

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

**MINUTES**

**July 22, 2025**

**Online Only via Teams**

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

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (left at 10:35 a.m.)  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member (arrived at 11:04 a.m.)  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (left at 10:35 a.m.)  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member (left at 11:15 a.m.)  
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member (arrived at 9:16 a.m.)

**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):

Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office  
Clyde “Buddy” Almeida, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

**ADMIN.:** Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Layne Silva, Director, Department of Liquor Control  
Jordan Hart, Executive Assistant, Office of Recovery, Department of Management  
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Saumalu Mata‘afa, Deputy Director, Department of Housing  
Guy Hironaka, Real Property Management Specialist, Department of Finance

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**OTHERS:** James Tokioka, Director, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), State of Hawai'i  
Jennifer Chun, Director of Tourism, DBEDT  
Mary Alice Evans, Director, Office of Planning, DBEDT  
David Kobayashi, Project Analyst, Office of Planning, DBEDT  
Joseph Roos, Economic Research Branch Manager, DBEDT  
Lauren Primiano, Special Plans Project Manager, DBEDT  
Caroline Witherspoon, President, Becker Communications, Inc.  
Jocelyn Collado, Vice President, Becker Communications, Inc.  
Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Melissa Hampe, Partner and Facilitator of Maui Economic Recovery Commission, via SR Partners LLC  
Jeanne Skog, Partner, SR Partners LLC  
Kimberly Thayer, Partner, SR Partners LLC  
Craig Clouet, Data Scientist, State Disaster Management, Office of the Governor, State of Hawai'i  
Jasee Law  
The Royal House of Hawai'i  
Others (13)

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Today is July 22nd. It is now 9:08 a.m., and I look forward to this meeting and the presentations. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of this Committee. And I would like to ask as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chambers, please identify by name...any minors do not have to be identified, but if anybody is in the room with you, vehicle, or workspace. Voting Members, welcome. We...I heard Member Kama, my Vice-Chair, is online. Good morning, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair. And it's nice to be here. I am home alone in my workspace.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. I heard Member Cook, he's online also. Member Cook. *(pause)* Oh, can you not hear me? Member Cook, can you hear me? He's frozen. I'll come back to you. Member Johnson is excused. He's doing a speech presentation, and he'll join us when he can. Chair Lee, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Morning, hafa adai. I was going to say the hello from Croatia, but I...I had a hard time pronouncing it, so we'll go to Guam.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you for doing those greetings. Member Paltin, hafa adai.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka, and hafa adai kākou.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I'm at my private residence alone at the moment, but I do have my two children, who are minors, that may be walking around, and my husband, Makena Fernandez. There are currently no testifiers at the Moloka'i district office. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Good morning. Member U'u-Hodgins will be joining us in a few. From the Office of the Mayor, we have Lesley Milner, our Budget Director, who's here for both items. Thank you, Budget Director. Director of Finance...I'm sorry, Department of Finance, we have Guy Hironaka, Real Property Management Specialist V, and we may have Marcy Martin, Director, online. Department of Housing, Saumalu Mata'afa, Deputy Director. Department of Liquor Control, Layne Silva, Deputy Director...I'm sorry, Director. Department of Management...Josiah Nishita is not going to be here, right? He's Mayor today, so no Josiah. But we do have Jordan Hart, Zoning Administration and Enforcement Division Administrator.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's an old title, I think.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: He...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the title I got, I know. I thought he's now like Office of Recovery, and are you like Deputy?

MR. HART: Executive Assistant.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Executive Assistant? Oh, okay. This is the old title, so we will get rid of this long title. That's okay. Corporation Counsel, we have Kristina Toshikiyo. Welcome, good morning. Ms. Toshikiyo, nice to see you here in the Chambers. Other resources, we have a...we have a great set of resources that are joining us, and if you would allow us to have them be resources under our Rule 18(A). Director of Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, State of Hawai'i, is Director Jimmy Tokioka, he's online. Good morning, Director. Thank you. Nice talking to you yesterday. And we also have other DBEDT representatives with him, which is Director of Tourism Research, Jennifer Chun; Director of Office of Planning, Mary Alice Evans; Project Analyst, Office of Planning, David Kobayashi; Economic Resource...Research Branch Manager, Joseph Roos; Special Plans Project Manager, Lauren Primiano. And representatives from Becker Communications, President and CEO, Caroline Witherspoon, and Vice President, Jocelyn...Jocelyn Collado. Representing the...from Maui Economic Opportunity is Debbie Cabebe, the President, who's right now...or Chief Executive Officer, you're sitting up in the Chambers. Thank you for being here. Representatives from SR Partners, Inc. [sic], we have Melissa Hampe, who is going to be presenting. We have Jeanne Skog, Partner, also in the audience. And so, Members, if

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you allow me, I would like to make those resources available to us under Rule 18(A) of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No objections, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No objections, Chair. I'm here by myself.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't introduce you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No testifiers in Hāna. Sorry, I'm online. I...I got to drop off at 11:00 for an appointment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Sorry I didn't introduce you. Good meeting yesterday, by the way, which will be kind of relevant today. Committee Staff, Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk; Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney; Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary. And thank you, everybody, for your hard work to get us here. Please see the last page of the agenda for meeting connectivity. Today, Members, we have two items on our agenda, and they are BFED-20(13), Maui Economic Recovery Commission Update under Rule 7(B), and BFED-42, Bill 81 (2025), Amending Chapter 3.04, Maui County Code, on Information on County Operations. So, I'm going to ask for the resources that you have approved to do opening comments on the Economic Recovery Commission, and then take testimony after that. And for opening comments, I'd like to just start off by saying that myself and some of the other Members had the opportunity of sitting on the ERC and attending the meetings, and thank you very much, Jimmy Tokioka and the Office of Economic Development, for pulling together such a dynamic group of over 100 community members Statewide from all different industries to help Lāhainā rebuild. It was quite an impressive group. And to start this off, I want to say that the group that I was working on was with Wes Lo and Hale Makua for health and housing. And I would like to really thank this group of the ERC for putting this together because I think through that, and through the other presentations that you'll hear today, you'll see the same kind of impact, that this dropped the spark that will make some of the projects happen. So, thank you very much for doing this, Director Tokioka and the Office of Economic Development, for putting it together. So, I'm going to ask for opening comments, then, on the...from the resources. The list that I have, it doesn't look like everybody's here, but I have Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff; Lesley Milner, Budget Director; Layne Silva, who is our Director of Liquor Control, but

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in this case, he was Co-Chair for the Maui Economic Recovery Commission; Josiah Nishita is not here; Jordan Hart, who is the...well, to me, he's like the Deputy Director of Office of Recovery, but he is...has another title. We're...also with us, so James Tokioka. I don't know how you want to...or who will be the opening of the presentation. Is it going to...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it is? Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Director Tokioka, would you like to do opening comments, and then you can tell us who's going to speak next? Thank you. Welcome.

MR. TOKIOKA: Sure. Thank you very much, Chair. It's an honor to be here with you all, and it was an honor to be a part of this group that was led by, you know, community members and a lot of people...as you will see, the list of people as we get towards the end of the presentation. But it...it started from when the fire happened, the Governor assigned me to be the point person to do the relocation of the...the survivors. And we moved 1,800 people, approximately, in 14 days into shelters, into permanent...or permanent temporary shelters from the 10 shelters that were...that they were in. After that, the Governor asked me, along with the Mayor, to convene this Economic Recovery Commission because we, at the State level, and of course, everyone in your County, including all of you, knew that it was going to be a long haul before West Maui was able to do business in the town. So, we put together this ERC, and I...I will say that it...it was...it was community-led. Certainly, something that everyone that was on that list that came from the community had...had great input. I'm not sure who's driving the slides, but the next slide, please. Okay. So, here's a little timeline of...of how we...where we started, and...and what has happened since. The report was completed in March of this year, but we...we wanted to make sure that we got everything done. We had challenges on...on getting this to you, and, you know, getting you to...to conduct this meeting. So, we'll...we have 26 slides, Chair. I know you told us that you wanted us to do this in half an hour, so I think one minute of slide would be more than enough.

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

MR. TOKIOKA: So, let me just start with the official presentation, once again thanking the Governor and the Mayor for allowing us to...to work with all of you to do this. But this presentation summarizes the findings of the Maui Economic Recovery Commission and its final report, which was published in March. The ERC brought together over 100 leaders from across sectors, including community, education, culture, small businesses, agriculture, healthcare, hospitality, unions, philanthropy, and all levels of government. The group identified 34 recovery ideas, which were refined into 11 priority projects, to support Maui's economic recovery. These also informed the long...the Lāhainā Long-Term Recovery Plan. And DBEDT, in partnership with the County, State, and other Federal agencies, documented the ERC process, findings, and supporting data

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in a final report available at the Maui Nui Strong website. We know you've had a hundred...you've had hundreds of meetings since the wildfires, and our task today is to present the Maui ERC report, and we ask that whatever questions you have, we can answer them at the end of this presentation. I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire DBEDT team for pulling this report together, and many of whom--thank you, Chair--you have already introduced. I want to talk about one of the groups that was convened in the ERC, which was the...the Healing Group, and they were led by Amy Hanaiali'i, Shelee Kimura, and Ann Teranishi. And that group is still actively putting together programs as we speak right now, raising money, working with CNHA to go out into the community and...and groups like Under My Umbrella. One of the programs is the Grinch...or I'm sorry, Grinchmas Lāhainā, the Grinchmas Lāhainā Fest, December 2024; the Culture and the Arts Plant Legacy, April 18th and 19th of 2025 at the Ritz-Carlton. So, these groups started at the ERC, but they're still continuing to...to go out . . . *(inaudible)*. . . and do a lot of the work that the...the committee has...had recommended. Next slide, please. *(pause)* Sorry, next slide, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it slow? Oh, there.

MR. TOKIOKA: There we go. Okay. So, this is when the ERC convened its first meeting, January 5th, 2024, on the top slide. And as you can see, that's not everybody in the picture, but there were a lot of people that were excited to be there, and that wanted to contribute. A lot of them felt that this was the way that they could participate, and they really did. They really put a lot into it. There's a significance to the date. We wanted to make sure that we were sensitive to the community, and we didn't...you know, we wanted...we...we struggled to find when the right time to start was. But since we're talking about economic development, we didn't want to be disrespectful to the people that were still struggling in the community. So, we asked a lot of the people that were approached to be on this committee when they thought the right time would be, and many of them said right after the new year, so this is why we started on...on January 5th. Next slide, please. As...as part of the group, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Alejandra Castillo, was there; of course, Governor Green; Mayor Bissen; Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura, thank you very much; Councilmember U'u-Hodgins was there as well; Senator DeCoite; Senator Hashimoto; Senator McKelvey; Representative Holt; and other participants. And I'm not sure of the Councilmembers who are in attendance today. I think that Councilmember Paltin was at some of the meetings as well, so we just want to thank you for your participation in all of that. Because it was all levels of government participating throughout to ensure that this report and this convening of this group wasn't just talk, and that the government partners were there alongside to help carry the ideas into implementation. Next slide, please. Grounding Recovery in Economic Impacts. Next slide. Okay. So, these are some of the things that we'll discuss today, but because of our...the...the time constraints, and as I've said, the hundreds of meetings that you had, we'll leave it to you at the end to talk about or ask questions about the things that you want us to cover that are in the report, and some of the things that may not be in the report that we can cover as well. The wildfires devastated Maui County. Not only did it see lost businesses that were destroyed in the fires, but homes that were destroyed, including those for the West Maui workforce. We saw residents leaving the County as a result. The

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Maui County's labor force has not yet recovered. The decline in tourism has also moved slowly throughout West Maui. Next slide, please. *(pause)* Next slide, please. *(pause)* Okay. Thank you. So, this...this chart is self-explanatory, so if you can just look at the numbers. The fire not only physically destroyed a lot of the structures, but disrupted 1,000 businesses and 7,000 jobs, representing 913 million in annual business revenue. Next slide, please. This is the slide that talks about the residential structures, and I know you folks have had many meetings about this. We do have Craig Clouet, who's on the line. He'll be able to discuss some of these questions that you may have at the end of the presentation. But over 1,200 residential structures were destroyed, including many multifamily buildings, leaving thousands of families without a place to live. Next slide, please. *(pause)* Oh, migration. And this is information from the State Office of . . .*(inaudible)*. . . If you look in the Lāhainā burn area, you know, pretty much these are...are...are self-explanatory. The...before the fire is in the bluish color, and after the fire is in the orange colors. So, Lāhainā burn area, outside the burn area, Maui outside Lāhainā, and Hawai'i outside Maui. Due to this devastating fire, approximately 1,000 residents, as far as our data is collected, 430 moving out of the State. Next slide, please. Another data source of the labor force. It shows COVID, and then in comparison with the wildfires. The blue line...and I'm not sure how well you can see it on your screen, but the blue line is the State number, and the orange line, again, is Maui County. Next slide, please. Okay. Another slide, if you look at it, it's...it's pretty much self-explanatory. And as we said in the beginning, if you have notes on any of these slides, just...if you can write them down, and we'll answer them at the end of the presentation. What's important to note on here, too, is that the Governor, six months ago, along with DBEDT and HTA, appropriated \$6 million of restricted funds as an emergency appropriation to fund wholesale marketing for West Maui. When we say restricted funds, each State agency has money that's restricted, and that's because we don't know what the final...the financial impacts are going to be. So, the Governor and the Budget and Finance Director has put a 10 percent restriction on every single department in the State government. But what the Governor did to assist the Maui marketing, and West Maui marketing in particular, was unrestricted the funds from DBEDT so that that money, that \$6 million, could be spent on wholesale marketing, and marketing in general, to West Maui. The...the hotels and vacation rentals on that side of the island really pushed hard for assistance because they were struggling. Many...a few of them told us that if they weren't able to pick up business that some of them may be closing. Next...next slide, please. *(pause)* This is another self-explanatory slide. It's talking about the visitor arrivals. And this is just Maui County. Next slide, please. Again, another slide that's, you know, pretty graphic, but pretty self-explanatory. Seasonally-adjusted Maui County hotel occupancy rate, and seasonally-adjusted Maui County hotel average daily rates. In the months following the wildfires, hotel occupancies in Maui are artificially boosted by fire survivors, as you all know. Emergency responders and Federal teams. Maui County typically leads the nation in ADR, but has not recovered to pre-fire levels. We have so many people to thank, but for the...for the collaboration of today's report, I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank the DBEDT team who's online for the preparation of this presentation today. And then at this time, I'd like to turn it over to Layne Silva to do his portion of this presentation.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Layne, before you proceed, I wanted to just welcome Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Thank you. Thank you. Can proceed.

MR. SILVA: Yes, thank you, Jimmy. I'll just touch on a little bit, you know, from...I guess from the community level of the ERC. Immediately after the fire, you know, the Mayor formed teams, emergency response teams, which I was a part of the economic recovery functions team. So, I've been involved with the ERC from the beginning, and I can tell you, from my experience, it has been very community-driven and community-led. The evolution of the ERC through...from the beginning to the end...or not the end, where...where we're at now, it has grown from the initial stage where everybody was still trying to figure out what to do to, to now, I believe we've come to a place where there's more direction in how to move forward, and I expect that it will continue to evolve as we go forward. Next slide. In the initial gathering, we had everybody write on a...write down their five items that they believe to be the priority in how to move forward with the recovery and the mission that was ahead of us. And you can see on the slide right now, this is the...the word cloud that was created by the collection of the ideas that were given by everyone in attendance. And as you can see, the darker, larger ones were the ones that were the most response from the people in attendance all the way down to the lighter color and smaller version. So, what really stands out to me, and has always stood out to me, is that integrity and community seem to be the most widespread response from everyone that was in attendance, closely followed by respect, then down to honesty, kuleana, and collaboration and commitment. Now, I think that's very important, and if you take a close look at that, what that tells you is that's where the mindset was in the very beginnings of this process. So, it...I believe what that demonstrates to me is that that's what the community was looking for and expecting in how we move forward, you know, with our hopes of recovery. Now, this slide, it...basically it shows you the timeline of where we were on day one, the first meeting. Everybody came together. Like Jimmy said, there was over 100 people from all facets of...from the community to industry members, County people from Maui, and people from all over the State that just wanted to help, and wanted to contribute somehow, and continue to do so. This slide represents the evolution of the ERC, and this takes us from where we first started on the ground level to where we are now, and where we're going in the future. And at this point, I'll turn it over to Melissa. She'll take it from there. Thank you.

MS. HAMPE: Okay. Mahalo. So, Melissa Unemori Hampe with SR Partners. For those of you who don't know who we are, we're a community and economic development firm that works on community engagement and outreach, government relations and grants. And we are so thankful to Chair Silva for continuing to be a part of this commission, and...and to the Council for having us here so we can present on where we have been, and where we're going to be going. And of course, very grateful to DBEDT, to Director Tokioka, and One Shared Future that brought us on as the Maui-based facilitation team starting in January. So, we were with everyone, very community-driven

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in terms of coming up with the areas that people wanted to focus on...so in healing, and 'āina, and wai, and...and other areas. And that was a good time for us to be vulnerable with each other. So, a lot of C-suite people--heads of banks, heads of corporations, heads of agencies like OHA--and all of these community members, and folks who were saying, why am I here? Why did I...why was I asked to be here? And it was really their lived experience that provided the richness, and the impetus behind what we really needed to do. And so, that's where the community-driven portion of it came from. But again, from January to May, just being able to learn together, to understand what we didn't know, and we still don't know, we're still learning, but to come from a place of vulnerability where we could say, okay, we're all learning on this together, that really built a tremendous amount of trust in all of these groups. And that got us to May, where we were able to come up with more than 30 projects, and go through them, and refine them, and really try to prioritize and figure out which ones could be realistic to move forward, and which were addressing the urgent community needs. And so, that's how we came to the 11 projects. We re-formed in those project teams--and I'll talk about those in a second--and then in September, that's when we presented on the 11 projects to move forward. And at that meeting, that's also when the Mayor talked about how there was going to be another two years of project management to ensure that these projects weren't just going to be in a plan sitting on the shelf, that we actually move them toward implementation. So, that was our charge. So, what we did was--and with our fiscal sponsor, Maui Economic Opportunity, we have Debbie Cabebe in the room, and philanthropic sources, Hawai'i Community Foundation, and others--we were able to raise some funds, nongovernmental funds, to be able to move into that Phase II implementation, as well as...then, we're really grateful to the County, to the Council, for approving another 200,000 so that we can further give, you know, additional impetus to these projects and...and take them forward. So, there are 11. I'm not going to go into depth on each of these for two reasons. You know, one is that they're very complex, so each one of them could probably take their own hour or more. So, we, as our partners, we've split up the facilitation roles, so what we're going to do is on July 31st, we have our in-person meeting, and I'll say a little bit more about that in a bit, where all Councilmembers have been invited, and you can have a chance then at that point to hear from the project teams. They're going to give updates, they're going to take questions, and all of that. And two, you know, really, this...you know, this is about the community, you're hearing from the community voices on that day. Okay. So, in no particular order...let me go to the next slide. Okay. We have three projects in wai, one for R-1, or recycled water storage and distribution facilities expansion, and that's to provide additional supply for nonpotable uses and offset potable water demand. And this would lead to enhanced sustainable water systems, healthier ecosystems, and a diversified economy into the future. A second one looks at sustainable water management planning, potentially starting with community engagement and education to fill gaps in knowledge, and also assisting with the restoration of the ahupua'a system for resource management and watershed recharge. And a third--you know, we had six or seven projects in wai, so this is only the three that...that came to the 11--a third called the Wai Dashboard will explore available water information sources, and how they can be packaged for community understanding and decision-making about our hydrological systems. And again, the ability to support our economic, cultural, and social everyday purposes. We have two workforce projects, one to focus on the needs in

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the healthcare, construction, and government sectors, so government to support the County as well, as well as another to understand the needs in the food systems workforce to help with efforts of food sustainability and that vital industry for our economy. We also have economic diversification. As, you know, Yuki Lei mentioned, the Councilmember mentioned, Hale Makua, that will help to fulfill various needs island-wide in workforce housing, rehab resources, and career development. We have an accelerated permitting and systems mapping project--two of those, actually--that speak to overall processes, and tools to help with the rebuild. We have the harbor project as a nod to the economic driver that the, you know, harbor holds and, you know, hopefully well into the future, as well as the Lāhainā business park project that is seeking new spaces for businesses to reestablish themselves. And then finally, as was mentioned by Director Tokioka, we had the healing journey that seeks to help keep the community together, and heal the invisible impacts that can continue to pose barriers for economic recovery. And again, you'll be able to hear about each of these at our July 31st convening. But going to the next slide, what was really driven into us by Managing Director Nishita was that we want to make sure that we are in alignment with the County, and not duplicating efforts. And so, this is just speaking very briefly and I'll turn it over to...to Jordan Hart after this about, you know, being able to align this with what was identified before and the urgent needs. And so, this shows just how each of those are speaking to the pieces in the County Recovery Needs Assessment by FEMA. And so, with that, I'll turn it over to Jordan.

MR. HART: Thank you very much, Chair and Members. My name is Jordan Hart with the Office of Recovery, Executive Assistant. The...the slides that I'm going to cover are the relationship of the 11 projects that are being pursued with the...with the Long-Term Recovery Plan and the CDBG-R...CDBG-D...DR program. So, the first ones are the...the water. There's three water projects; the West Maui Water Management Plan, the Wai Dashboard, and expanding R-1 water. This relates to the...from the Long-Term Recovery Plan, the Lāhainā water infrastructure, firefighting capacity, and resilience, and hardening; stormwater resilience and flood risk management; the wai and watershed planning project; and the R-1 recycled water expansion, as well as water source development. This relates to essentially any of the DR programs that...that rely on water. As far as workforce, there's development and integrating Maui workforce ecosystems, the advancing and agricultural natural resource and food systems task force. Excuse me. It's occurring to me that I can't see that far anymore.

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

MR. HART: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I'm going to go to the...to the paper print.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Join the club.

MR. HART: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah, joining...joining at this moment. Advancing agricultural, natural resource and food systems workforce task force. This relates to economic innovation and development, green workforce development, and as far as the DR program, relates to public services. There's also health and prosperity, the healing journey, and pathways to prosperity, which is the Hale Makua project. There's a

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Ke Ola Hou projects, the creation of the Lāhainā memorial, and healthcare service expansion in the Long-Term Recovery Plan, and that relates to the DR program of public services. The rebuild focus of basically reinitiating the operation of Lāhainā Harbor, and improving the permitting process for the acceleration of West Maui and Kula recovery. These relate to the Lāhainā Harbor restoration, interisland ferry system, Rebuilding Lāhainā Plan, infrastructure assessment and improvement studies, and building resilient incentives in the Lāhainā Long-Term Recovery Plan, and they relate to the DR programs of housing, infrastructure, public facilities, and mitigation. And then there is a story mapping, centered on survivor housing and resources. This pertains to many of the Long-Term Recovery Plan projects that integrate throughout the survivors, their housing, and the resources it requires to get them there, and the same for the DR programs. And then finally, there's the business-orientated Lāhainā Business Park project. There is a Lāhainā Business Park project, the Long-Term Recovery Plan, and the West Maui Business Center, and it relates to the public services of the DR program. So, the value to the community of this overall program. First of all, it over...it empowers the community. It provides a vehicle for uplifting community voices and enabling community action. And this started with Layne and the RSF, as well as DBEDT, and it's carried through with the support of SR Partners, and now the Mayor's Office and OOR is staffed up to continue to facilitate and support these...these community-selected and driven projects. It advocates for the priorities of the communities, develops strategies for and pursues solutions, funding, policies, and partnerships. It builds bridges, which is always a challenge of any governmental initiative, is engagement and exchange of...of relationships, networks, feedback, direction, subject-matter expertise throughout the community. And it basically complements and coordinates with...with these governmental efforts that are occurring, and is in the lead in certain situations where the government isn't pursuing a project, and the community's identified priorities that they want to push forward, and then we're supporting them, and then it helps to fill knowledge gaps. Thank you.

MS. HAMPE: All right. Back to me in terms of what's next. So, again, the Councilmembers all have been invited--oh, can we hear okay?--all have been invited for the July 31st convening at the MACC, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and that's where we're going to have some updates from County leadership, as well as the Office of Recovery, and then pivoting to project updates from each of the 11 teams. We are going to then have some opportunity for Q&A.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we need to hear you.

MS. HAMPE: Thank you. We'll have some opportunity for Q&A, but then we'll also have poster sessions, where each of the projects will have their own spaces, and you can go and talk to the different project teams, ask questions, provide feedback, you know, help them as they are moving forward. We'll also have a number of funders, so philanthropy is very interested in this. We have about 15 different foundations that'll be coming. All of the members of the Maui Recovery Funders Collaborative, I believe, will be represented, and this is to make sure that we're having them look at the projects that they'll be truly interested in potentially funding, and again, taking forward to implementation. So, that's going to be our focus for this Phase II, and under the County

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funding, and...you know, we, again, welcome. The collaboration will continue between us, and County, and State entities to, again, just make sure that this is not just a plan sitting on the shelf. So, back to the Director for closing.

MR. TOKIOKA: Thank you very much, Chair and Councilmembers. You know, this is the end of the report, but I'm sure you have questions, and we have people that can answer specific questions. Regarding tourism numbers, we have Jen Chun. We have housing questions, and that would be Craig Clouet and...and many others from the Planning Office. Lauren, David, and Mary Alice that can help with any other questions you have regarding this report. So, back to you, Chair, for any questions that the Members and you may have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Well done, appreciate it. And I'm sure that the Members have questions, which we can take after, but at this time, I'd like to open up for public testimony. Do we have anybody?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we currently don't have any individuals signed up to testify on this item, but we'll do a last call just in case there are any. Oh, Chair, there is one individual indicating in the Chamber that they'd like to testify on this item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, at this time, then I'll open up for public testimony, and we have one testifier, which is --

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

MR. LAW: Real quick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Mr. Law.

MR. LAW: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have 3 minutes and 30 seconds as a --

MR. LAW: Ohayou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- follow-up in case you don't finish. Please identify yourself --

MR. LAW: Thank you for your...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and ask [*sic*] a relevant question [*sic*] to what was just presented.

MR. LAW: Boy, that's kind of tough. That was a really big report. So, in the beginning of the presentation, I heard the...one of the goals of the community was to continue the...to regenerate the ahupua'a system, and our ahupua'a up in Waiakoa, in my opinion, really needs help. And I was hoping that the Royal House of Hawai'i would speak on that a little bit, but that's...yeah. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Last call.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, no one else has signed up to testify, so this is last call. If there's anybody else 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 else is indicating they'd like to testify on this item.

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

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

**ITEM 20(13): MAUI ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMISSION UPDATE**  
**(BFED-20(13))**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time, then, questions from the Members. I will ask for three minutes per Member, and I...I want to start with Member Paltin, since she's our West Maui Councilmember. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you to the presenters. I was wondering if you could...I didn't see the July 31st invite. Who would that have been coming from? Is it through email?

MS. HAMPE: Yes, Councilmember, that came through email. So, we can make sure you get that...we'll resend that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. What email did it come from?

MS. HAMPE: So, it was from Kim, I think...Kim Thayer from our team. But we'll...we'll go ahead and double check that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. That whole time period was...is still a little blurry for me, so I don't recall going to the meetings. I...I do see that Kaipo and Mikey (*phonetic*) were there, so...I mean, I couldn't have said anything more better than them, probably. And...and, you know, plans are great. I just was wondering, you know, if...if there could have been opportunity, or if there still is opportunity for short-, mid-, and long-term because, you know, some of the things that I hear within the community is, like services needed right away that are also businesses. You know, like we have a desperate need for laundromat. People are like fighting to get into the laundromat, and they're competing with the short-term rental cleaners for the one existing laundromat in West

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Maui. Cars have been burned. They can't bring all their laundry over to this side. And I mean, that would have been real helpful in the short-term to help a business to stand up for a laundromat. Some of the other things that we hear often is recycle and redemption center. Often driving back and forth, I see cans flying out of cars because everybody now has to bring their recycle redemption all the way to the other side, to like one of three places. That's another business opportunity. Preschool facilities to help just regular people get back to work. So, these kind of services that the community that's existing and still staying there could assist with the out-migration. You know, if...if we had businesses that served the existing community, then people will be like, oh, I can still live through this. And then the other thing that I didn't necessarily see addressed in the slideshow was that, you know, we need these things, all of them, to actually pay a living wage, where people have an opportunity, a chance, where they could eventually purchase a home in West Maui, which is out of reach for most people, as we hear from like, you know, teachers and stuff when they talk about that. The other thing, you know, with the State involved, DBEDT, whatever...we're waiting on already totally-entitled housing because CWRM, since the designation, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . it's two years later, and we can't get moving on that. So, without housing...and then we have Bill 9, and, you know, all these things, and...and I...I don't mean to sound ungrateful, but those are things that...that we need, you know. Thank you. My time's up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody want to...oh, go ahead, Director.

MR. SILVA: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Absolutely, yes. Those...all those services are necessary, and necessary sooner than later. I mean, those are great ideas, you know, laundromat, preschool. Those types of things, I believe, are things that should be happening. I don't want to go into setbacks because that's bringing negativity on...on...on the project, but to name those types of ideas are great because that gives us the opportunity to put it forward where maybe, if somebody may have had an idea, thinking about, okay, I would like to start something up in Lāhainā, but what should it be, or how can I make it be successful? I mean, those are great ideas. So, hopefully, that's something we can put out, and somebody will grab onto it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I have shared it previously with like Keanu *(phonetic)* and others, but I don't know...I don't know what is the holdup on it. I mean, the other thing is the \$6 million on tourism, but the UHERO...or the UH MauiWES Study, they're asking for 500,000. If we could find a way to study that...or fund that study because they're...it seems they're really making a difference with like childhood depression in the aftermath, post-traumatic stress. And having a healthy community would help our economic recovery. And I did see that healthcare is one of your priorities. A lot of people have heard of that Ke Ola Hou, but more people have actually participated in the MauiWES Study. So, I mean, just balancing those things that people are actually participating in. And I mean, the ideas, the pie in the sky is good as well, but right now, we need tangible, you know, for...for the community.

MS. HAMPE: Mahalo, Councilmember. The one thing to emphasize about these projects is that they are continuing to evolve and develop. And so, with valuable feedback like that,

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we can take that back to the project team and see how something like that fits. But that's absolutely the aim of this, to stay current with whatever the community is needing. So, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great input. I'm going to change this to five minutes per. It sounds like the three minutes was definitely not enough per Member, and I'll go Chair Lee, down this way, come back with Member Sinenci to Gabe Johnson. So, Chair Lee --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- followed by Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the presentation. Thank you, everybody, for being here, and for the work you're doing. What I always look for is a beginning date, and an end date, and the funding. I don't seem to see that in your plans. I mean...you know, I mean...because right now, it's just plans. So, once you commit to a start date, and the funding, and an end date, then we know it's going to happen. Can you comment on that?

MS. HAMPE: Thank you, Chair. We are, again, grateful that the 200,000 was approved. We're in the process of finishing up the application for that, and then once that money comes in, then we can aim to make sure that that is implemented over a two-year project period that the Mayor said that we were going to have project management. And so, I think that's...that's what we're aiming for. But we have to meet the projects where they are. You know, some of them are much further along in development, like for instance, the Wai Dashboard. We have the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center and UH Maui Hulihiia. They have a project that they're going to present on Thursday that actually gets down to, you know, the number of grad students, the number of researchers, you know, the faculty folks . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Excuse me. What kind of water project?

MS. HAMPE: It's a Wai Dashboard. So, this is something that's looking at all of the sources and uses of water information, and what the gaps are, and then coming together with something that's going to have a public interface so that people can understand what's happening with water, and make better decisions. And so, if you come on Thursday, then you can ask the project team. But that's...that's what's...what you're going to see --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. HAMPE: -- next week.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Melissa, it's frustrating for us because we've had problems with water for years...before the fire, you know. So, for me, it's...it's on the Water Department. They should be doing things. I mean, we should be at the point

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where the next step is implementation, not continuing to get input toward, you know, creating a plan.

MS. HAMPE: Right. And yeah, a very complex problem. I think that as we continue to learn about this, we understand more and more just how complex this is in the 150 years of history. And so, there are...are good minds working on this, I agree, and we need to move toward implementation. And so, that's good feedback to provide to the teams on Thursday.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. You know, I'm hoping--and I'm sure you do already--for every plan that you have, you have a priority list. Because certainly, you can't accomplish everything on the plan. And that's...that's what we're looking at...well, at least, I am. You know, I'm looking at when can we see a tangible result, you know. And I thought this was going to be more about economic diversification, but it's about everything, right?...from A to Z. And it's kind of puzzling to see where the State, and probably the Administration, is welcoming funding for marketing. Marketing? I mean, it seems like on the one hand, you want to stop short-term rentals, and on the other hand, you want to promote it. So, you know, it is confusing, and it's...it's frustrating for the Council because we're have...we have to deal with this in two days, and we're getting all these mixed messages. And so, it'd be helpful to get a more solidified answer and position from the Administration because you're talking about money, trying to find money, yet we're giving it all up with the STRs, over 60 million, you know, and that's only the RPT, not TAT and GET. So, again, when it comes to the Council, you know, one of the things, the main things is...is the funding part of it, the...the nuts and bolts. And how are we going to afford it? How are we going to pay for it? When is it going to start? When can we start moving people in, et cetera? Thank you. Do you have any comments on that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hart?

MR. HART: Chair...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you want to say something?

MR. HART: I do. I...there's...there's a couple of things to address. First of all, these are...these are community-driven and selected priority projects, and they're...they are completely different, as you said, you know, A to Z. And so, they have different deliverables, and...and things that they do, and they're on different schedules, and they potentially will be asking for their own different sources of funding to...to execute. So...so, SR Partners can...can provide a framework of a schedule of their facilitation in support of the Office of Recovery for this...this ERC exercise, but each of these 11...*(timer sounds)*...individual projects, and potentially...I don't know if there's going to be pivoting, you know, as far as other...other services that are needed that weren't currently being discussed. That's going to be a mixed bag of what those specific sub-project schedules are. And the one thing...I do want to address water as well. I think that water is extremely complicated. You know, CWRM has designated West Maui, and they're in the process of reviewing applications to verify existing users, which, as far as I understand, not a single one has completed its verification process. So, any new

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users that the County would want to support for new multifamily or new subdivisions, those are behind the verification of those existing users. And, you know, just from my experience as a land use planner, I have no idea how we're supposed to project that, and that's going to be a real...in my personal opinion, a crisis of, you know, what is the already-existing allocated water in West Maui that we can try to make use of to do things in West Maui versus is some other kind of decision going to be made at a higher level on how CWRM functions, and how we can move through their process that's been laid out in the context of the situation we have in West Maui. But I just want to say, the Department of Water Supply has infrastructure that they're also waiting in line for the verification of CWRM for their use of. So, while this issue's been a long time coming, it's been compounded by the disaster, and it's...it's beyond complicated, and it's not just a matter of...of, you know, Department of Water Supply opening up their existing facilities that they have. It's...it's a big, huge, bureaucratic logjam.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I realize that. I realize that, Jordan. You know, it's...it's sad that we've become...we've been dealing with this so long, Members of the Council have become almost experts on water. . . .*(laughing)*. . . We know so much about it, and there's no one answer. But certainly, that's the reason why we've been pushing R-1. We're the ones that have been pushing for Lāhainā, as well as South Maui. And to me, that is something that's negotiable with the private water users...owners, that...that there can be some kind of exchange, some kind of agreement reached with regard to what we have to offer, and what they can offer. That's one. And then there's conservation. You know...you know, we need to initiate conservation policies. That's another one of saving water. And at some point, we're going to have to look at desal. And then...and then even Member Paltin knows about the tunnel water. You know, tunnel water. That's what they...people tell us, and the experts are telling us. So, there's a whole slew of solutions, but somebody has to grab ahold of this problem and go with it. And...and it's very difficult to expect the average community member to...to grasp this because what we know is over decades of working here. So, some...some things, I can see the community providing input, but the technical issues, I don't think so. The engineering issues, I don't think so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Thank you. Next, I'm going to go to Member Kama, then to Member Sinenci. I'm going to do one round of questions, and take a break after that. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I wanted to get back to the issue that Member Paltin had brought up about preschools, and laundromats, and businesses like that, that communities are so reliant and dependent upon. So, in the plan, do we have some kind of a...some kind of a time frame when some of these projects will be able to...to...to come on...to come alive, or come...or be ready for people to access?

MS. HAMPE: So, thank you, Councilmember. If you are able to come on Thursday next week, there will be more fully-formed project proposals. That's what we're having them pitch to the funders. So, you know, they got to make sure they have all their I's dotted and T's crossed in terms of how much they're asking, what time frame they're working on, what partners are in there, the ultimate goals and objectives. So, that's going to be

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something that will be packaged on Thursday. And we can certainly give the team feedback about the need for those essential services as part of that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I...the question again is, what is your sense of a time frame for that?

MS. HAMPE: I appreciate the need for that. Unfortunately, I'm not one of the facilitators of that particular project. So --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I see.

MS. HAMPE: -- I don't want to speak to that, but that's something where the project team will be present next week Thursday, and you can talk to them about that if that will help.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hart?

MR. HART: Chair, I just want to...I just want to try to...try to clarify. That there's...I know that there's a lot of various initiatives going on as a result of...of the response to the disaster. And basically the State, and the Federal agencies, and the County put a lot of irons in the fire, and this is just one of the...the many initiatives. But these initiatives, just to reiterate, are...are driven by community members. So, they...they present their proposed schedule of when they can accomplish their stated goals, and as stated, that kind of information will be firmed up at the presentation on the 31st. But...but as far as us to state to them what their deadlines are, that's not the configuration of this...this initiative. It's basically to support, empower, encourage, facilitate, and, you know, basically that's how we're trying to...to operate this...this interaction. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, my understanding is...what you just said was that while we understand that there's a need that...that the...the ERC has...has come up with, and these are all the things that have been identified, basically, we don't know if we're going to hit them unless those who will be providing the services are able to do that; is that right?

MR. HART: I just want to clarify that this...there was an identify...identification of...of where in the action plan some of these proposed projects could align for DR funding, but this is not a DR initiative. These are...these are --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. HART: -- independent initiatives that could potentially --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. HART: -- qualify for DR funding after they're stood up, after they make application through the policies that are being established, and may be selected. But it's...DR is

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operating on its own program, the action plan, and...and the forthcoming programs that are being established to implement that. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, let me see if I understand what you just said. In this initiative that we're talking about, is not...it has nothing to do--or very little, if anything--to do with the DR funding, but then depending upon how it stands up will maybe determine that it can get DR funding; is that right?

MR. HART: That's correct, Chair. The initial support funding for this initiative was provided by DBEDT, which we're very thankful for, and it's been supported to continue by the County...Maui County Council. And when these projects fully form themselves and come to fruition, they could potentially qualify for DR funding because their alignment with the Long-Term Recovery Plan and the programs described in the action plan. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And...okay. So, who in the project team could I address my initial question about when?

MS. HAMPE: So, we have Jeanne Skog, who actually facilitates that particular project on the Lāhainā business side. Do you want to say...I don't know.

MR. HART: I think I could address that. I think that what we can do is we can try to push and encourage the project leads to set timelines on the 31st presentation, and we can provide that back to Council for your information. . . .(timer sounds). . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, well, that sounds good. Perfect timing. Thank you.

MR. HART: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Member Kama. Member Sinenci next, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo for this report, and all the work that's been put into it. I was just curious. I know the community came out a couple of times of some...some things that they wanted to see in the recovery efforts, and I was just curious if the...and I get it, that it might be both Federal and State funding. But was there any discussion on the expansion of the Lāhainā bypass going north? Only because there were concerns about, you know, evacuation routes, but...but also, in...in considering that the next five, ten years, we're going to be rebuilding Lāhainā, and having that economic center in Kā'anapali, having people to drive through a construction zone already, I mean, was that...did that come up with any of the discussions amongst the 200-plus people that...that participated?

MR. TOKIOKA: I can...I can try to answer that question, Councilmember. Yes, people did bring up, you know, A to Z in...in these sessions, but that particular question...and I'm

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not sure exactly which bypass you're talking about, but I know Director Sniffen and the Department of Transportation just released something last week about a bypass road that was going to cost...I believe it was a 60 million, or maybe a \$50 million project that they were looking at a bypass in West Maui. So, I'm not sure if that's the same plan that you saw, what I saw in the press release, but Director Sniffen was on talking about that. But that...I'm not going to say that that idea came from this commission. It came from, you know, years of working with the community on the...the part of the DOT.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Mahalo for that update, Mr. Tokioka. The other thing that we heard from the community was about Front Street and...you know, addressing Front Street, and making it maybe a walkable path or something like that, or a memorial path. But what Front Street is...is connected to is one, the harbor, and two, two historic designation sites. So, I do see some of the participants were cultural practitioners. Have there been discussion about keeping those...or addressing the historical nature of Lāhainā? A lot of people are saying, hey, how is...how is Lāhainā going to look like, and...and because of its historic, significant past, do any of the projects kind of address, you know, the historic nature of, or...or just the designation of...of those two...two areas?

MR. HART: Chair, I could respond to that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. HART: The County of Maui Office of Recovery is...has initiated the Rebuild Lāhainā Plan Phase I, which is a focus on the downtown core of Lāhainā, and it's intending to create...or update existing commercial design guidelines for the reconstruction of...of the commercial core in relation to the County Historic District One and Two, and the Lāhainā National Historic Landmark District. Concurrent with that, the Office of 'Ōiwi Resources has initiated their royal complex master plan that focuses more on the historic and cultural resources of Lāhainā Town that do overlap with the harbor area and the commercial area. And so, those are two concurrent efforts that are intended to work with the community to address those issues, and...and basically document an agreed-upon direction for uses and character of the redevelopment of the town going forward. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, great. Thanks, Jordan, for that update. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Member Cook, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, everyone, for your presentation today. Okay. A couple questions. So, it seems like the County is going to be kind of taking a passive role in this for now. When do you think we will take a more active role in the planning of the economic recovery for Lāhainā? Where is OED on some of the economic recovery facets that's not only discussed in this plan, but just in general? Do we know? If somebody wanted to start, let's say, a laundromat tomorrow, where would they begin?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. I can't speak specifically to a laundromat, although I think they could probably apply to OED for grant funding for something like that. I know OED is trying to take a very strong look at making sure that they are economic development-focused at this point, and try and really hone in on that, specifically when it comes to recovery, and items like that. But I could also request that you submit your question in writing to Chief of Staff to get a more thorough answer. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I actually want to hear from Mr. Hart too, only because the laundromat is such a good and bad representation of how difficult it is for things to get permitted. As we were discussing water earlier, the laundromat would require a whole bunch of water. How would somebody without an existing laundromat facility, because it would be a new business, go about doing that?

MR. HART: Chair, thank you. So, there's a couple of things I was thinking about when...when this was being discussed. There's...there's the business park, which is kind of like a small business incubator, and I'm not sure if that...I'm not sure if that's something that could be pivoted to.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'm so glad you mentioned that, because that is my next question.

MR. HART: Okay. So, to...to pivot to address some of the...the use needs that were mentioned by Councilmember Paltin, setting that aside, you're...you're basically addressing the underlying water issue, which is what I was trying to make comment about, is that I don't see any way in the near-term to do anything outside of existing meters in West Maui. So, they would need to partner with, let's say, a light industrial zone property to get access to that meter in order to do the uses. Because there's no waiting for the entire CWRM process to unfold to decide on a new location that doesn't currently have a meter. And then as far as, you know, what does the Office of Recovery do in situations like that? You know, I'm one individual. There's another Staff person that we basically are on-call to assist people with specific land use and permitting issues. So, we basically assist them to coordinate with agencies and problem solve based on, you know, past experience doing that kind of stuff. And that's...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I have another question --

MR. HART: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- before I move on to the Lāhainā Business Park. How would somebody do like, let's say, a mobile laundromat? Where would they park? How would we...how can we help...like clean clothes is such a basic necessity, but could we do a mobile one? Could we figure out somebody...could we solicit, on our end, who would be willing to do that, and help find some grant money for somebody to do a mobile laundromat?

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MR. HART: I'm sure we can. So, basically you have...you have zoning, and you --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. HART: -- have sewer hookup is...and water. Like I'm sure it's...it's a...something that can be solved, I guess.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I like that, I'm going to end on you saying --

MR. HART: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- it's something that can be solved. I like that. For the Lāhainā Business Park, I think that's what it's called. We heard about that a while ago. And I specifically remember it because we discussed having a beer garden in that park. But I remember unsure of its potential location. Have we had any movement on that? And if so, what's the update? What's the status on that business park?

MS. HAMPE: Thank you, Councilmember. And Chair, if we could, Jeanne is the facilitator of that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members, if you allow, ask Jeanne Skog to come...with SR Partners --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I would be happy...thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to come and join us as a resource. Thank you. Jeanne, you want to come down? And eventually, when you get settled, you can answer...

MR. HART: I can...I can do, I sat with them and...and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. HART: -- Jeanne in an update meeting. So...so, basically they're in...in communication with a commercial...existing commercial property owner with a remaining structure, negotiating for space. And we also had a discussion of whether or not it would be appropriate to try and find a semi-temporary or pop-up location within the core of the town as well. And they're basically...they're basically exploring and making deals on establishing, starting with the brick-and-mortar site that they had already been working on and...and they're, you know, exploring . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . alternates.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you, I heard the bell. Thanks, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Next, we have Member Cook, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and Gabe Johnson if he...if he arrives. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Excellent. Thank you for this presentation, there's a lot to it. And my question...I was going to ask about the Lāhainā Business Park, but I will shift gears to update on Lāhainā's harbor for economic resilience. Is there...how does that play in, and could you give us sort of an update of what's happening with that, what the potentials are, and if there are any challenges that the Council could assist with?

MR. HART: Chair, the...the Harbor Recovery Working Group has been extremely active. I've been participating with them a lot. We had a very successful meeting with DOBOR at the harbor with the Office of Recovery, and...and several of the harbor users--I believe it was last week, but I have a hard time tracking sometimes--anyway, identified the...the critical path items remaining for operation, and it looks like we're closing in on...on key items, and actually making significant progress. The County of Maui has a couple of safety improvements that we're wrapping up that will basically lead to eliminating any sort of restricted access to the core of Lāhainā Town. And so, we've...we basically got our schedule coincided with DOBOR, and we're working towards...towards wrapping things up. There is...there's one specific critical path item that...that hasn't...hasn't started yet, so I don't want to try and, you know, make declaration of a...of a specific deadline before that's done, but it's...it's...I believe it's coming together, and I think that the...the operators and users of the facility are...are confident in how things are coming together, and feel good about it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for that. Could you share with us some of the critical path items that are...to get to it starting to function again?

MR. HART: Sure. So, on the County side, there is basically either repairing or cordoning off any unsafe pedestrian areas...sidewalks, and what have you. There is securing critical cultural sites that are going to be part of the...the royal complex master planning project in order to basically keep them on the level of respect that they require when people are allowed to begin walking back through the area. And then on the DOBOR side, there is the repair of the restrooms, which is basically, that's...that's number one as far as accommodating a large number of people at a specific location. And then there's...finally, there's the County of Maui's seawall and...well, railing repair project along the seawall, but that is going to be able to...to condense the project site around the work area, so...so it'll just be this little block of...of blocked-off area, and it won't consume cross streets anymore. And so, those are them. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Is...is...is the renewing the ferry operation to Lāhainā Harbor a priority?

MR. HART: I believe we're talking about leaving from Lāhainā to Lāna'i?

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct.

MR. HART: Yeah, it's...that was a...we spent a lot of time discussing that. DOBOR is...is engaged with the ferry operator. That's a...that's a critical issue of discussion, but...but basically, for some background, even the operators need time to move, to...to coordinate the move, and things like that, so it's...so it's...everybody is...is very anxious, but also understands that they all have lead times on their various parts they plan the process. But that is...that was something we spent a good amount of time talking about, and it is a priority.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you for sharing that. It sounds like that is one of the projects that are...has traction and actually like moving forward. So, my next question is the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you want to say something?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- an update on permitting and accelerating West Maui recovery. How is this...is this...is that aspect of it principally for the businesses, for the ERC?

MR. HART: Chair, no, I don't think that it's specifically for the businesses. I think that it's really going to become critical for everybody that's makai, that...basically within the Special Management Area, within Lāhainā National Historic Landmark District, and within Historic District One or Two. I'm not sure if...if Council's aware, but there was basically the first building permit application that came through in Historic District Number One, and . . .(timer sounds). . . SHPD's comment to them was to...to excavate 100 percent of their project site, and this was for the reconstruction of a previously-existing structure in the exact same configuration and design as it existed pre-fire. And so, if that's going to be the kind of thing that...that every single single-family homeowner faces, it's...it's going to be a real problem, and so there needs to be engagement and discussion about how that's going to be handled. And it's a State-level issue, but it's, you know, we're...we're partners with them, and...and, you know, our residents are...are subject to it, so it has to be addressed because I don't think that the average person can handle that, basically, just to rebuild their own home. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, I concur. That...that is a relatively very burdensome...I mean, it just seems like environmentally, to excavate all that, what do you do with it, how do you manage it, potentially causing erosion issues, and a lot of things. Anyway, thank you very much, Chair. That's my time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I appreciate the...the presentation.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Cook, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, everyone. Mahalo for your presentation, and for being with us, and answering questions. I...I have to step away right after I ask my questions. A lot of my questions were asked, like the working together with the Department of 'Oiwī Resources. It sounds like, based on what Mr. Hart was saying, that they are working together to protect the royal complex area, so mahalo for that information. And then in the presentation, Director Tokioka talked about tourism numbers not returning to pre-fire numbers. And we know pre-COVID numbers was way too much for Maui. In our General Plan, the...you know, the limit that the community requested was a three-to-one ratio, three-to-one resident-to-tourist ratio, and even the pre-fire numbers was above that. And so, in planning tourism recovery, what has the discussion been regarding ensuring that we don't cross that line of over-tourism again?

MR. TOKIOKA: Okay. I'm not sure which information or report that you were referring to, the three-to-one...at DBEDT, or the...the READ office. I was not aware of that. But what I was aware of is the community-led groups that were at the ERC were talking about how do we--and...and this is talked about at HTA...HTA all the time--is, how do we plan for responsible tourism to Hawai'i? And that is the goal, that's always going to be the goal. If you can share that information with me on where it came from, three-to-one, I'm assuming one tourist.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The Maui General Plan. One tourist for every three residents, yeah. No more than...what's that, 33 percent?

MR. TOKIOKA: I've not seen that Maui General Plan. But anyway, from the...the groups that were made up at the ERC, and the groups that have been contacting HTA and DBEDT, they're...as I said in the report, they're asking for support for some of these hotels. And I wanted to address something, this opportunity, too, that Member Lee brought up on the...when I said short-term vacation rentals, I did not say permitted short visit...short-term vacation rentals because none of us in the State support unpermitted short-term vacation rentals. And I know that Maui is probably the most contentious when it comes to those short-term vacation rentals. But the marketing for the wholesale efforts were focused on hotels. And so, I apologize that I didn't say unpermitted or short-term rentals like that. But Member Rawlins, if...I'll take a look at that Maui General Plan. And, you know, in everything you do and we do, you know, there's always one side of the story and the other side of the story. But overwhelmingly, the...the...the voice that we heard was West Maui, and the hotels in West Maui, the destination...accommodation destinations need help. And so, that's where those comments came from. I have not seen it, and I will look at that three-to-one plan from the General Plan. One other thing, Chair, if I can, I wanted to address that Member Paltin brought up, and it is choices that people make. Now, we invited all of the trade unions to come to the ERC because we just assumed that there'd be tons of construction happening, which is happening right now in Lāhainā. But when it comes to that, many of the work...or a lot of the work is not union work. And so, you know,

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from the union leaders, it's frustrating...but also, from the community members, they understand that it's difficult for some of these people who are rebuilding to hire union work. But, you know, that's the choices that individual homeowners make, and they have to make it based on their own financial situation. And I think for the most part, the unions have been totally understanding of that. But I just wanted to add that to part of the question that she asked. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, I hope I answered your question, Member Rawlins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. Well, you didn't know about the three-to-one ratio number. And so, now that you do, maybe there will...you will be able to answer my question at a future time. Because the question was about how to manage those numbers in accordance with the Maui General Plan, which is the three-to-one ratio. But since you didn't know about the three-to-one ratio, then I assume it's not woven into that recovery plan. And so, perhaps on July 31st, that's something that can be looked at and incorporated. Yeah. Okay. I...I have to go, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, I'm not going to be here for the next round of questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You know, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Member...I want to call you Deputy Director Hart, that's wrong. Jordan Hart has a comment he wants to make, so you can leave if you have to leave, but he wants to answer.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure.

MR. HART: Chair, thank you very much. I just wanted to just clarify. So...so, for Director Tokioka, the ratio comes from the County of Maui's Island Plan. And so, you know, I think that we're very grateful for the support to getting attention back to Maui to resume the business operations of the visitor industry. And it's on the County level that we regulate the number of units and the type of projects to get approved that...that...that result in the accommodations that create that ratio of visitors to tourists. And so, that's something that we can control in our planning and project approval process is, how many total visitor plant units exist that affect the ratio of visitors to residents. And so, you know, that's something that's in our long-range plans that we continue to work on. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Member Johnson is still not with us, or did he join us online? I don't see him. Okay. So, I have one question, and then we can take a break. So, just as a comment on the mobile washer and dryer facility, during COVID, we did have that in Waiale. So, maybe OED can look at it as something that you can model after for County of Maui. So, it is something that is possible, and maybe

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that can even be located in West Maui, and that would be very helpful. So, that's one. And listening to this and your comments, and it may be, you know, something to think about, is that is there...is Administration planning to submit any budget amendments or operational shifts to respond to this plan? Because I know...I know we do have the CDBG-DR funds, but are there any other plans that you will need the Council's assistance as our budgeting partner we have? Is that a Lesley Milner question?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. At this time, I'm not aware of any proposed budget amendments related to any of the projects listed. I know we do have several of them that are already supported in the budget, including R-1 water and some others. That said, obviously, as we continue through the fiscal year and plans develop, and we get closer to seeing how those CDBG-DR funds will be allocated, and what maybe is not included in that, there is always the potential that we would come back for a budget amendment to support some of these initiatives. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, I'm going to ask if we can do another round of questions after the break. It's now 10:35, so you want to take a 10:45, ten-minute break?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. This is a recess for ten minutes. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 10:35 a.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 10:49 a.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic...I was going to say Economic Recovery Committee . . .(laughing). . .--Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee, and we are continuing with the ERC presentation and report. So, we've had one round of questions with Members present. Who has left is Tom Cook, who had to go to a meeting, as well as Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and Member Johnson still has not joined us at this moment. So, Member Paltin, do you have another question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just kind of...I guess, I'm not sure if it's a question, or a comment, or a suggestion, is that after my opportunity, I heard in the answers to the other Members that, you know, this is something that's community-driven. And I kind of liken it to my kids, you know, when I ask them, oh, so what do you want to be when you grow up, you know? Oh, I want to be a social media influencer or whatever, and I'm like, yeah, but how does that contribute to society, how does it serve our community? Like I'm sure a lot of people would like to go after that tourist dollar or whatever, but in the moment, what are the things that our community needs, and how can that be made into an economic recovery generator that provides a living wage, you know? So, I understand that the group that was formed wanted to listen to the community, but I think it's incumbent, being...using of tax dollars and things like that, that we kind of guide the community to focus on community needs, and how that can be an economic generator, how that can pay a living wage, and...and the steps to take. I understand

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like, you know, if you look at the timeline, January 2024, obviously the hotels were going to be hurting at that time, and if the hotels were flush with tourists in January 2024, where would they be going in Lāhainā? Because there really was nothing there. I look at Kalei's Lunchbox, which just opened at the Lāhainā Cannery Center, and it's...it's doing really good in...in the morning and lunch, not so much in the dinner, but they're still struggling to hire workers. So, if we have a bunch of these like eateries, which is...is sorely needed...because for the first six months, mostly we had just Panda's, are we going to be able to pay a living wage? Are we going to be able to hire workers? Eateries are...are kind of a needed economic generator, but will we have the workers for it? And, you know, in terms of a new use and water, like this is an opportunity to say like let's go for low-flow washing machines, you know, that use the least amount of water as possible. What if we make it like attached to a commercial kitchen with a window to...people can buy like, you know, manapuas or something while they wash their clothes, and have Starlink hook up it for a little extra, you know, a daily password or something like that. Like how can we focus these community economic generation to first serve our community? Because when there's situations like COVID, or the fire, or, you know, World War III, Donald Trump, tariffs, whatever, our community is still going to be there. They're still going to need services. You know, when they first reopened to tourism, our kids weren't even back in school yet, public school kids, so it's like looking at it holistically. I don't know, I mean, if it's effective or efficient to have our Chief of Staff also being the Director of Economic...OED, and Energy Commission, and Chief of Staff, but if we're really focusing on economic development, maybe we should have a director of economic development. And DBEDT...I know that their role is business economic development, but they're a function of the State. And so, maybe they can help us to navigate the other State agencies that are restricting that economic development. And I'm all for CWRM, I'm all for SHPD, what they stand for, but how can we be realistic, you know, of we need water, we need to respect our iwi kūpuna, but we also need to rebuild. And how can the State, and the County, and the various departments work together on that? Because I think what's missing is that...that overall outlook, and the way that economic recovery is affecting our...in Lāhainā...living in Lāhainā, and more day-to-day lives. Because we're not there yet, it's...it's difficult. You know, if you have a brand-new kid, or you need daycare, you need childcare, you need afterschool programs, you need transportation and all the things, we're not there yet. And so, life in West Maui is harder. And...and then when you look at the statistics of the out-migration . . .(timer sounds). . . it's evident. Most people want to live in a society that's built to serve their needs, you know, whether that's economically or not. I'm...I'm concerned with those carrying costs for these business [sic] that want to rebuild and have to do all these SHPD things, that the time and the money involved is going to create like what international marketplace Waikiki is now. Majority of people, they want to see the mom-and-pop shops, the small businesses, but with the cost of recovery, it's almost as though we're forcing the big corporations to come in because they're the only ones that can carry that cost over a long term. And so, like, you know, maybe start with the end goal, and work back, and...and see how we get there. But...and I...I don't mean for any of this to take away from all the hard work that's been done, but if we can just, you know, guide the process a little to focus on our existing residents, their needs, and how that can be an economic opportunity rather than obstacle. So, I guess it's not a

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question, but input or feedback, and I look forward to see how this is incorporated on July 31st.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody want to make a comment before I move on? Seeing none. Mr. Hart, you want to respond?

MR. HART: Chair, thank you very much. You covered a lot of...of different issues, and...and, you know, we're taking note, and we'll do our best to...to incorporate the feedback that we're getting here into the framework of this existing project. And we do look forward to the discussion on the 31st because it is going to be an interactive process. It's a...it's a presentation by the teams, but it's also feedback from the fully-assembled ERC. And...and we can, as discussed earlier, talk about how to incorporate pivoting into...into this process as new things. These team leads are setting out on a project that...that was selected and vetted that they believe is...is the correct course for them and their expertise. And then there's new feedback coming in of new issues that either have not been picked up or are emerging as larger crises than were thought about earlier. So, how do we incorporate pivoting, or potentially bringing on new team leads to take on different initiatives? We can look at that inside of this ERC process. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have a second round of questions? Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. This question is for you, Mr. Hart. Not necessarily in this role that we're discussing today, but kinda sorta. So, this morning, CNN had an article that the price of home construction, we can expect to rise \$14,000 by 2027 because of the tariffs in Canada, which, of course, we can expect to be more expensive here, right, as we need the shipping from Canada, go to America, come here. What are we going to do to help offset that cost, considering it's already more expensive than it ever was? And now we can expect, let's say, hypothetically, an extra \$20,000. And that's, I think, relatively conservative, considering that's only \$6,000 than the projected, I guess, cost increase in...in the continental US. What are...what are we going to do?

MR. HART: Well, as long as it's not inflation that's driving those price increases, then I think we're okay. No.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: A little sprinkle of inflation, a sprinkle of tariffs --

MR. HART: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- equals about \$20,000-something extra.

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MR. HART: This...I don't know. I thought about the...I think about this, what you're talking about right now, I actually spend a lot of my own personal time thinking about.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Same.

MR. HART: I think that my dad built the house that I grew up in. A lot of people used to build their own houses, just bring all their family or --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. HART: -- friend group together and build their houses. We've transitioned away to like a turnkey...you know, buy into a large-scale development. I think that those things, just by the nature of what it takes to develop those, those drive costs. I think that we have to look holistically at how somebody who's born and raised on Maui, or even just comes here and is participating in the community, navigates their way through all of these escalated costs. And I think that it's going to come down to, unfortunately, working harder, making cuts, making tough decisions. But I do think within that, you know, that's...that's something that's possible. And that's the only way it's going to come to fruition. I mean, the Council can't buy everybody a house.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Right.

MR. HART: The State can't give the County money to buy everybody a house. Like, we have to figure out how to do more. And I think that it comes down to, you know, fundamental skills, and things like...almost like home economic kind of fundamentals. Like, how do you grow your own budget? Like, you have your income that you have. How do you cut your own costs to...to set aside and...and be able to participate in this market that we're all competing with from people all around the world who want to be here?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. HART: It's...it's very challenging, but I think all we can do is try to enable and give fundamental skills to...to the people that are...that are from here, or are here and are part of the community. And I think that that means there's a lot of different programs, which the County does already support. But I think that they have to...to kind of speak more to the skills that you need, or the education that you need to be able to...and it's not like complicated...I don't want to say it's not complicated, but it's like more...more trade, or...or like it's...it's not formal college education. It's fundamental skills to get our people into housing in the market that exists, basically.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I have...I have another question. So, majority of Lāhainā had obviously this historic characteristic, that we love this plantation era kind of vibe. And I know we're still trying to navigate, you know, what era we will ultimately kind of decide on when it comes to the reconstruction, kinda sorta. But continuing on this line of construction and its cost, trusses are so expensive, and hard to find at this point, which means that everybody's going to have like a lean-to roof, which doesn't really have that historic district look. It has more of a modern...kind of funky look. I mean, no

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judgment on people with a lean-to roof. What are we going to do? Like, how...how are we going to have people build back? And, you know, they're going to do their plans now, if they didn't already do it. Is July of '25. Takes a little while for things to get permitted. By the time they buy materials, it's going to be maybe 2027. Maybe we'll have trusses. Maybe we won't. Maybe we're going to look at lean-to construction. How are we going to navigate that in the historic district area? Sorry to just throw this all on you. It's nothing what we were talking about, but I was reading the article this morning and going, oh, my God.

MR. HART: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: What are we going to do?

MR. HART: So...so, one of the things that I didn't say earlier is that...is that regulation is cost. So, you know, we...our regulations are what drive costs. Like the...is the County of Maui interested . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . in looking at a creative...there's the International Building Code. You know, are we...are...are we interested in looking at ways to...ways to create an opportunity to construct housing that's safe, but also attainable? Like, for instance, like...you know, there's...there's any number of layers, but like let's just say Energy Code, for example. We go doors open, windows open at my house. We don't have AC.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I don't either.

MR. HART: So, like, what do you...like, you know, there used to be single-wall construction. All the...all the camps were all single-wall construction. So, like at one time, that was okay. Now, that's not satisfactory for you. You need...you need, you know, AC, and all of these other things that you need to...to operate your home. So, I think that...you know, are we willing to make sacrifices or tough decisions in order to make things economically feasible? And that would...that would take, basically, increased risk and deregulation. So, are we...are we willing to have those conversations or not? And...shoot, I... . . .*(laughing)*. . . there was...could you...could you kind of re...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I don't even know because I was just...like talking to you based on what I read this morning. And to your point, ironically --

MR. HART: Oh, trusses.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- like, my house is not deemed safe, but it's been standing for the last 100 years.

MR. HART: Yeah, right. I mean, and...and...and pretty much --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, yeah, trusses. That's right, trusses.

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MR. HART: -- everybody knows, you know, somebody's house that's, you know, from the '30s or before that's been through any number of hurricanes, and has been housing families for this whole time. So...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, my house doesn't have hurricane straps.

MR. HART: Yeah, but, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I mean . . .*(knocks on wood)*. . .

MR. HART: -- but you can't do that now. So, that's...that's...but that's something that the...that the State and the County have the authority to look at. There are counties without, you know, building permits and things like that in the nation. So, it is something that's possible. And there can be a real discussion on it. With regard to things like trusses, you know, that's...that's a...that's a cost savings, time savings...you know, a meeting of cost savings and time savings. Are you going to save money on your contractor to buy from "X" local truss production company, or are you going to do it yourself, which is challenging and takes more time? So, like --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. HART: -- I think those are just hard decisions that everybody has to make. Are we going to maintain the character of the historic district, which everybody...I believe most people did appreciate, and a lot of people want to see come back. That means additional cost and/or time to finish your project. And people just basically got to talk that out in the public process, and...and come to grips with what we're dealing with.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for answering my question. Thanks, Chair, for allowing me that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- small discussion sidebar. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, relevant, very relevant. You know, we have Member Johnson, who popped in. I'm so glad to see you because you did participate with the ERC, Economic Recovery Commission. Your name is printed in, you know, the collateral, and do you have a question? If you want.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, I don't, Chair, but thank you for recognizing me. I'm apologizing for my tardiness. I was at the Summer Pals event --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- and everybody...like all smiles in the crowd. And so, I'm here and ready to work. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, that's so cute.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. All right. Does anybody have...oh, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second round.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Continuing on with the subject of funding, I'm sure all of you have discussed where the potential funds would come from. Like Lesley, how much of the CDBG-DR funds would be available for portions of this project? In dollars, how much?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hart?

MR. HART: Chair, I think that...that from where we're at now, the...the only thing that you can really do is look at the allocation of funding types in the action plan. The...the DR section of the Office of Recovery is working with their consultant, Horn (*phonetic*), to establish their policy plans for each of the...the areas of the action plan, and that basically is the rules and framework of how you apply for and obtain that money. That's a process that's going to be wrapping up in the next couple of months. And so, without that done--that's the...that's the rulebook of how you qualify for and request this money--so without that being done, it's...it's not possible to say who would qualify, or what they would need to shape themselves into to qualify. I can say that DR funds are...are supposed to be a funding of last resort and a gap funding situation, so they're not supposed to just completely fund things, so it's going to be a collection of funding sources. Whether...you know, and I do think that that is something that...that SR Partners is supporting, identifying methods of finding funding for these initiatives, and I do think that some of it will be asked to come from the County of Maui, and some of it will be asked to come from the DR funds, but what those total dollar volumes are right now, I don't think that we are at a place that we can even say that for you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, you folks don't even know how much would be available to be considered? In other words, I would think that reconstruction and new construction of water facilities would be a high priority, and so you're, in your mind, setting aside "X" number of dollars, and for sewer, and for road improvements, evacuation routes, et cetera. And then what's left over is my question.

MR. HART: So, the...the action plan basically allocated how the...the \$1.6 billion would be spent within the County of Maui. And I apologize, that I should be able to, but I'm not able to rattle off the...the divisions of those bundles of basically hundreds of thousands of dollars. But there is...there is housing, and infrastructure, and social services, and hazard mitigation. And so, that's...those...those matrices where I was going through the projects, how they align with the Lāhainā Long-Term Recovery Plan, and how they relate to DR programs, that was basically the way of identifying how they would be in the vein of these pools of money in the DR program, but they still need to have the...first of all,

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some of these projects still need to fully form what exactly they're doing, and how they're doing it, which is...which is what's going to be discussed on the 31st. But then also, there's the...the DR programs that lay out how any of these projects, after they're formed, would...would enter into that process and qualify for and obtain funding.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Didn't you integrate all of the different 11 groups into the overall action plan? Isn't it integrated in that?

MR. HART: There's...there's direct relation, so I'm sorry, I wasn't...I wasn't in...I wasn't in the Office of...somebody that was in prior to me may be able to talk about that time frame a little bit better than I can. There...there are some projects that are...basically speak directly to initiatives --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. HART: -- but there are some that are not . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thanks. Let me go to another question. Lesley, is there a fund for direct assistance? Not DR funds, but any fund available in the County?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Direct assistance for specific...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: People who need funding for subsistence, people who need funding for housing, et cetera.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I think there are several different initiatives in the County to provide direct assistance, some of which were added by the Council during the fiscal year budget process, including the ALICE initiative. We also have several housing programs in the Department of Housing to directly assist residents who need help, and we're providing funding to the Lāhainā...sorry, Lāhainā Trust...Land Trust, there it is, to provide funds for gap folks. They have a gap program for folks . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . who have a...a difference between their insurance and their rebuild costs, along with assisting those who want to have their housing remain in community hands thorough...in perpetuity, and other initiatives.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But nothing specifically for housing...I mean, financial assistance? I'm not talking about the ALICE Fund, which is under Maui United Way, or anybody else. Only under the County is...are there funds allocated for financial assistance?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: First-Time Home Buyers.

MS. MILNER: We have funds for financial assistance for housing, such as the First-Time Home Buyers Program, and things like that. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have questions? Seeing none. Okay. Oh, Tamara? Not Tamara. Okay. This item then, with your permission, Members, I'm going to...I'm going to defer this so we can bring it up again. Appreciate the discussion. I hope many of you will then go to the July 31st event, and I wonder if you wouldn't mind just giving...announcing the details, and the public is invited? No? Oh, Council is invited. Sorry, I thought it was a...

MS. HAMPE: Thank you, Chair. The Councilmembers are invited, and we also have a number of funders in there. And so, it's going to be the project teams presenting to you all and to the various philanthropic funders, as well as other project team members. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, all of you, in your email, you would have gotten an invitation to attend that. Please respond to it. And thank you very much for allowing us to have this one preview. I guess more details to come. And I'm going to defer this so that we can bring it back at the appropriate time because this is an ongoing big concern. I will stand with Member Paltin to say that we do need a director for the Office of Economic Development. I have a situation...I'm going...I'm going to advocate for this because in my community, which is having a ho'olaulea this coming Saturday, their grant, which was funded through the Fiscal '25 Budget, it never got finalized, and they're having their function this Saturday. And I'm getting spinning from OED. I'm very, very disappointed. I'm going to just say it publicly because it's so...so outrageous, and I don't think that they're the only ones who are experiencing this. They have personally taken out money from their own personal accounts just to make sure the function does happen. But we really need somebody in that office who can pay attention to it. And every time there's a need in this Administration to have a...a manager that left, or whatever the reason is, Cynthia Lallo's name gets put in. And it's not fair for her, I don't think. I don't think anybody can have that many big jobs if you deal with an organization as big as the County of Maui. So, thank you, Member Paltin, for saying that. I have been saying that in emails, but I'm going to just say it publicly because of my experience with Keokea ho'olaulea, which is happening this Saturday. So, even if my family has to give them money, I will help them because this is so unfair, inexcusable. Anyway, not part of this. I had to advocate. So, at this time, then, I'm going to defer this.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: TC, KRF, SS)**

**ACTION: DEFER.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, everybody who has provided us information and support because this is a very important next phase that we are going to go in. And appreciate SR Partners for the work that you're doing for implementation. As you know, during this budget cycle, we did allocate funds with Member...not Member, Managing Director Nishita's assistance of the funds that you would need to move this forward because I think it was important. So, thank you very much. And I'm going to take like a short recess just so that we can change out. And so, thank you very much. 11:20, we'll come back, four minutes.

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**RECESS: 11:16 a.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 11:26 a.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome, everybody, back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. We have the second item on the agenda. And thank you, Members, for the great round of questions that we just had with the ERC, and we look forward to learning more on that.

**ITEM 42: BILL 81 (2025), AMENDING CHAPTER 3.04, MAUI COUNTY CODE, ON INFORMATION ON COUNTY OPERATIONS (BFED-42)**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This item is...I'm going to end up deferring it because the discussions that I've had on this is calling for more attention to enforcement, and...of which this bill hasn't addressed, and I agree that we need to. So, therefore...and I'll tell you who I ran into over the weekend is Guy Hironaka. And Guy said, the bill that you're proposing probably needs to have some attention to enforcement. And since he mentioned it to me twice, I thought, okay, this is serious. I've taken it further and had our attorney, Mr. Hanano, look at it also. So, I'm going to pull this item, this...this bill back, and include more depth into it with Department of Finance, and looking at the bigger picture. So, Member...this is in Bill 81. And this would amend Chapter 3.04, Maui County Code, to require the disclosure of funding source for County-acquired land when requesting appropriations for development. And this bill also ensures that proposed uses match the restrictions tied to the fund, and adds quarterly reporting through the Budget Implementation Report. So, again...so I'm going to defer this, but I want to hear from you if you have any concerns so that we can bring it back and include your concerns. If not, I'm going to defer this and bring it up again. Oh. Oh, testimony, that's right. Anybody...do we have any testifiers? We do.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. There's currently one individual signed up to testify on this item. That would be the individual connected to the meeting under the name Royal House of Hawai'i.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Mr. Royal House of Hawai'i, do you have any testimony?

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 42 . . .**

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAII'I: Yes, I do. Aloha.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aloha.

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAII'I: I'm testifying as for like...so like for budget, I...I recommend and demand that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you speak a little louder?

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THE ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAII: -- . . . *(inaudible)*. . . of...oh, okay. As for...as for budget, I'd recommend and demand that the descendants of the royal patents/allodial titles be contacted, and be returned to their lands. Given the historical context and the existing legal framework, it's evident that the Native Hawaiian people with their royal patented, allodial titled lands, because the metes and bounds of the Kingdom of Hawai'i are never going to go away, would be the best suited to govern and decide what happens on their ancestral lands. From...after all the...they have lived through the challenges and effects of land mismanagement. And as Kānaka, we look at water as our value because without water, nothing will survive. The weeds...or even the cockroach not even going to survive. The royal patent paperwork shows what the land can do, and what the land can hold. But if the descendants...but if the descendants were to be contacted and returned, they would likely prioritize sustainable and community-driven solutions, avoiding massive evictions, and helping everyone in a whole, no matter what. So, I demand and urge you to find each descendant and beneficiary of each Palapala Sila Nui, aka royal patent, which is already supposed to be done by right by law, because I'm pretty sure the descendants are very much alive and still haven't been contacted or don't even know from the brainwashing, injustices continuing until this day in school, from being taught that businesses ended the royals for the land ownership, when we are actually the walking royals with the royal patent/allodial titled lands that last forever. And currently, these...they are...I...I guess the State is erasing the royal patents and LCA from the legal info in the TMKs of everyone's house paperwork, which is...which is not supposed to be done, and is a crime on an international level. And everyone in Hawai'i is a leasehold grantor, so the land does not ever stay in their...that person's family forever, unless they are a descendant of the royal patents, just letting you know. And please respect the existing legal framework for the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much for testifying. Any more testimony?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no other individuals signed up to testify on this item, so we'll do a last call. If there is anybody 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 very much. With your permission, I'm going to close public testimony and open...and always receive written testimony.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 42 . . .**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No objections, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, you heard my intention, right? I'm going to defer this so that we can do a deeper dive into the enforcement or other areas that you may think we need to. So, anybody have any comments regarding this bill? I see none. Okay. So, I'm going to defer this item, and schedule it again. So, once we work with the departments to look further into...possibly looking into the enforcement aspect of it, and what...I want to establish quarterly reports or communications so that we can be clearer about intentions of what was put in the Charter, especially for this Open Space Funds. All right, Members. So, thank you very much. It's been a very interesting day. So, it's now 11:33. This one item is going to be deferred.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: TC, KRF, SS)**

**ACTION: DEFER.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And this meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

**ADJOURN: 11:33 a.m.**

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 38 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 10th day of September 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



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Daniel Schoenbeck