY: Aloha mai kākou. 'O wau 'o Wa'ihī Lindsey, he 'umikūmākolū o'u mau makahiki. Hele wau i Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina, a no Lahaina mai wau. Ke ha'i mana'o nei au no ka Pila 138 i 140 me Resolution 25 i [*sic*] 186. A pili ka'u ha'i 'ōlelo i ke kākō'o 'ana i ke kū'ai 'ana i ka 'āina. Waiwai loa kēia koho no ko mākou wā ma

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mua, a he maika'i ke kū'ai 'ana i ka 'āina no ka mea ua hiki ke hana i nā mea maika'i like 'ole, like me ke kāohi 'ana i ka wai hālana. 'Ae, he pipi'i, akā pono mākou i kēia 'āina e lilo i [sic] Lahaina i kekahi wahi palekana no nā kānaka a pau. No laila, kēlā ko'u mau mana'o. Mahalo. Aloha. I'm Wa'ihī Lindsay. I'm 13 years old. I attend Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lahaina, and I'm from Lahaina. I'm testifying for Bill 138 through 140 and Resolution 25 to [sic] 186, and my speech is about how I support buying the land. This choice is really important for our future, and it's really good to buy the land because we can do things with the land, such as the flood controls. Yes, it's expensive, but we need this land for Lahaina to be a better, safer place for everyone. And that's all my thoughts. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Okay. Welcome, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good morning, Chair. Good morning everyone. I apologize for my tardiness. It is fall break, and I have four children at home, so I needed to get them settled before I felt comfortable to leave.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, sorry I'm late. I'm here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We all understand. We all wish we had four children at home. All right. Next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Not me.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(laughing). . .

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Lehiwa Balagso, to be followed by Kamaehu Keo.

MS. BALAGSO: Welina mai kākou. 'O wau 'o Lehiwa Balagso, he 'umikūmāhā o'u mau makahiki. No Lahaina mai au me ko'u 'ohana, a hele wau i Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina. My name is Lehiwa Balagso, I am 14 years old. Me and my 'ohana are from Lahaina, and I attend Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lahaina. Today I am here testifying on behalf of my 'ohana, kaiāulu, and myself. I'm testifying for Bills 138 through 140 and Resolution 25-186. I'm testifying and will be talking about Lahaina land purchase. I think that we should purchase the land that Peter Martin is selling off to the County because it could benefit our community in so many ways. One of the ways is that we could use the land for flood control to help prevent most floods that occur in Lahaina. If we can do that, we can save millions of money by just preventing the risk of recovery funds. Another way that we can put the land to good use is to expand our evacuation routes. If we expand our evacuation routes, we can also make an easier way for us to get in and out of town in case of emergency. And there will be enough room for first responders to

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drive through without having to be stuck in traffic, and risking all that time that can be used to save lives. But those are a couple of reasons that I think we should purchase this land. And to me, I believe that I trust the land in the hands of our own people instead of somebody who isn't a part of this community. Mahalo.

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

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Kamaehu Keo, to be followed by Kana'i Keahi-Vasques.

MS. K. KEO: Ke aloha mai nei. 'O Kamaehu ko'u inoa. No Lahaina mai au. Hele wau i Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina, a he 'umikūmākolū o'u makahiki. Ke ha'i mana'o nei au no ka Pila 168 [sic] i 140, a me Resolution 25 i [sic] 186. Pili kēia i ka'u mana'o no ka Lahaina land purchase. He maika'i kēia na mākou no ka mea pono mākou i kēia mau mea e ulu ai mākou. I ko'u mana'o, e kū'ai kākou i kēia 'āina. He maika'i kē'ia no ka mea pono mākou i kekahi wahi palekana [sic] kēia manawa a ke ulu a'e kākou. Pono mākou i kēia 'āina e kāohi i nā wai hālana 'ana, nā ala hele e ha'alele ai inā aia he mau ahi a i 'ole he mau mea i pono [sic] mākou e ha'alele ai. A pono mākou i kēia e ho'onui aku i nā hale no nā kānaka e noho ai a e kau i ka wai hou ma Mokuhinia. E ho'ohana ana mākou he mau wai li'ili'i no nā pāhana i 'ōlelo ai wau ma mua. Pono pū mākou i nā ala hele 'ōma'oma'o i hiki nā kānaka ke ho'oikaika kino a i 'ole e holo a hele wāwae a i 'ole e pā'ani me nā 'ilio a pēlā wale aku. Akā he pipi'i loa ia. . . .(inaudible). . . 'o Peter Martin he \$20 miliona. Akā, hiki kēia mau pāhana ke kōkua i nā kānaka a me ka 'āina i lilo 'o Lahaina i kekahi wahi palekana. Aloha. My name is Kamaehu. I was born and raised from Lahaina, and I plan to live here for the rest of my life. I go to Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lahaina, and I am 13 years old. I'm testifying for Bills 138 to 140 and Resolution 25 to [sic] 186. I believe we should acquire those lands. This is good for us because we need a safe and healthy environment right now and when we grow up. These lands could be used to make flood controls and evacuation routes, or to expand shelters for people that need it. We also need this to help get water back into Mokuhinia because we would use little waters...little water for the projects I mentioned. We also need greenways so people can exercise, run, walk, or play with their dogs, et cetera. It is very expensive. Peter Martin profits \$20 million, but these projects that could come from the purchase can help with the land and people, and make Lahaina a safer environment for everyone. This is what I think should be done. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're done. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next testifier is Kana'i Keahi-Vasques, to be followed by Pikake Ahia.

MR. VASQUES: Waipunalau me ke aloha nui. 'O Kana'i Vasques-Keahi ko'u inoa. No Lahaina mai au a hele au i Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina. I'm testifying for Bills 138 through 140 and Resolution 25-186. I support the County to acquire these lands because if we don't do anything, it'll leave it to Hope Builders and Waine'e Homes and Lands, they will hana

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hewa. But if the County buys it, it will benefit us in so many ways, like to use the lands for flood control, evacuation routes, greenways. And we need to start returning 'āina to kuleana landholders, or the County buys the lands so Peter Martin can't sell it to outsiders so they can hana hewa with our 'āina, i ko'u mana'o. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MS. AHIA: I'm testifying on Bills 138 through 140 and Resolution 25 to [sic] 186. Aloha. My name is Pikake Ahia, I am from Lahaina. What I think is that we buy the land. Yes, it's expensive, but good things come from buying this land. From buying the land, we can keep our people safe, like flood control, making escape routes, getting more greenways, returning the land to kuleana land holds, build houses, and getting Salvation Army out of Moku'ula, an...an [sic] important place to us Hawaiians. We can keep our people safe by buying this land. And it's expensive, but we need to take care of our people. If there is no people, there will be no land. Be mindful that you are choosing my futures...and my future and others' futures. By not buying the land, lives are at risk of death, and we have lost enough people from the Lahaina fire. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Moon Kalei Kauhane, to be followed by Miriam Keo.

MR. KAUHANE: Welina mai, Budget and Finance Committee. My name is Kaleialoha Kauhane ko'u inoa. Aia au ma ka papa 'ewalu ma ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina. I live in the Valley of Honokōhau. I am in eighth grade, and I am a student at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lahaina at Lahaina Intermediate School. My thoughts to this meeting are that the Maui County should buy the land from Peter Martin because it could create more possible emergency roads. It could create a possible way for us to build flood control projects, and instead of only having one recreational park, we could have more green space for more possible parks that we could use for sports, possibly farming. We could start farming native plants again to keep our cultural practices alive. If we could open up more roads, it could open up more ways to escape catastrophic events. And if Maui County were to buy this 'āina, if there are any rightful claimants, we should give back to the rightful owners. This is all I have to say. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Miriam Keo, to be followed by Pua Pali.

MS. M. KEO: Aloha kakahiaka, Budget and Finance Committee. O Miriam Keo ko'u inoa. I am a resident of Lahaina, as well as a lineal descendant. And today I testify before you to testify on Bills 138 through 140 and Resolution 25-186 concerning the proposed purchase of 162 acres of land in Lahaina. I think like all of us, my first contemplation is whether spending 20 million on land that has clouded title and lacks all necessary

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infrastructure is the best use of public funds. And while we're not given the opportunity to review the full title report prior to this meeting, we know that significant issues exist regarding the clear ownership of many parcels within this acreage. Kuleana and Land Commission awards are known to exist in this area. And the current land...I mean, the current condition is a direct result of existing landowner operating without regard for standard development rules. And the development of homes behind Circle K...or the old Circle K, serves as a stark example that the land...current landowner skirted the system, erecting homes without proper public roadways, fire hydrants, or full infrastructure, and then passed these critical problems on to new local homeowners. And while I can't say with certainty that this lack of infrastructure caused the devas...you know, or added to that devastation on August 8th, it certainly did not give that area a fair chance. This situation is 'a'ole pono. It is a situation that the County is then blamed for, not allowing the quick rebuild of homes that were built in the first place by circumventing the very rules that they must now follow. I believe that placing this land in the hands of the County may be the better path. The alternative is to leave it with an owner who has demonstrated history of prioritizing personal gain over public safety and ethical responsible development. The County's purchase of these acres opens the door for desperately needed public improvements and community resilience. The acquisition will allow for critical infrastructure and safety, community services expansions, and finally, the County has a moral and historical opportunity here to do the right thing. Along with these essential infrastructure projects, the purchase must include the ability to return kuleana to lineal descendants who have or will put in their claims. By purchasing this land, the County can assume control, address title issues properly, build necessary infrastructure, and ensure public safety, and most importantly, honor kuleana rights. This approach truly serves the long-term well-being of the whole Lahaina community. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier, please. Thank you.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Kaleikoa Ka'eo, to be followed by the individual logged in as The Royal House of Hawai'i. *(pause)*

MR. KA'EO: E to'u po'e . . .*(inaudible)*. . . eia ta maui ola. E ola ho'i 'o maui ola i ola ia 'oe e Tāne, Tū, me Lono. 'O ia, hō'ōia, e ola. Welina me ke aloha ia 'oukou a pau i kēia kakahaiaka nei mai Aotearoa mai. I'm just going to throw out a few concerns that I have at this point, especially I know this is just the initial opening of this conversation, but I think it's very important that we start off on the right foot. So, you know, first of all, I'd like to say, public welfare and safety is always at the top. So, whatever decisions are made has to be made with the idea that we're doing the best to protect the lives of the residents of Lahaina. But, you know, when I...the question I want to ask is what exactly, and I mean exactly, is the County of Maui will be purchasing? I know there's over 100 so-called parcels. This is kind of being presented as a parcel, a giant parcel, but we understand these are over 100 so-called parcels that all have individual histories, especially in regards to title, in regards to successorship and potential claims by Native Hawaiians to kuleana lands that we know are littered within that area. So, we know definitely for sure. The question I have would be the appraisals and evaluation

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that has been performed already. Was it performed with the idea, in fact, that this was being seen as a parcel or parcels that had...that had been already being clear titled, or has these evaluations already take into account? And in fact, which particular parcels are clear? And the County of Maui, I think, has the fiscal responsibility to know that. If the County of Maui was going to purchase a car, I would assume the County of Maui would make sure that the car they're purchasing had full title, and wasn't a car that you're paying full title and finding out there perhaps are other owners of that car. And I think as...as County of Maui representatives who are in control of our taxpaying money, that's a fiscal responsibility at the highest level that the County of Maui should pursue and protect. And so, for me, the main purpose is to understand this question of 13 million perhaps, or 20 million being purchased. What would the 20 million be based upon? Is the \$20 million valuation based upon this idea that the whole property...or properties, I should say, have been clear titled? And if that's the case, then this is a faulty evaluation. Likewise, with the \$13 million that has been kind of talked about also as potential, when the County of Maui did its evaluation of the value of those land in its appraisal, was that considered? Was that considered that in fact these lands--and I can testify as someone, as a professor myself who has worked in research and the area clearly understands--there are a lot of those parcels--I get over 100 of them that are not clear, and we know that for sure. Now, we all know those kinds of parcels that are not clear, they are subject to many restrictions on subdividing, there are restrictions on power, there are restrictions on providing perhaps even . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . County services into those areas. And so, anyway, these are the kinds of questions. Thank you very much. Aloha nui.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: He was testifying on three bills, so if he wants to keep going, that's three times three.

MR. KA'EO: Yeah, I just...just...and just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait. It's one item --

MR. KA'EO: -- just to add, I think these are the kinds of things --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Paltin.

MR. KA'EO: -- it's a very important opportunity for the County of Maui to also begin the process of planning on how do we restore the life of those...that community, you know, both in a safety issue, but also in regards to the potential...what is the responsibility, for example, of the County of Maui to ensure that those who still hold title, especially through LCA's, kuleana lands in those areas, and that their rights are protected. Because if you look at Unite...I'm sorry, the Hawai'i State Constitution, let's be clear, all . . . *(laughing)*. . . all rights are...constitutional rights are protected in regards to cultural rights, and in regards to potential claimants that are vested, and can never really be extinguished without the full authority of the so-called claimant. So, anyway --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KA'EO: -- thank you very much. I just want to make sure that when the County really understands truly what exactly is it buying, what percentage-- . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . -- is the evaluation accurate, and so forth. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Oh, any questions for the testifier? I see none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the last person currently signed up to testify is the individual logged in as the...The Royal House of Hawai'i.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Pua Pali just returned. Is it okay for her to go?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: After The Royal House. We just announced it, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Is he on? If not, we can go to her. Is he on? I don't see him.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair, he's on.

TESTIFIER 1: Okay. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

TESTIFIER 1: I'm...I'm a member...I'm a member of The Royal House of Hawai'i and heir under Hewahewa, helu 3237, 'āpana 2. And I'm just here to say that with your guys...with you guys trying to buy the land and stuff like that, and so there are royal patent heirs and descendants of all of Hawai'i because all...every single island is royal-patented, allodial titled by the Royal Government of Hawai'i. So, the lands, they don't...the lands wouldn't even have to be bought. It would have to be returned automatically to them by right by law already, which it hasn't been done. And you can even do like a title history, a title search, which...which is called, and it shows the exact people of the royal patent and the heirs who are the true owners of that land, and every single land in Hawai'i. And it...it has to be the original royal patent from Kamehameha, Kauikeaouli, Kamehameha III, and the lands have been frauded for that long, for over 100 years. And for Moku'ula also, that's my 'ohana's lands over there because my 'ohana is Hewahewa, we were the kahunas for the kings. And it's all frauded, literally the entire...even the entire like town, we're not like...we're not going to be evicting all the residents, of course not, like we...us as Hawaiians, we're not like that, but they do have the right to do so, but for sure, I'm pretty sure they will not because the people of Lahaina is of Lahaina. Hello, we're not going to remove them like that, but please call up every single of the heirs and the descendants of those exact lands because they are the true owners forever and ever. And that is the reason why Hawai'i is still sovereign today, sovereign unto yourself from our King Kauikeaouli. And our country is literally being frauded right now, and I don't know how exactly that is really possible in all Maui, even also. So,

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please follow Kamehameha III's laws because these are international concerns that is happening with our titles and our lands, and not only for Lahaina, but also for all of Maui. And...and please return every single royal patented land, and with all the revenue, give . . .(timer sounds). . . give it back to the Native Hawaiians, which is supposed to already be done with a rehabilitation fund, I think, yeah, that's what it's called, with DHHL users or something like that. But yeah, please return all the things to the...and everything to the royal patented descendants and heirs. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier? Was that the last? Oh, no...no, we have...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the...the last individual we have signed up to testify is Pua Pali.

MS. PALI: 'Ano'ai me ke aloha, aloha nui. 'O wau nō 'o Puanani Pali ma ka 'āina 'o Lahaina. Aloha. I'm Puanani Pali. I've lived in Lahaina all my life prior to the fire, and I will be testifying for Bills 138 to 140 and Resolution 25-186, e pili ana i nā 'āina, so-called owned by Peter Martin. For me, as a Kanaka of that space for generations, I do believe that the 125 or so parcels, TMKs, 'āina, belong to the claimants of that...that space. I would love to see that go back, and I feel like we need to not only find out who these owners are, yeah, who have interest in all of these 'āina, but to do better as a County and State to kōkua and let them know and help them through the process, you know. A lot of them might not be aware. If we are choosing between the lesser of evils, I would say Maui County, buy it back, but leave space if a claimant should come forward with proof to be able to work with that 'āina...that 'ohana, that claimant for those whatever 'āina they're trying to claim, and leave space for them to claim it back. Even though we're spending all this money, the rightful heirs of those 'āina should be the ones to mālama that space. So, that's all that I have to say for that. Mahalo nui for having all of us. This is a really big deal, and especially because Lahaina is so sensitive. I myself am not currently living there at the moment because of the devastation, so moving forward for...to create more like access for...access routes for our people in that area, I...I fully support. I do not want something as devastating as the August 2023 fires to happen again, but like I said, buying out those parcels so that we can have all of that land...control over that 'āina, but also leaving space if any claimant should come forward, Maui County to work with them. So, mahalo nui for having me. 'O ia wale nō.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you for testifying. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Was that the last testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Last call.

MR. KRUEGER: -- other individual signed up to testify at the beginning of the meeting, so we'll do a last call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, here comes...

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MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's an individual in the Chamber indicating they'd like to testify.

MR. LAW: Aloha...aloha. Good morning. Jasee Law from Kula Uka, Waiakoa ahupua'a. He ali'i ka 'aina, he kaua ke kanaka. It's very encouraging...oh, good morning. Ohayo, Chair Sugimura. It's very encouraging to hear all the youngsters, the keiki, talking about this kind of stuff. And I was really glad to hear The Royal House of Hawai'i still paying attention, and...and...and I'm learning a little bit every time. I wish I could learn a whole lot, but I guess my computer's old and I can't download that fast. If I may be so bold, I'd like to...without offending any of the...the Hawaiian blood people, I'd like to think that I speak as a servant of Queen Lili'uokalani, and I would...would hope that the 'O'iwi Resources people are listening because I hear some things about buying the land. And I just wanted to...in my mind, it's not really buying the land. It's like the saying says, the...the land is the chief and man is the servant...so really, it's just buying the rights to the land. And then it goes back to how did these guys like Peter Martin--I've never met the guy, so I want to give him a fair shot--but he's got...I wish he would talk and tell us what he thinks because I'm hearing a whole lot of bad stuff about him. I'd like to know how he acquired the rights to the land in the first place. So, yeah, thank you, Royal House of Hawai'i. And so, the...the memo in the book there, the press packet from September 26, 2025, a letter from Lesley Milner says the intended use of these parcels is for Lahaina flood control, the Kuhua Street extension, Mill Street improvements, relocating the Hawaiian...the Salvation Army from Moku'ula, expanding Ka Hale A Ke Ola, additional park expansion, and other needs of the community. And the part that really caught my eye because...and my disclaimer is that I'm at war with the Salvation Army. They didn't help my aunty. They let her go to the hospital, and I guess she probably died by now, but they wouldn't help me with the paperwork so I could be her guardian. And so, I just would rather have...have Salvation Army just relocate out of the...the Kingdom of Hawai'i, period...and for two reasons. And that goes with Ka Hale A Ke Ola. I wish they would please quit calling people homeless. It's very derogatory and rude, and it's really not helping the community at all. So, thank you, everybody, for your time, and hopefully, we can see Lahaina back the way it was, and beautiful, and green, and water, and fruits . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and vegetables for everybody. And...and I'd like to see on all these lands the recycling, and all that kind of stuff I'm always talking about. And Mr. Johnson, if you're still listening, I'd rather be over there with you working on the land. Councilmember --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any...

MR. LAW: -- Paltin, Pō'akolu...happy Wednesday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we'll proceed with last call for anyone wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. If you'd like to testify, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a brief countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. With your permission, Members, I'm going to close public testimony at the beginning of the meeting, receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF MEETING . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

**ITEM 7: BILL 138 (2025), BILL 139 (2025), BILL 140 (2025), AND
RESOLUTION 25-186, RELATING TO WEST MAUI LAND
ACQUISITIONS (WEST MAUI COMMUNITY PLAN AREA)**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Now we're going to start with the meeting. We are taking up BFED-7, Bills 138, 139, 140 (2025), and Resolution 25-186, Relating to the West Maui Acquisition (West Maui Community Plan Area). So, this relates to the acquisition of 120...120 parcels totaling approximately 100...162.07 acres in West Maui. Bills 138, 139, 140 amend Fiscal Year '26 Budget, and the related bond and lapsed bond appropriations ordinances to approximately \$20,150,000 for the project, West Maui Acquisitions. Resolution 25-186 authorizes the acquisition of the identified parcels up to 20 million to exclusive of closing costs and expenses. Intended public uses include flood control, transportation improvements, park expansions, community facilities such as the Salvation Army relocation from Moku'ula to...Ka Hale A Ke Ola expansion, and other community needs. The Administration has requested timely action to allow closing by November 14, 2025, and I hope that the Administration will explain why this date and who requested. Joining us today with our discussions are Jordan Molina, Director, who is the lead of this; Wendy Taomoto, Engineering Program Manager; Marcy Martin, Director of Finance; Guy Hironaka, Real Property Management Specialist...I think you're online, Guy; Oliver Vaas, Fire Captain, requested by Member Paltin; Shayne Agawa, Director, is virtual; John Stufflebean is also virtual, Director of Water; Lesley Milner is here with us in the Chambers. So, at this time, I'd like to ask for opening comments from the Administration, and would that be Director Molina or is it...is it you, Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there he is.

MS. MILNER: I'll let Director Molina begin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Director, then you can tell us who you want to speak after.

MR. MOLINA: Good morning. Is my audio okay --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

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MR. MOLINA: -- with you guys?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you.

MR. MOLINA: Okay. Thank you. Good morning, Committee Chair Sugimura and Members. I'm Jordan Molina, the Director with Department of Public Works. Appreciate you hearing this matter expeditiously. Before you is a request, primarily for Public Works' purposes, but also with other benefit opportunities, to acquire approximately 160 acres in Lahaina above and abutting the existing Lahaina Recreation Center. Two main functions that we hope to achieve with this purchase for Public Works is the facilitation of our...our longstanding projects, one being the Lahaina Watershed Project with the USDA NRCS to develop flood control and protection through the area for Lahaina Town. The second project is our Kuhua Street Extension. Both projects are linear projects which affect a large extent of the properties in question today. I think I quickly tallied up the two projects alone affect over 60 of the parcels being contemplated in today's purchase. And so, you know, I'm just going to kind of speak to my selfish need, so to speak, for Public Works. Land acquisition becomes our biggest challenges, particularly with these kinds of projects of developing new facilities. With a great number of parcels, it just increases the complexity of trying to get all this lands that we're going to need for these projects. And so, this opportunity to gain site control is a huge move to help facilitate the delivery of these projects, not only because it eliminates all the individual negotiations that we potentially deal with facing down the road, but also gives us the flexibility to adjust these projects when we encounter any unknown site conditions through the area. So, at...at the base, I just want to emphasize that those two projects alone benefit tremendously with this purchase, and allow us to move forward with delivery of the projects. There are other opportunities with these lands that are noted, particularly the expansion of Ka Hale A Ke Ola, the relocation of Salvation Army, and expansion of the Lahaina Recreation Center as critical opportunities that this purchase also facilitates. *(pause)* I guess there's a lot to go through, so I don't know if I want to bring it all up now or wait for your folks' questions to walk through at this time. So, I'll hold my comments at this point for the Committee, and hope...I'm happy to answer any questions --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- by you folks. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Director Molina. Do you need any of the other resource people to speak, or do you want to wait for the questions?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, I think we can wait for the questions to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- better utilize your folks' time.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Director Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, I'd like to just echo Director Molina in thanking both you and Chair Lee for your consideration of this item expeditiously in light of the requested November 14th closing date by the seller. That seemed pretty hard and fast on their part, which is why we've asked you to expedite this. It will be funded with bond and lapsed bond fund, and I'm happy to answer any questions as we move forward. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, at this time then, no other comments, right, you were saying from resources? So, any other testifiers?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 7 . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we currently don't have any individuals signed up to testify on BFED-7, so we'll do a last call. If there's anyone who'd like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, Members. So, no testimony now, and I'm going to ask to close public testimony, and we'll receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 7 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, we will begin with questions. So, three minutes per Member, and shall I start with Chair Lee, then go right down? Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I...I have some very quick questions for the Director of Public Works, Mr. Molina. The...I'm very supportive of your request, but I did want to know, when you said expansion of Ka Hale A Ke Ola, how many acres are you talking about? Originally, there were five...because I was there to develop that first, you know, five, and the reason why I was there, for your information, is because nobody wanted the...you know, the...that facility near them. So, I'm hoping you're not going to have other housing projects immediately around them because then that'll become a big problem. So, initially, it was five acres in the middle of an old cane field, and how many acres are you going to add to that facility?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director?

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Member Lee. So, I understand it's a two-acre expansion being contemplated, which was requested previously by their...by them with the previous

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owner, Pioneer Mill. And if there's further questions, I would defer to Ms. Taomoto, as she's been working more closely --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- with that request.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. I just hope you consider more, if you have. And the last question is to the Budget Director. When you talked about lapsed bonds, which...how much money from the lapsed bonds? Which projects?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Yes, we're looking at \$3,957,294 in lapsed bond projects. There's only one project where the majority of the anticipated bond funding lapsed, which was the Alfred Boteilho Senior Gym improvements, which was approximately 1.8. The remainder of the funding that has lapsed, those projects were completed. They just didn't need as much funding as originally anticipated. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Paltin next, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank...thank you, Chair. For my first round of questions, I think I'd like to ask Fire, I guess Mist...Captain Vaas. Is this purchase what's allowing the condominium property regime lots mauka of Circle K that wasn't turned into a subdivision, and only did...is this the purchase that allows them to return home?

MR. VAAS: Well, what we need to establish...if you're talking about the Dickenson Road [sic] extension, is that what we're talking about? Yeah. We...we just need to make sure that that road is held to the access standards. So, whether it's privately owned or County owned, we need to have that road be 20 feet wide, and have fire hydrants. And so, whether it remains private and they make those improvements, or whether the County owns it and they make the improvements, that's...that's the answer we're looking for to be able to approve people to live in that area.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is making fire hydrants a part of this purchase, for anyone who knows the answer?

MR. VAAS: Well, I can't answer that. I'm not sure if that's included in the monies that they're asking for, but that's...we're trying to write that letter to somebody, and the people who own it are saying that it's in negotiation. So, who do we write this letter to? Because the property owner, the person trying to build their home right now, they're...of course. that's not their road, so they don't have the ability to make those improvements. And we don't want to hold them hostage to improvements to this roadway.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I have limited time. So, if the County --

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MR. VAAS: Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- owns the road, will the County make the fire hydrants?

MR. VAAS: We will be making that request of the County to improve that road width and have fire hydrants put in. Now, whether that's a public-private agreement between their association and the County, we don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then my other question was regarding the skimming wells. My understanding is we're buying the land under the skimming wells, but the skimming wells are not for sale; is that correct?

MR. VAAS: I...I'm not informed on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it Water?

MR. MOLINA: Chair. Yeah, those...those have not been part of this land negotiation, but I understand there are separate conversations underway to look at those water systems. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the transmittal said 120 parcels, the appraisal said 121 parcels. Did we verify that the 121 in the appraisal wasn't double counted for appraisal purposes?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, that...that was . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . a mistake in the appraisal report. It is 120 parcels.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But we didn't double charge for the 121, it was straight 120?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we'll continue...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like the appraisal is correct for the actual number of parcels?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have Director --

MR. MOLINA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Martin popped up.

MR. MOLINA: That's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, maybe she can help answer that also from Finance. Director Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. The number of lots included in the appraisal was 120. So, we're going to have that corrected.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The only other thing, like some other testifier mentioned, this is a huge thing. And yesterday, you had one parcel with like the title report. We didn't get the title report for 120 parcels prior to this meeting starting. And, you know, if we are the fiscal oversight, that's kind of crazy that we're starting this conversation without even being able to look at the title reports. So, I hope that there's some time at some point before we have to vote that we're given an opportunity to look at the title reports. That's...that's all I have to say for my first round. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very pertinent. So, did we post the title report? Did we get it? Oh, it's in Granicus. So, it's the last item in Granicus. Okay. So, we...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but we've been in the meeting all this time, so I...I haven't...I...I can only do so much at one time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So, we'll have a discussion about that. So, next, we're going to have Member Johnson, followed by Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Just to let you know, I'm in the...I'm in a car with my irrigation guy, Matt (*phonetic*), so just letting you know. But I don't have any questions at this time. I'm following along. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for, I believe, Director Molina. Moving...this is...with this many parcels, what...after the County purchases it, what do we have to do to move forward? What agencies? I mean, do we have to deal with the State Land Use Commission, SMA? I mean, what's...could you kind of give a thumbnail sketch of...the County purchases this property, and then is it a lot consolidation? What...what goes on to enable the County to be able to implement the infrastructure plans that we want and need?

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Member Cook. From my understanding, we have to engage in environmental reviews, but no land use changes are necessary to build the road, or to build the flood channel. When it comes to the development proposals, Ka Hale A Ke Ola, et cetera, those likely will trigger land use amendments and related permitting tied to those, but I'm not able to comment on those at this point because like I mentioned, the two objectives for Public Works are the road extension and the flood control channel.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, that...that's good to hear. So, just to clarify, we can do the roads and the flood channels. Basically, we don't...we shouldn't have any real agency obstructions to be able to do that after the County purchases it?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, no regulatory. The biggest one, of course, is going to be unknown historic properties that we encounter when we do the design work for these projects.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you. And then my question, I guess it would be for the Real Property...I don't know who would be the proper person. I'm curious. There's

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two different appraisal values, one purchasing it as a single block, and then the other one was an appraisal for all of them individually. I guess this is a very unique land purchase, so it's an unusual one. Simplicity...simply, what is...why is that variance?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Finance Department, and it's on page 9 of the appraisal.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, in an appraisal, they are considering the typical pool of buyers. And because the owner has many options, they could sell off the parcels individually, one at a time, or they could give a bulk sale discount to someone who came in and bought all of the parcels at one time. So, that's what the...the two values represent. So, just the second value represents a typical market adjustment for a developer that's buying . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . a bulk purchase.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you. I'll...I'll save my clarify...my question for the next one. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins? And then I'm going to ask for us to take a break so people can look at the title report, sounds like, after the first round. Okay. Go ahead. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to follow up on Member Cook's line of questioning with the 13 million, and then \$17 million [*sic*]. So, I guess land is difficult to come across, especially land that's in a location that is strategically great for road improvements and flood channels. So, I wanted to ask Director Molina's opinion on the \$7 million increase from the bulk discount sale to what we are looking at right now at \$20 million.

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. As you mentioned, you know, there aren't very good comparables for this kind of acquisition. And so, where we started to where we're at has come a long way from the seller standpoint. They had appraisals in the range of the 40 to \$50 million, in large part based on what they've been seeing their ability to sell off these parcels at. And so, we've been negotiating down, and we've reached 20 at this point. And I'm...I'm sure you experienced that appraisals can take...or, you know, there's a baseline of assumptions that go into an appraisal, and that's what ends up getting debated in the ultimate price. And so, that's where the discrepancy lies in how the County structured its appraisal versus how the seller did it, which is kind of, you know, up for debate when you have these kinds of lands that we're talking about today. Ultimately, it boiled down to this \$20 million number, which we felt comfortable with, given all things considered. It is consistent with our property tax assessment --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes, it is.

MR. MOLINA: -- a little bit lower, actually, than what --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes, it is.

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MR. MOLINA: -- property tax assesses at. And...and so, we feel comfortable it's a reasonable number. What the County appraisal did is, it grouped some of these parcels. So, it...basically, it evaluated all these lands as 15 parcels based on our appraiser's assumption of their developability. And so, that affects the pricing significantly, whereas the seller looked at each one as its own sellable lot.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: And so, you know, approaching the lands in that way creates, you know, that disparity on the...on the valuations that we ultimately reach in these reports.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for that. I appreciate that, and I appreciate you mentioning the assessed value in our report because that was my next question, I guess, for Director Martin. On page 7 of the report, we're looking at a 2023 assessed valuation from our end of 20...\$21.7 million. But then a few pages later, on page 9, we see that if the entirety is sold . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . to one investor in one transaction, it was 13. But we...really, we've been telling them that their land is worth 21 million, and that's what we've been taxing them at. So, I just wanted to make that point, and then get your opinion. But we can save it because I heard my bell, unless she wants to answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead. Go ahead, Director.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. So, for real property tax purposes, the parcels are assessed individually. *(pause)*

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's your whole statement. Okay. So, Members, we...well, I have a question. But after I do my questions, do you want time to look at the title report? Because we just got that. We do, yeah? Or do you want to do a whole other round of questions? Okay. I'm going to do...I'm going to ask questions, and then we'll...we'll...you guys can have time to look at the title report. Do you need 15 minutes? Do you need 30 minutes? How long do you need? Fifteen?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, it's 120 title reports, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, how long do you need? Tomorrow? What would you like?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, we can start off with 15, I guess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, this is my question for...and it's really related to the title report is, this came actually from eComments. It says, please show the title reports for the 120 or 121 parcels. Please elaborate on if there will be title insurance. If some of these parcels have clear title...if some of the parcels have clear title, how many have clear title? I guess they're asking is there clear title for all? And is that a question that

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you can answer? Who would be able to...oh...who would be able to answer that? Who looked at this before us? So, it would be Director Martin? Finance?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, during this due diligence process, Corp. Counsel and Finance and...we'll have several people reviewing the title reports.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do we have clear title? Are you saying that there's a bunch that we do not?

MS. MARTIN: Like I said, right now we're reviewing the title reports.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so you're...you're going to use this time to look at it also. Corp. Counsel, you have a comment on this?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Thank you, Chair. Yes, we also just received the updated title reports yesterday. So, we haven't had the time to thoroughly review it. And this is part of our...our due diligence process, and will be also part of the...as we are working with the seller on...if this passes the Council, as part of negotiations on the terms in the purchase and sale agreement.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if there's no clear title to some parcels, what would be needed in order to get it? And would the County then be...then have more expenses than we know of today? Or would that be a question for Finance?

MR. MOLINA: Chair, if I may?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have the answer. Go ahead, Director.

MR. MOLINA: We understand there's approximately 18 parcels that are noted as not having clear title, and that's from documentation provided by the seller. And so, those will have to be handled, of course, in a different manner to resolve those title issues, which will largely depend on where they are, and kind of any conflicts we run into with utilizing those lands. So...yeah. I mean, yeah, the purchase is just the beginning, of course, with these...to implement these projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, do you know if they would be a conflict with what you're trying to achieve because you have 60 parcels? Oh, there's Guy Hironaka also. Guy Hironaka?

MR. MOLINA: Potentially. And there's a, you know, method . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . or, you know, there's...there's approaches that we can do to address those title issues, whether it's going to be eminent domain to clear the title or other negotiations, as may be required, depending on the specific nature of those parcels.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that would stop your project from proceeding? Is that what you're saying?

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MR. MOLINA: It'll...it's a complication, but I don't think it stops it necessarily. But of course, when we come back to Council, if...you know, should we have to go through an eminent domain proceeding, Council would be involved in authorizing that action.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And title insurance was the other part of the question. Guy Hironaka?

MR. HIRONAKA: Okay, Chair. You know, our discussion with the title company. So, title insurance would not cover...it would be excluded for any property that does not have clear title. That does not exclude us from acquiring the property, it's just that it will not be covered by title insurance policy. The policy would exclude those parcels. And then once we get title to the properties, we can then go to, you know, the courts to try to clean it up, or work with title to try to clean up the title later on. And after we get clear title, we can have the policy amended and reissued. And that's how those work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, that's the end of my three minutes. It is now 10:20, and I'm going to call a recess so that you can look at the...the title report that we just got. And Members, do you want to...if it's that many parcels that...we know now there's only 18 that are problems, is it okay if we come back at 10:45? Would that give you enough time?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No objections. 10:45, take a recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:20 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:54 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Good...good morning. It's 10:54. Back to the BFED meeting. Thanks for the recess. So, right after we took this recess, I asked Corp. Counsel, oh, did you have a chance to look at the title report? They said, oh, no. They're like us. They just got it. So, what I'm going to do, Members, is number one, ask for Director Molina to send us the 8...the list of the 18 parcels that are...do not have title, number one. And I wonder if you could send it to us soon? Do you have that list now, Director?

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, we're working to finalize that list and get it over to you folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And then I'm going to table this item so that we can come back tomorrow at 9:00 and finish discussions because I think it's a really important part. We heard from the testifiers also about that. And...and...well, for us, it's our responsibility. I see Member --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Kama, then Member Paltin. I hear somebody just called my name too.
Go ahead, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I did, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I wanted to ask how much material are those 18 parcels that need to be read? And do they come with maps?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who has seen...

MR. MOLINA: Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead --

MR. MOLINA: -- if I may?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Director.

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, we're also working on an exhibit map. But just to clarify, the title reports you folks have are not going to make mention of those 18 parcels because the title report covers the parcels with clear title. So, we have a listing, and we have a map. And we're working...we're going to be contacting the title company to see what they're able to provide because typically, those reports are accompanied with the issuance of title insurance which cannot be done in the case of the...these 18 parcels. Just additional context. So, three of the parcels are road lots, Dickenson and Mill Street included, and one smaller internal road lot. And...and the total acreages for these lots is about 15 acres out of the 160.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And so...so, Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- Corp. Counsel is supposed to be reviewing all of these --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- lots...I mean, all of these parcels, and then we will be reviewing them the same time they are.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Is that correct?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. But basically, what we're looking at are the parcels in the title report that do have title. So, therefore, the ones that do not, we're going to have to...we're going to have to look at the appraisal, and figure out which...which parcels are being impacted; is that right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And all of this is going to be done tomorrow?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What can...what can Director Molina get to us soon? And I'm going to call on Member Paltin, then Member Cook after.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, after. Somebody has an answer for Member Kama? Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...for tomorrow, my question would be those 18 parcels without clear title, if they're necessary for Public Works' projects. And I think, if I understand correctly, he said three of the parcels that don't have clear title are roadway lots. Is that what he said?

MR. MOLINA: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And if...beyond those 3, the other 15 parcels that don't have clear title, if they're needed for the flood control project. And if it's possible to just purchase the parcels that only have clear title. Of course, you know, the recent Supreme Court case that just got overturned, it was because some of the heirs, or some of the family weren't included in the purchase. So, clear title still could be challenged. But if we can get title insurance, I think that's the main thing so that the County is protected if heirs come forward, and they weren't consulted in the selling of their families' lands. But if we can know of the other 15 parcels, if any of them are affected by the --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Public Works project for flood control or roadway widening and so forth.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Corp. Counsel...is that a question for Corp. Counsel, or does Director Molina have that?

MR. MOLINA: We'll be able --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think it would be...

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MR. MOLINA: -- to show that in our exhibit map.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, perfect. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, some of the parcels that do not have title that are going to be impacted by the Public Works' projects, we will not have title insurance for, based upon what Guy Hironaka said. They wouldn't be eligible because they're no...there's no title; is that correct?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Until you eminent domain or clear the title in some way. But the roadway lots are for health and safety of the community. So, I would be supportive because, you know, we do need more evacuation access so that people don't die in future disasters. So, I mean --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I'm...I'm supportive of the roadways.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we need the TMKs. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I...I would be supportive of moving forward with the...with this, with the understanding that the potential 15--it sounds like 18 lots minus three lots would be 15 lots--there may be some potential issues in the future where the County would either have options of eminent domain if it was required and necessary, or negotiating with the heirs who came forward and demonstrated that. I think that the need for this for the public good, for the highways and the flood control, et cetera. I personally don't think that we need to delay this purchase for those issues because they're very much in the weeds, and a lot of detail, and a lot of negotiation with the title insurance, and et cetera. I don't think it's practical for us to plan to deal with that today or tomorrow. So, my two cents. I just want to let you know my --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- support of this. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We got to deal with it tomorrow because we have a deadline of November 15th. So, we got to have first and second reading by November 7th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't know how much more we can delay beyond tomorrow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Unless if we exclude those parcels.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Hmm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, that's going to be...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: We need to talk about that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. And I'll defer to Director Molina or perhaps Ms. Taomoto, but my understanding is that the seller is not willing to carve out any parcels from this sale. It's sort of an all-or-nothing situation. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. That's important.

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, just to affirm that, and just to give my recommendation that throughout these discussions, those parcels were heavily discounted. But I think in the interest of everyone, the County acquiring control of those parcels would be in the best interest to be able to move forward with resolving any issues that should arise, rather than keep these parcels scattered throughout the land that we're acquiring, and left with the current owner to deal with.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MOLINA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. But it's not going to...will that delay your work if we don't have clear title?

MR. MOLINA: I think it potentially makes it harder if those parcels are not under our control, along with all the other lands, to be able to facilitate those negotiations and those resolutions down the road. I think it's much simpler for the County to gain current control of everything, and work through the site-specific issues with the parties that come forward, rather than keeping another party involved, i.e., the current landowner --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- in the mix of trying to resolve those issues.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I agree.

MR. MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I hear...I hear what you're recommending. So, the Director's pretty clear, and Ms. Milner, who handles the budget, is also on the same page, where we need to look at all the parcels, even those that have clouded title, and that's a decision for the Members. And just know, and correct me if I'm wrong, that we're going to have more financial impacts after we do this deal; is that correct, Director Molina? Milner?

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MR. MOLINA: Well, we keep in mind the facilities we intend to construct. Yes, we are committing ourselves to maintain that level of service we're proposing. So, not just with the land, but the full delivery of these projects, there is a lot of costs ahead of us if we proceed with these projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. But to get the title so that we can proceed with the projects you're talking about, we can anticipate more costs that we don't know of today?

MR. MOLINA: Yeah, but I would categorize those as de minimis relative to the cost of the improvements and the operations of maintenance we're going to incur --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MOLINA: -- perpetually. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, you all got that? More to come. All right. Thank you very much. So, 9:00 tomorrow...I'm going to table this. 9:00 tomorrow, we're going to pick up this project, and we have the three bills as well as a reso to pass. And then it'll go to first reading on November [sic] 24th, or was it 20...24th? Yeah, November [sic] 24th. Our second meeting would be...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: October.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: October.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: October, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, October. November 7th would be second and final to meet the November 14th or 15th deadline imposed by this seller. All right. Members, thank you very much. I'm going to table this. Thanks for your patience. You all now have the title reports. Director Molina, we look forward to the information that you're going to provide for us regarding those 18 parcels. And...okay. Any questions? Seeing none. Okay. We are done with this.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KRF and SS)

ACTION: TABLE until 10/08/2025 reconvened meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I wonder if OED will come down, and then we're going to take up the second item on the agenda. So, thank you, Members. Corp. Counsel, you're going to be busy, like us, looking at this title report, and giving us your wisdom tomorrow at 9:00.

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**ITEM 20(12): ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so, now we're going to take up BFED-20(12), Administration and Management of the Office of Economic Development. And that's the final item on our agenda today. It's a Rule 7(B) discussion on administration and management in the Office of Economic Development grants. In June, Members, I raised questions and concerns about OED grants. The Chief of Staff noted a working group was convened to recommend improvements. Thank you very much. Today, the Committee will review Office of Economic Development's current grants administration, plan changes under direct...oh, Director, sorry...Director Rojas-Letisi, and the working group findings within the implementation plan and timeline. We will also discuss the Office Kama'aina Economy Initiative, including related strategic goals and how the initiative may impact grants. So, at this time, I'd like to...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because we are running out of time, the first item took so long, can you make your presentations shorter so we have more time for questions? Okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, because you got the handout. It's pretty long. All right. So, I hear that. So, I guess Chief of Staff, if you heard the question, if that could happen, you have a pretty good presentation. And I also would like to introduce our...our new Director for the Office of Economic Development, which is Jade Rojas-Letisi. So, whoever wants to do the presentation, please proceed, and then we'll take testimony after.

MS. LALLO: Wonderful. Thank you, and good morning. Aloha, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to appear before you today. We are going to try to expedite the presentation, but please note that a majority of that package are really resources for you. When we talk about what's different today than was a year ago, some of that will outline the information for you. So, the Office of Economic Development has undergone a thoughtful refocus over the past year to strengthen our core mission to support a resilient and thriving Kama'aina Economy. Our work is now organized, really, in two key functions. It's the economic innovation component, and also the grants management component. Of course, the grants management is a tool for that economic development component. Through the structure, we're working to align County investments and partnerships with Maui's long-term priorities. In collaboration with Finance and Corporation Counsel, we've also made significant progress towards standardizing and improving the County's grants process. These efforts are designed to promote greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency across departments, ensuring that taxpayer funds are invested wisely, and that our nonprofit and community partners are set up for success. We have a variety of folks that are going to be presenting today. Director Rojas-Letisi, team leads Jillian Ugalino and Carrie DeCoite. We have a representative from one of our three

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working groups, and Budget Director Milner and I will be finishing up. So, I'm going to turn it over to Director Rojas-Letisi. *(pause)* Is it on?

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Test. Thank you so much, Cynthia. She just went over this organizational chart, so we'll go ahead and skip to the next slide, please. *(pause)* Okay. Well, while they're doing this, I just wanted to thank you for having us here today. It's a pretty surreal moment being here on this side, but I'm honored to be here before you to introduce the Office of Economic Development's strategic framework, and share some of the new concepts that we've been working on as we begin to bifurcate our different areas of focus. *(pause)* Okay. There we go. Okay. So, our focus right now is on the Kama'āina Economy. So, what is the Kama'āina Economy? And when we talk about what it is, we're talking about more than a plan. We're talking about a philosophy of self-reliance, and a strategy for shared prosperity. It's about building an economy that works for Maui Nui by Maui Nui, and one that puts our people and our industries at the center of growth. So, the Kama'āina Economy is a strategic economic framework that strengthens Maui Nui's local industries, workforce pipelines, and circular value chains to ensure long-term resilience and community wealth retention. So, this framework ties together our industries, our workforce, and our investment systems to make sure that the prosperity that we build here stays here, and really adding emphasis on the circular economy model. Some of our key objectives include diversifying beyond tourism through strategic industry development, and diversification is essential for stability. So, we're investing in sectors that build resilience and create high-quality local jobs. Next, we have investment in local innovation, entrepreneurship, and workforce training. So, of course, our people are our greatest asset, and by nurturing entrepreneurship and career-connected learning, we're ensuring our keiki and workers have pathways to stay here and thrive at home. Next, we're circulating capital locally to keep dollars in Maui County...and again, this is an emphasis, again, on the circular economy model, where we want to see every dollar spent here reinvested back into our community, growing local businesses, and building generational wealth, and of course, sustaining cultural and natural resources. So, true economic development must also mean stewardship, and that's protecting the land, honoring our culture, and ensuring initiatives uplift our mission to preserve and protect. Next slide, please. *(pause)* Okay. So, how were the Kama'āina Economy industries identified? So, the industries within the framework were carefully selected through data-driven, values-based, and collaborative process that reflects our unique strengths, community priorities, and future opportunities. Our goal was to identify sectors that not only diversify our economy, but also advance self-reliance and resilience. And to guide this process, we used three key criteria, the first being local impact. Does the industry address core community needs, such as housing, healthcare, food security, or workforce opportunity? The second is economic resilience. Can it strengthen Maui Nui's ability to withstand external shocks, and reduce reliance on sectors like tourism? And the third is cultural and environmental alignment. Does the industry reflect aloha 'āina and support a balanced approach to growth that amplifies our collective work to protect our cultural legacy? Next slide, please. *(pause)* There's a little delay, sorry. Okay. So, what are the Kama'āina Economy industries? So, the industries we've identified form a balanced portfolio. They're heavy levers that blend immediate impact sectors with future-oriented opportunities, which are all rooted in our local talent and our capacity.

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So, first, we have construction, which drives immediate economic stimulus and delivers essential infrastructure. It's one of the strongest economic multipliers, supporting a wide network of local suppliers, engineers, tradespeople, and small businesses. And as we all know, building kama'āina housing is a top priority. So, not only are we replacing what was lost from the 2023 wildfires, but we're creating new workforce and affordable home models that allow families to live where they work. Next industry we have is tech, and technology represents our gateway to the global economy, and expands opportunities beyond our geographic limitations here surrounded by the Pacific. With assets like Maui Tech Park in Kihei and growing partnerships in AI and aerospace, we're cultivating a hub for knowledge-based industries. These sectors attract high-wage jobs, and empower our youth to pursue STEM careers without having to leave home. Next industry we have is healthcare, which is one of our most mission-critical sectors, and essential for not only community well-being, but also for economic stability and workforce opportunity. OED is a community partner and sponsor for MEDB's Healthcare Sector Partnership Meetings, which have been bringing together quite a large roundtable of industry leaders from hospitals, schools, and employers to align different training, recruitment, and retention strategies. And it's pretty impressive, actually, because they're on a pretty short timeline to get...to identify these different bottlenecks, and get the solutions implemented. But by working collaborat...excuse me, collaboratively, we're identifying and finding the solutions to career pathways, and addressing workforce shortages to ensure our healthcare workers can live where they serve. And I think the perfect example of this is the Hale Makua project that just came up recently in Council. All right. Next, we have creative industries. So, the creative sector is one of our most powerful engines for innovation and identity, which blends together art, culture, and entrepreneurship. So, from film and media production to design, festivals, and fashion, these industries generate exportable products, attract investment, and amplify local stories to, again, global audiences. And this sector strengthens our sense of place while diversifying revenue streams, proving that creativity is both a cultural asset and a competitive advantage. We also have the energy sector. And for the sake of time, I'll keep it short and just share that, as we all know, we're working towards meeting the goals of the 2045 mandate by Act 97. And last but not least, we have advanced manufacturing. And I want to be really clear about our vision for this industry because the word manufacturing can sound very intimidating, right? But what we're really focused on is small footprint, high-value manufacturing that serves our local business needs. So, this approach will help create tools, parts, and solutions right here, where we're less dependent on imports, and better equipped for recovery and innovation. And I think one great example is 3D printing, right? So, this is a capability that can solve real challenges, like sourcing replacement parts for Fire Department's out-of-commission vehicles, or creating custom components quickly, efficiently...and again, promotes the circular economy model that we're so focused on because we're going to be investing in local businesses here to do that for us. And we can link manufacturing to agriculture and food system securities. And I think Mahi Pono, along with the Maui Food and Innovation Center, are the perfect examples of that. Okay. Next slide, please. *(pause)* I'll just get started. We're getting there. So, our economic vision and outcomes...really, housing and workforce must rise together, ensuring every job created comes with a place our families can afford to live. True resilience needs partnership, right? So, County, State, Federal, business, and

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community, we all need to work in tandem to shape the future. And speaking of the future, our youth, of course, are the future, right? So, we're creating clear, career-connected pathways. And as we continue to support Kama'āina Come Home campaigns, our greater vision is to build an economy where they never even have to leave...one that sustains opportunity and allows our people to stay rooted where their hearts already belong. And we firmly believe that this is absolutely possible, and now is the time for us to make this happen. Next slide, please. Almost done, promise.

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

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: And I just wanted to share that...and highlight that we're working closely with our Office of Recovery, right, to ensure revitalization efforts are aligned with long-term recovery goals and community resilience strategies. So, as you know, County has dedicated 15 million towards the economic revitalization section under the Ho'okumu Hou umbrella. And the current plan prioritizes workforce development initiatives, targeting the construction industry and future-ready job sectors. Currently, the RFP is out, with hopes that by next summer, the County will begin identifying eligible products with an emphasis on training, upskilling, and employment pipelines, with the ultimate goal being to catalyze economic revitalization. So, these investments will stimulate local job creation, support recovery, and build capacity across mainly the construction industry. And last slide. So, ultimately, we envision OED as the lei needle that connects each partnership across public, private, philanthropic, and Federal sectors. And it's through this careful weaving that we create this lei of opportunity that honors every contribution, and strengthens Maui Nui's economic fabric. And I'll end with our quote, is that the Kama'āina Economy is Maui Nui's blueprint for sustainable prosperity, and we're putting our stamp on the future so that all may prosper. And with that, I'll hand it over to our grants team.

MS. DECOITE: Thank you, Director. All right. Next slide, please. As previously mentioned, our grants team is consisting of two team leads. As we move forward, myself, Carrie, and as well as Jill, I will be presenting our grant data today. Next slide, please. *(pause)* Oh, thank you. So, in preparation, every grant cycle, we do offer in-person grant readiness workshops. This is highlighting our grant application process, and all required items needed by organizations in order to apply with our Department. This past fiscal year, we had a total of eight in-person workshops, as well as one offered virtual. We had a total participation of 135 organizations. Going forward, we did find that offering extra time after each grant workshop was very impactful for organizations to have their one-on-one questions answered. We did also find that we want to go out to Lāna'i to have possibly an in-person workshop there as well for the community members there. And we do find that working throughout multiple days to offer different time slots for these workshops offer better participation. Next slide, please. Okay. Our data preparation is for the Fiscal Year '25. Overall, in application intake, we received 190 applications. Conditionally, we were able to award 162, and successfully execute 150 grant agreements. So, about 93 percent success rate in the execution. Next slide, please. *(pause)* All right. A little further data breakdown for Fiscal Year '25. In terms of line items, there were 27 allocated within the ordinance. That year, we were able to receive 23 applications, and execute all 23. So, that was about 85 percent being able

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to follow through to the end of execution for that...for those line items that were allocated. In terms of residency area funds, there was a total of 73 items allocated. We were only able to receive 49 applications, and execute 41 of those successfully. We did learn from Fiscal Year '25. So, moving forward in Fiscal Year '26, where we are now, we have begun to have more open communication with our Councilmember offices, just to have gentle reminders for the deadlines coming up for these applications. And competitive funding, we were able to execute 86 agreements. Although we would like to award everyone, primarily the reason for only having 86 was, we ran out of funding for that year. Our priority target areas are highlighted below, but I'm not going to list all of them for sake of time. Next slide, please. *(pause)* Okay. To date of Fiscal Year '26, our OED team, as it stands, we have five grant specialists managing a total of 258 open grants. These grants span from Fiscal Year '22 to current. We have outstanding applications. We have a deadline of November 15th for our line items and our...our residency allocations. And I'm proud to say that we have only 20 outstanding residency applications this year, a good improvement from last year. Next slide, please. *(pause)* So, I would like to take time to just briefly overview our OED grant timeline to execution. It is a rather thorough and lengthy process. I have provided supporting documents for all of you with more detailed information, but I just want to do a brief overview. From application intake, like I mentioned, we do have average of 200 applications that come in through our Department annually. So, from that process of accepting the application and going through conditional notification of awarding, it does take on average four weeks to complete that...that window of time. In that window, it also includes evaluation of all 200 applications, internal meetings between the departments, and final recommendations from the Director for funding. Our next window of time would include conditional letters sending...sent out to our grantees, requesting revisions if needed. From that time period down to Department approval of the revisions, it takes, on average, two weeks. Primarily, the timeline will differ in this window, just depending on how long it will take the grantee to respond to requests and to be in compliance. Our final window of timeline will be from drafting of the actual grant agreement, all the way down to the execution, and the notice to proceed letter. This timeline can take about six weeks, just having to factor in that it does need to route between six different departments. If we do need to do amendments to any of these grant agreements, it will fall under the same timeline. And for reimbursements, we do have many timelines in the OED, but these are the two that often are the most thorough process. So, for a reimbursement request, if we are to receive a complete package, which is completely with all the supporting documents, everything needed for the expenses of that reimbursement, if we have it submitted to us, it takes us up to 30 days, as grant specialists, to review and request additional documentation, should it be needed...at which point we get Director's approval and signature, and we forward over to Finance. Once it's in Finance, they do their review, and it takes about two weeks for them to do acceptance and payments, pending no extra supporting documents are requested. That's our timeline for that. And I'm going to...we're open for questions after this, but I'm going to pass on our...are you doing the next one? The next slide?

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

MS. DECOITE: Oh, to Lesley. Thank you.

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MS. MILNER: Thank you. Yes. So, we just wanted to talk briefly about some of the working groups that we've convened during this past few months. The...we have a group that is Budget Office, Mayor's Office, Office of Economic Development, Corporation Counsel, and Finance, where we're really trying to standardize our systems. At least for me, I'm considering this sort of a pilot so that we can start to standardize Countywide. I think that's really important, not only for our departments, but for our grantees. And part of that standardization process is, we are working on creating a Countywide grants landing page. So, anyone looking for a grant from the County can go to that page and go, oh, I want an agriculture grant, and click through to the specifics on Department of Agriculture. But right now...I don't know if you guys have Googled Maui County grants? You get a lot of results, and it's hard to figure out what's out there. So, we're really trying to simplify the process for any potential grantees moving forward. And that sort of...the standardization discussion leads into our second group. And I will have Deanna speak to that a little bit, which is our grant managers and grant writers, large group all across the departments.

MS. AINA: Thank you, Budget Director. Yes, we got together with Countywide grant writers and grant managers so that we can kind of get the information, pull it together, and figure out a way that we can standardize whether it's the operation, the process, the documentation, and see where we match with the other departments that could actually upload the information and documentation on this landing page, which will just make it so much simpler for...for County departments so that we're not using several different modes, right? Standard...the grant software, we got together so that we can give our input on what works for us, what doesn't work, what we would like to see. So, we can build those modules once we can identify that software. The recommendations for grantee readiness is to help the grantees know what they need exactly. Like Carrie and Jillian were talking about is, knowing what gets them ready, you know, what brings them in compliance so that they know it's right there, and it's easily accessible. The grant systems and process...again, like we mentioned earlier, it's...it's ongoing. Everybody pops up with something or other that's good for their department and that will be beneficial for the County. We are now...also, we walked into the fact that we can collaborate with other departments as grant writing teams, like the Mayor's team with MPD, with the Department of 'Oiwī, which we're currently working on. So, it's given us a good indication of working people, right? Working with other departments and being more familiar. And that's all I have.

MS. MILNER: Thank you so much. And yeah, I will just add as part of that, it allows us an opportunity to ensure we're not duplicating efforts either on applications that departments are submitting so that we're not competing with ourselves. And also, it's an opportunity for grant writers to sit down and go, wait, that nonprofit applied for money from you, but we just gave them a grant for that same project, and make sure we're not accidentally duplicating funding as well. Our third working group is Budget Office, Finance, and Corporation Counsel. And again, this goes into that standardization. We're trying to make sure that everyone who touches these grants is involved in this review process, and make sure they're on board with any sort of standardization efforts. The next couple of slides are some of the considerations that

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came out of those working groups. I don't know that you want us to read all of this to you, so I will just leave that there because it's fairly clear, but obviously, we're open for questions on that. And then we did just want to highlight a little bit because we know these are things that come out...up sometimes, Maui County Code, some considerations. The 25 percent or more, we're asking grantees, for OED, to justify the request, provide a clear outline of what the funds will be used for, and any kind of supporting documentation they have, such as quotes and invoices. And part of the reason for this is actually, if you look at the third bullet, the general terms and conditions of the grant require that within 30 days of an upfront disbursement, they have to submit all of their documentation to show how those funds were expended. So, by asking for that documentation upfront, it gets them in a better position to be able to comply with the grant terms. And just a reminder for any grantees that are listening, if you are requesting an upfront disbursement, please make sure that language is included in your grant agreement. If it is not in the grant agreement, you have not been approved for upfront disbursement. And then a possible Code amendment to discuss going forward. Currently, 3.36.030 has publish in a local newspaper, and as you all know, that can be a little complicated sometimes. So, we are suggesting a possible amendment to change that to distribute to local media, which we can discuss further. We can get that amendment down to you for consider...formal consideration, but we just wanted to let you know it was on the horizon. There's some other possible amendments that we've been discussing in the working groups, but those aren't final enough that I feel comfortable giving you any hard and fast details at the moment. And now I will hand it over to Cynthia to talk about our grants trainings.

MS. LALLO: Awesome. Thank you, Budget Director. The last component that we wanted to share with you this morning was a grants workshops pilot program that we had mentioned to you all. We had held five general grant writing workshops. These are not County-specific workshops. They are how do you write a grant in general. A big focus on that is focused on readiness, as...as Lesley mentioned. These were offered in Central Maui, Hāna, Lānaʻi, and Molokai. And we had 150 participants, and all of those were evaluated, and you can see some of the...the high-level findings there. It wasn't enough time, and we need to do a whole bank of grant writing workshops. So, Budget Director and I did these with the support of our teams, and I would say that they were highly successful. And we will leave it there. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you very much. I will...well, first of all, welcome new Executive Director Rojas-Letisi. Nice to see you here. Yeah. All right. So, I'm going to call...do you have anybody signed up for testimony?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 20(12) . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no individuals signed up to testify on this item, so we'll do a last call. If there's anybody who'd like to testify on item BFED-20(12), please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify on this item.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, with your permission, I'm going to close public testimony, and open [sic] for written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 20(12) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. So, we got that. Also note that in Granicus, they submitted today, I guess during the meeting, a whole bunch of collateral for you to look at besides this presentation. And I'm going to take questions so we can get to our 12:00 end of the meeting. And three minutes per Member. Member Kama's not here. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair, I'm here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you are?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair, I'm here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Let her go first.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm right next to Tamara.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I see you. We'll go to --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Chair Lee first, and then we'll go to you next.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Fine. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well...okay. Ms. Lallo, I hear that when the Council puts in monies for grants and designates a grantee, why is it there are times when you still take that grant and put it out for bid? Or are you aware that it's an RFP?

MS. LALLO: Thank you, Chair. That is not the process that we have. So, I'm not sure what you're referring to specifically.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, then I'll...I'll talk to you privately. Because my...my understanding is there has been an instance, at least one, if not more, where we put in money for a particular nonprofit, and then they are told this will be going out to bid, so you can bid on it. So, I need to get clarification on that.

MS. LALLO: Yeah. Would you like me to answer?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sure. You said no.

MS. LALLO: This is...well, no. This is...this is my best guess. So, sometimes, what happens is that a service will be designated under a nonprofit organization, and so it would be a direct service to the County. So, that would be a contract and not a grant. And that would be the only time that...that something might change. And that certainly is vetted through Corporation Counsel, and they provide us direction on whether it should be a contract or a grant.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. We need clarification on that. Because when the Council puts in money for a particular nonprofit, we expect that nonprofit to provide that service and not be stuck in the weeds with the County's, you know, razzle-dazzle contract requirements. Okay. So, we need to discuss that further. There shouldn't be two standards. Okay.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Yes, we do our best when there's a specifically named grantee, and it can be a grant, then it's no question they just need to submit an application. But we cannot do that...even if someone is named in the budget ordinance, if it's a contract, we have to put it out for bid unless there's significant reason for sole source. So, one thing we're working on with Corp. Counsel is really, getting clarification on where that line is so that during the budget process --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, it does happen in OED then?

MS. MILNER: -- we can tell...yeah. That...that...I think that's what Chief of Staff was saying, that if it's a contract, that's when we would have to put it out for a bid. But if it's a grant with a specifically-named grantee, it would not go out for bid.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And that has never been made clear to the County Council, and we're the ones putting in the funding. So, that thing, that...that requirement needs to be . . .(timer sounds). . . explained so that when we put in the item in the budget, we word it in such a way that our grantee will receive the money. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin? Oh, Member Kama. Sorry about that. Member Kama, then Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Member Paltin. So, earlier in...or in the middle, I think, of the presentation, you mentioned that in order for grantees to receive their

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25 percent reimbursement upfront, that they needed to put that as part of their grant. Can you explain that again to me, and what you said?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Kama. Yes. So, what I was saying is, if they make the request and it's approved, when they get their grant agreement, they should ensure that the language giving them that upfront disbursement is included in the contract. And if it's not, maybe they didn't submit the request and it hadn't been approved. But if they're anticipating that 25 percent disbursement, they need to make sure it is in the contract because we cannot give that disbursement if the language is not in the contract.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, why can't we put that in the contract? Why can't we just add that language to the contract?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. Yes, that language is in the contract if they are approved for upfront disbursement. It is not...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, I'm saying why can't we put in the contract that all the grantees get a reimbursement up to 25 percent, period, as opposed to them having to ask, or remember to ask or not forget to ask? Because it was written someplace in all of your documents, and they just happen to dismiss, or not see that, or forget to put that in, or whatever reason?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Is that possible?

MS. MILNER: No, we are not doing blanket upfront disbursements for our grantees. There needs to --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Why not?

MS. MILNER: -- be a clear demonstration of need. Because we have had situations where there were blanket disbursements, and those grantees were not able to provide the necessary documentation showing how those funds were expended. And we realized that it was not good use of the County funding to do a blanket disbursement, and we needed to ensure there was a justification for that upfront funding.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And so, we're just knowing this now, when I thought that this was happening all the time?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Because I thought we put this in about maybe four or five years ago that that's what we wanted, is to give some of the new nonprofits a hands [sic] up?

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. Yes, that has been in the Code for several years, and we have been doing the upfront disbursements across the different County departments for these grants. But after review of the processes, it was determined that, again, it wasn't good fiscal oversight to give everyone a 25 percent disbursement. And so, we are asking for a demonstration of why those funds are needed, and that those funds can be expended within the first month of the grant. . . .(timer sounds) . . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I hear the bell, Chair. Thank you. We'll do round two.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, next we have Member Paltin, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Milner. I think a County landing page for all the grants is a great idea, and I'm in full support of that. Following up on Member Kama's question, on the upfront disbursement, if they qualify for the 25 percent upfront, and they utilize that and send it in, the paper...correct paperwork, will they be able to receive the next 25 percent installment, and then go in that order?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. My understanding is that is not how the County Code is currently written, but I will defer to Ms. Toshikiyo to provide more information on this. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ms. Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yeah, Chair, thank you. So, the way the County Code is currently written, it says that they're entitled to receive an upfront...an upfront disbursement of 25 percent or more. But then the next line says, and any remaining grant funds must be based on the reimbursement process. So, once they receive that upfront disbursement, that first tranche of money, all remaining funds are based on a reimbursement. It does allow for 25 percent or more, and then that's a policy decision that's set by each department on the amount of disbursement, but it's typically 25 percent. But yes, so the way the Code is currently written, all remaining...any remaining grant funds is on reimbursement. So, it doesn't allow for like a second upfront disbursement.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I guess to our resources, do you envision any problem with changing that to like as they go along, as long as...say they get their first 25 percent, they utilize it exactly as it's supposed to, there's no problems, and then they're qualified for the next 25 percent or more, and then so on and so forth? Do you envision a problem with changing the Code to fit that model, or should we just leave it the way it is?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. That is one of the things that we were discussing in the working groups, the possibility of proposing that Code amendment. And then we just want to make sure we get the language right, that

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Corp. Counsel, and Finance, and all the departments are comfortable with where we end up. But yes, that's something we're discussing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. I'd be supportive of you guys doing that work. The next question I had is in line with, I think, Chair Lee's previous question. As we're going through the budget process, is it possible...like in the future, that Corp. Counsel or some entity from the Budget Office would let us know when we're...when we're allocating the money to like a specific entity or nonprofit, that this . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . would need to be an RFP or a grant? Because if we knew that up front rather than after the whole budget passed, that might be easier to navigate under like the time frame we're allotted. Sorry. Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, I agree. And that's one of the conversations that Budget Office is having with Corporation Counsel, ensuring that as we go through those amendments in the Council process, one or both of us flag that for the Councilmembers, where it's apparent it may become an issue. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Corp. Counsel?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, just then we're like this then.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . Might be even more. Here we go, Corp. Counsel.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes. Yes, Chair. Thank you. And I know that you guys deal with a lot during budget because we're...we're all there with you. . . . *(laughing)*. . . But I guess my suggestion would be, I know that you put it on the matrices. Sorry, it's kind of strange just into the budget process, but on the Councilmembers' priorities. But if you would like to run by some of your individual projects and the nonprofits to...you know, to me in advance, then I'm happy to review them. I think it's because we are required to also follow the procurement code. So, when we look at the definitions of a grant versus like a service to the County, that's where we sometimes run into issues. Because if it is a service to the County, then we would evaluate whether or not it should be a contract that should go through the State-required procurement process. And that would be the difference. It doesn't come up very often, but yeah, I'd be happy to review some of your projects in advance when we're in budget session.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Toshikiyo. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. That's great. Great conversation. Next, we have Member Johnson, followed by Member Cook, then Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, you know, this is a really good conversation, like you said. We...I was working on a bill, and it's now with Ms. Toshikiyo in regards to the 25 percent tranches giving up to our nonprofits. So, I like that we're

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all thinking on the same kind of level on this. And if Ms. Toshikiyo wants to give an update on that, that's fine, but I just...you know, for the Members. But I also, before my time's up, I want to mention a couple other things because the slideshow was really great. Thank you for all the work you guys have been doing. Every time we do budget, budget season, and we have our meetings, all the kids come out and they talk about STEM, and how important STEM is, and a line around the corner, and the little signs. And it's so sweet to listen to the STEM and...or the folks who are participating with the STEM. And it's something in the County's wheelhouse that we do, I'd say, pretty well. But at some point, the...when the kids graduate, there's nothing for them. So, my thinking is, why don't we look at STEM for adults, right? Because was...you know, these kids have been doing all this work, and then once you graduate, you're done. We should continue that program, but more like STEM for adults. And I'd like to hear what the Department's opinion on something like that would be, and how it would look, and if you guys would support it. The last thing I'll mention is the idea that Lānaʻi needs a little bit more help on the grants. And I know you guys came out, I appreciate you for doing that. We don't have a grant writer on island. We wou...people who are interested in getting County grants have to travel to Maui. So, some type of grant managers, grant writers who can help us on Lānaʻi or, you know, all the rural...extra rural districts could really be important to get that money moved out in the really distant communities. So, those are my three points. If any of the departments want to speak to it, I appreciate that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have anything you want to add? Go ahead, Director.

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: I can answer that. Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilmember Johnson. So, regarding the STEM questions, so we're really trying to work very closely with the schools, right...all the way down from middle school up into our current career pathways that we have available now, too. So, for STEM specifically, you know, we'd mentioned that we have the Maui Tech Park, and they are doing absolutely wonderful things when it comes to actually sourcing local talent to build up that community. Because again, we've identified this industry as one of the high livable wages, right? I think that we all can identify that with the STEM programs. So, we're taking a very holistic look at it, and really figuring out what that pathway looks like, right?...from middle school to the CTE programs into high schools. I recently just spoke with one of the coordinators, and they're getting ready to send in their data to really identify the nine different CTE programs, and how many students are utilizing them, how are we tracking them to see where they're going, if they're going to the mainland, how many of them are coming home? So, it's a very in-depth and rigorous process that we are monitoring very closely. And then we will have conversations with the UH systems as well too, right? So, previously they did have a four-year . . .(timer sounds). . . program for engineering specifically. Unfortunately, we did lost...lose that four-year program, and now we have a two-year program. But we're at the table again, having those conversations. But it's really important that we collect all of this data, and a lot of that is in the heart of MEDB and what they're doing with the STEMworks program. So, as it comes again...so, you know...sorry, excuse me. Going back to the middle school, high school, and then you'd mentioned the adulthood, right? So, we are looking to see how we can bring more of those programs to the UH systems, or whether that...not that

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means also partnering with other university and colleges. And again, not just focusing on the Kama'āina Come Home, but building us to a point where we can just create those pathways here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Member Cook, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Well, I've got 45 minutes' worth of questions.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm not going to be able to do that right now. So, I really...I...I...Kama'āina Prosperity [sic] Economy, very aspirational, very, very...like really hard to argue with, don't...I really would help support it. Some of the things like circulating capital...circulating capital locally to keep dollars on Maui Nui. I mean, where's Costco in that? And what I mean by that is, capital coming to the island for various investments, and having...having the need for really deep pockets, and the technology, and the thing. Our small island community can't be an island economically, in my opinion. We can collaborate, and work, and focus on local, I completely agree. Kind of leapfrogging to the Kama'āina Economy with industries, have...having...like having been in business and being a contractor, and it isn't just construction, but also...because construction integrates with tech, and it integrates with energy, and it integrates with manufacturing. County and State, the regulatory process is one of the impediments and one of the opportunities to really be able to make big advancements. So, my question--finally, getting to a question--is part of your process to focus on the regulatory issues that various industries deal with, and help them with that?

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Absolutely. So, we're actually a part of a lot of those different working groups on a State level, and also working with partners to identify how we can leverage what our current political climate looks like, right, when it comes to Federal funding. And then regarding the regulatory part of it...so again, working with the State. So, we're a part of DBEDT task force. We're a part of the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i, the nine different sector partnerships. We're also part of the Workforce Development Council. And all of these different entities are having those conversations, right? And again, to identify those different bottlenecks, what the hurdles are, what the regulatory hurdles are, and how we can overcome them as we prepare and get ready for the State legislative package to be submitted.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good. Is that going to be...is that program, will it be kind of like somewhat transparent and interactive between the governmental agencies and the various industries?

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Yeah. So, all the ones that I mentioned, they are public. Yeah, they're all public meetings, so they're all posted online, and anyone can sign up, and testify, and hear those conversations.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. So, and my last issue as far as, like...go ahead.

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MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Sorry. Can I add one more thing, too?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Sorry, we're also working closely. So, as we know, Hawai'i's not set up, right, for business success necessarily. So, we're identifying...we've identified the enterprise zones as one of the incentives that we can offer to our small businesses. And as we take a broader look at it...so this came up recently because every 20 years, they have to . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . redo the maps, which...and this is a good thing. So, they just went through the process of it. Actually, it'll be coming in front of the BFED...Council soon. So, we will have...there's different...six different sections within the maps, and we'll actually be able to add Lahaina Town, which is very exciting, right, as we work towards the redevelopment and recovery. Oh, sorry, I know you're...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, no, no, thanks. My time's up, but I would like to have like Maui County be an enterprise zone so that getting building permits, and land use, and all of that stuff is kind of like prioritized --

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- especial...especially for government projects.

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: I agree.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The fact that government projects get delayed, and cost...the cost goes up. So, my time's up.

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We'll talk. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Chair, may I add to the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you want to --

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Just...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- finish off enterprise zone?

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Real quick. Just that we are looking at an overall incentive package that the County can provide, which includes...so expedited permitting process, ways that we can possibly tap into real property tax, all those different things. So, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But it doesn't include Makawao and portions of Kihei, which you're going to explain to us later when we talk about . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Member U'u-Hodgins?

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Nice to see you, Director. Thank you very much for all of your guys'...all of the things that you just showed. It's a lot. I do have a couple questions for the target outcomes, and this is on your guys' letter dated September 14th in 2025, target outcomes, your priority sectors. Is that what we're calling the Kama'aina Economy industry, so I can make it...that's what it is?

MS. ROJAS-LETISI: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Sounds good. And then it also says on this letter that the final OED strategic framework will be available, final draft, October 1st, 2025. Is that ready? Do we have that yet?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question, and no, it's not ready. We're waiting for Mayor's final approval on it, so --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LALLO: -- it's very, very close.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. When that is ready, are you folks going to send it to us?

MS. LALLO: 100 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I know everybody was talking about that 25 percent or more upfront, and then all the other reimbursements, and then Director Milner, you said if it's approved. Can you talk to me about the approval process, and what that looks like, and what's the requirements for somebody to be approved?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. Yes, so the approval process, they submit the request to the grant manager, and then the department head with oversight. So, for OED, Chief of Staff has been reviewing, and if all the necessary documentation is there, it's approved, and it's included in the contract. So, it's not as many steps as a lot of our other processes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then for...for the ones that kind of burned us in the past, which is why we have that now, did we ever collect the funds that we expended and...and we didn't see back, or what happened? How did we...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: How did we make that better for us, besides this?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. I don't have that at hand, but I can talk to Finance. I will...Ms. Toshikiyo, do you have that handy?

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I mean, I'm assuming it was kind of a while ago, but at the same time, we have now changed it. I'm just wondering if we collected our funds back.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes. So, those were under, I guess, the previous processes, because we do include the language in our contracts now. I will say that we are still trying to work with a lot of the grantees to get the...the documentation from them, you know, before any next steps are taken. But yes, we're trying to work with them, sending out letters.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Thank you. For the standardized process, which I can appreciate, when do you think that's going to be ready?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. I'm really hoping we can launch it for Fiscal Year '27.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Good.

MS. MILNER: That's my dream. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Good. Can then we also talk about the recommendations and findings for your folks' groups, which I...group one, two, and three, which I...which I appreciate, by the way. I think that's a great idea. I know we were doing that for building permit processes, and so maybe we . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . can see some of that intersect, as Member Cook was talking about. It does matter. And I heard my bell, so I can...I can wait if...well, are we doing another round, Chair, or what are we going to do?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I think we're running out of time.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a question? Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. So, we have 13 recommendations and findings. When are these 13 recommendations and findings going to be implemented, and what is that process going to look like? Like one of them say, require Administrative freeze for all County-written grants. Another is, shift to multi-year descending grants for OED, and so this will need to be planned in '27. So, what are we going to do with these 13 recommendations?

MS. LALLO: Thank you, Councilmember. In relationship to those findings and recommendations, some of those recommendations are an easy, yep, let's just do that, right? It's just an agreement about the co-creation. And then the other ones...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Like the ones I mentioned. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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MS. LALLO: Like the ones you mentioned, right, will take significant work with Corporation Counsel and our friends in Finance just to make sure we're, you know, following Code, and law, and all of those other things, right? So, some of them will be able to be turned around quickly --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LALLO: -- and...and some, not so much.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. But we're going to take action?

MS. LALLO: Absolutely, we're taking action, you know, and we're going...we have been having the conversations. So, at this particular point, right, it's like which ones are immediate term, which are mid, and which are long, and what does long-term mean anyway? Are we talking about Ms. Milner's hope and dream of Fiscal Year '27, or are we talking longer than that?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then I have one final question, then pau. So, the last one in this recommendations and finding is, do not line item grants for grantees that have outstanding issues on past grants. Are we going to know? Because we line item, too. Are you guys going to share that information with us? So, we're given a heads up on, hey, maybe not this person, or how are we going to communicate that some of these grantees should not be given line item grants?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Toshikiyo, I saw you nodding your head.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, because she's directly in front of me, so she's --

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- I think, acknowledging --

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Acknowledging, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- that I'm looking at her at the same time.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes, I'm acknowledging that that is a process that I haven't thought of. Because we're still at the first step of, you know, identifying . . .(bumps mic). . . sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're good.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yeah, and...and it doesn't...you know, so for instance, one department will know that there might have been a problematic grantee, and not realizing that maybe another department has also then just given them a grant.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

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MS. TOSHIKIYO: So, it's also the communication between the departments, and that's part of, I guess, what Director Milner's talking about, of having...really, a centralized --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- landing page --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- that the information can be shared. And that's a very good question --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- that we'll add to my thought process here.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. And then, you know, as you know, you sit in our budget, and we're going to line item those as well, and I don't want to shame people if they're going through issues, but it would be helpful if we knew which ones were problematic so we didn't put ourselves into more of these issues.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes. Yes, and I think also...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thanks.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: I'm sorry, if I could just kind of dovetail off that, is to determine what would be...what is problematic. Because certainly, the departments are working with brand-new grantees, and maybe they're just starting off, and they just need that extra help --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. Exactly.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- versus those that have really been an issue --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Correct.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- over the years and --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- maybe across departments. So, that's something that we would need to define, and then what kind of information gets transmitted from the Administration to the...the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And thank you, Chair, for the luxury of extra time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee, then I'll take my turn.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. I'll make this fast. I am grateful for all the work that you folks have done so far. My major concerns are that you are adding to the overhead of the budget, okay? That's our job, is to balance the budget. And when you add like grant money to more grantees, then that becomes a challenge for us. Now we have to raise more taxes. So, my...my caution to you is to try and prioritize some of these goals, which seem to be a little bit lofty in some areas. But one of the things that really, really needs to be done is to sharpen the skills of the...the people who do the technical assistance. That is so important. Because, you know, you don't want to waste a lot of time on going over the same old issues with grantees. If you give them the proper training, you know, and as much training as possible, then they can become more independent. And that leads me to my other issue. The goal of your Department should be to eventually get people to become self-reliant, and not come back to us year, after year, after year, yeah? You want them to be successful, so you help them with...in the beginning with technical assistance, with the reimbursement that's realistic, and then you...you get them to a point where they can try and apply for other grants, or they become successful in whatever they're doing...and then we can move on to the next guy, yeah? But not keep adding and adding...and more people to the rolls where we run out of money. Because at some point, we are. So, if you focus on the technical issues right now--which you may not think is important, but it is--in the long run, it's going to save us money, and you're going to help them become self-reliant, and that is the most important thing. That's how they...you become successful when your grantees become successful. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I have a question, and then...then we will end this meeting. What do...since we're talking about training, and grants, and, you know, this whole discussion, what do we do...or if people have questions regarding their grants, who do they call, or who do they contact at OED? Is it a phone number? Is it a website? I mean, is it an email address?

MS. UGALINO: Thank you for the question, Chair. They email us, or they can contact our office, or they can also come to the building, and we're available to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. What is the email address you want them to write to?

MS. UGALINO: It can be found on the County website, or it is @grants with "S" .oed.mauicounty.gov.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: O-E-what? Oh, O-E-D.

MS. UGALINO: Yeah, at [sic] OED.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. @mauicounty.gov [sic].

MS. UGALINO: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MS. DECOITE: Sorry, Chair, can I add to that real quick? They get...they're also assigned a specific grant specialist, so they have communications directly with them on the submittable platform, but they can also call us directly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. DECOITE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And 270-7710.

MS. DECOITE: They should have our direct line when we make contact with them with conditional awarding, so they can contact us directly as their grant specialist.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And they have a grant number, or they have some kind of reference?

MS. DECOITE: Yes, through submittable platform. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or...or if they haven't yet gotten their grant, then they just send to this grant email address and...

MS. DECOITE: Yeah, or call the main line, and the admin in the front can direct them to a specialist.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. DECOITE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I...I...I...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I hear a voice. I got to ask, so whatever happened to Kēōkea Ho'olaule'a?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It happened on July 26th --

MS. DECOITE: Oh, thank you...thank you for the question --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- of this year.

MS. DECOITE: -- Chair. I can answer. I'm taking good care of Uncle Alikea, so I'm on that. He's wonderful. I met with him. We got his finances in order, and his reimbursement request is about to get processed. We're just waiting on his COI invoice, and then it'll pass right through, so...and it'll be closed out.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: The certificate of insurance?

MS. DECOITE: Just his...just his payment, just to show that he paid for it, and then it'll be processed. So, we're hoping for this week, he's going to turn it in to me. I talked to him yesterday. So, next week, processing on Thursday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

MS. DECOITE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: His event happened July 26th --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- of this year.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, thank you. I...I...that's a whole 'nother conversation.

MS. DECOITE: And I'll be taking care of him going forward for Fiscal Year '27.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Very good.

MS. DECOITE: My name is Carrie.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There is a DeCoite in the house, and we love Lynn DeCoite. I think it...I think this is Lynn DeCoite's daughter because of her hair. It looks like mom; is that right? Is that right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You want to say hi to mom? We love your mom. Oh, she's only laughing. Okay. So, Members, there is a report that we're still waiting from this Department that was due right after the fiscal year ended. That's late. So, when is that report coming in of all the grants that were issued from last fiscal year?

MS. UGALINO: Thank you, Chair. I do apologize. I am requesting for an extension until Friday to get that...all that data.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's going to...and will you submit it to us? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MS. UGALINO: I will.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, what I had intended to do was have that report at this meeting so that all of you can see what happened last fiscal year. But I guess we

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just heard that we're going to get it on Friday. I will schedule this again so that we all can maybe take this new information that we just learned, how we can do better, and then look at the grants that were issued last year. We...we now have additional information of how to make our grant process, our line items stronger and clearer so that we can be in line with what the Administration just shared with us today. So, can we...can we nail that down? And we have all these people with us during our --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- grant process, right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Lesley Milner, all day long, and Kristina Toshikiyo, right? And I think what we're actually...actually talking about is more than OED. It's going to be all grants that we look at that comes from the Administration, as well as whatever you add for line items. So, thank you very much. It's...it's inspiring to hear that we are moving forward. And so, this meeting is now...will be recessed. Where's my recess term? If there are no objections, I'm going to recess this meeting to tomorrow, 10/8/25, at 9:00, at the same Microsoft Teams link and connections we are using today, with in-person viewing available here in the Council Chambers. If there are no...

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Oh yeah.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, and we got to defer this item. Oh yeah, we're going to hear this again. So, we defer this item and then we're going to recess tomorrow for the...Peter Martin, 9:00.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: KRF and SS)

ACTION: DEFER.

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

RECESS: 12:10 p.m.

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 54 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 1st day of November 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck