

WATER AUTHORITY, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

June 1, 2026

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:07 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (In 10:05 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (In 10:40 a.m.)
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Kauanoë Batangan, Member

STAFF:

Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Zachary Stackhouse, Legislative Analyst
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Criselda Paranada, Committee Secretary
Lei Dinneen, Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Offices

Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Hina Hanapi-Hirata, Council Aide, Molokai Residency Area Office
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Chaelin Ryu, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

ADMIN.:

Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel (All)

OTHERS:

Ashely Tone, Deputy Director Maui Operations & Statewide Engagement,
YouthLine Hawai‘i (WASSP-1(19))
Danielle Bergan, Mental Health Trainer and Community Affairs Consultant,
YouthLine Hawai‘i (WASSP-1(19))
Kelsey Loree, Volunteer, YouthLine Hawai‘i (WASSP-1(19))
Milton “Bubba” Thibodeaux Sr., President, Kupa‘a Enterprises (WASSP-1(20))
Mike Diaz, Representative, The Ho‘oilina Group LLC (WASSP-1(20))

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(20+) additional attendees

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

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha kakahiaka and welcome to the WASSP Committee meeting of Monday, June 1st, 2026. It is 9:07. Happy wa Iune. I'm Shane Sinenci, your Committee Chair. Mahalo, Members, for taking the time to attend this meeting. And just as a reminder for members of the public, silence all cell phones and...or any noise-making devices. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today and minors do not need to be identified. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Joining us this morning, we have Committee Vice-Chair Gabe Johnson. Aloha kakahiaka.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: *(Audio interference)* Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office and no one on my side of the office. Morning.

CHAIR SINENCI: Morning. Also joining us...well, Councilmember Batangan is excused. Councilmember Cook is excused. Council Chair Lee will join us later. In the Chambers with us we have Councilmember Tamara Paltin. Aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka, kākou. Streaming live and direct from the Council Chambers.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for joining us this morning. Also, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez will be running...is running late and will join us later. Joining us from Kula Uka, Councilmember Sugimura. Aloha and good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, everybody. I'm doing this meeting from Kula, and there's nobody in my workspace with me. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you for joining us. Also joining us online is Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins. Aloha and good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Good morning, everyone. I'm at my private residence. I do have...it's summertime, so I have a couple kids running around the house. But I'm alone in my dining room that will function as my workspace for today. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for joining us this morning. Also, from Corporation Counsel, we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Yukari Murakami. Aloha and good morning.

MS. MURAKAMI: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Also, we have a whole list of WASSP Committee Staff. Thank you for running this meeting this morning and welcome. Members, we have two items on today's

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agenda. Mental Health Crisis Intervention, Prevention, and Support for Youth in Maui County, WASSP-1(19). And our second item, Overview of a Proposed Community Resilience and Youth Development Campus, WASSP-1(20). Members, without objection for WASSP-1(19), I'll designate Ms. Danielle Bergan from...mental health trainer and community affairs consultant, YouthLine Hawaii. Also with her, we have Kelsey Loree and Ashley Tone. Wel...also welcome as all resources under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council because of their expertise on YouthLine and its operations. For WASSP-1(20), without objection, I'll designate the following as resources under Rule 18(A) because of their expertise on the proposed community resilience and youth development campus, Melton "Bubba" Thibodeaux, Sr., President for Kupa'a Enterprises, and Mike Diaz, Representative of the Ho'olina Group, LLC. We got that. Thanks for coming, gentlemen. Staff, do we have any testimony this morning?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, no one has indicated that they would like to testify at the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Great. Just let me know, and then if anybody comes on and then I'll read the testimony log. Okay. Let's go straight to our first item, Members, WASSP-1(19).

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, our first item is Mental Health Crisis Intervention and Support for Youth in Maui County. Members, last month was Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to highlight the importance of mental wellness, reduce stigma, and connect people with support. However, our discussions within this Committee have made it clear that mental health is an issue we must prioritize year-round. In our Committee meeting on the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study on July 21st, 2025, we heard how youth in particular are in urgent need of greater mental health support. Today, we've invited representatives from YouthLine Hawai'i to join us and share how they're supporting youth across the County and across the State. They plan to present on their particular services that they provide, including their peer-to-peer mental health support and crisis line. I'd like to turn the floor over to Ms. Bergan for her presentation. Thanks for being here.

MS. BERGAN: Thank you, Chair Sinenci. Very much appreciative of having us here today. Again, my name is Danielle Bergan, and I am a mental health trainer and community affairs coordinator for YouthLine Hawaii. We're going to show you a little presentation here. We'll advance some slides as we go through and talk about it, and then at the end, we'll be able to open this up to questions for anyone who might have any. So, you see our first slide here is, we're a service of Lines for Life, which is the 988 out of Oregon. YouthLine has been around for 26 years, and you can see the logos that we have from our different contact centers. Very excited to be able to tell you the work that we've been doing in the last year and a half at YouthLine. Next slide, please. So we wanted to make sure when YouthLine came over from Portland, at a time shortly, maybe a year, year and a half after the fires, they were invited by, actually Maui United Way, to do a mental health focus group on Maui, and we knew the importance of really connecting everybody

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at that time. And they did a presentation for us, but they also are very respectful of the land that we live on, and this is just something that we incorporate into our training, realizing that we live and work in the occupied homelands of the Kānaka 'Ōiwi, the Native Hawaiian people, acknowledging the history of lost sovereignty, forced overthrow of their aloha 'āina. We acknowledge the importance of the 'āina and the spiritual and cultural identity connected with the Hawaiian culture and still connected within the islands on which we gather. Lastly, we honor and respect the many diverse peoples in these islands where we are allowed to live in the spirit of aloha. We are actually training our third cohort right now. They're over in our center over at Imua, over in Kahului, and we have another group of, I believe, four or five that we are training at the moment. Is that correct?

MS. TONE: We actually have a class of seven to support.

MS. BERGAN: Seven.

MS. TONE: We were very excited, and that'll put our volunteer count at 19.

MS. BERGAN; Yes, 19, that's awesome. And of course, we have Kelsey, one of our volunteers with us here, who's going to talk a little bit after this. Next slide, please. Yeah, we're good with the pause. So this is our Hawai'i team. You can see Ashley to my left. This is just our names and who we are, with a little bit of our qualifications there as well. You know, Ashley is a graduate of UH Mānoa. She's recently certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid. She has a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and Psychology. She's also a community and public health professional. I've already introduced myself, so you know who we're at. And our clinical supervisor is Ms. Amber Drake, who's actually involved in the training right now. She was actually a volunteer with me by previous position with Mental Health America of Hawai'i almost the entire time I was there, and she's also the NAMI affiliate for...affiliate leader and a member of the NAMI State Board of Directors. And if you don't know what NAMI is, it's the National Alliance for Mental Health. Next slide, please. So we're a peer-to-peer help support crisis line for young folks ages 10 to 24. Our service, our national service, which our YouthLine Hawai'i is connected to every time we go online, which are now Sundays and Wednesday evenings, is in its 26th year. And we built out to the capacity to serve more and more youth. In 2024, our amazing youth volunteers and supervisors were able to assist roughly 25,000 youth across the country. Our call center is open in Hawai'i from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Hawai'i Standard Time. But when you think about the times that we go online, which are two nights a week, and we're hoping with our additional group that we get in here with our youth-trained volunteers, we're going to be able to open one or two more nights as we move through, we'll actually be open till 10 o'clock p.m. So most of the folks, when the call center is closed in the main line, we're the only call center that's going to be open across the country. So we'll be able to take calls, texts, whatever it is from youth who need to call in, whether it's in the middle of the night for them or whatever, we will be available. Next slide, please. So why YouthLine Hawai'i? Why did they come to Hawai'i? And actually, we convinced them to come to Maui, which was great. They were originally looking at O'ahu. Thank God for our focus groups that we did with them early in the middle of 2024. But, as many of you know, that suicide is a

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high risk for our youth. And unfortunately, in Hawai'i, suicide is the leading cause of injury, death for ages 15 to 35. We are able to do crisis support on our lines. And while the vast majorities of our calls are not actually that high acuity, we'll have our youth trained in over 70 hours of mental health training before they even go online. But we also know the major problems that are happening with our youth these days, such as higher, you know, acuity to depression and anxiety. It's been rising steeply among our keiki. Housing shortage, trauma-related stress, especially exacerbated since the 2023 wildfires, as well, recently, as the Kona Low storms. But we are also a workforce development group that Ashley will talk more about as she goes along in the training and to the future slides here. But with expanded hours for youth, and the YouthLine is going to strengthen the fabric of our support for our keiki, which is so, so important. Just a little bit about Lines for Life. They are actually...pardon? Oh, that's right. We need to get the slide there. I'm, like, looking at my computer. Thank you, Ashley. Okay. We're fading in here slowly. Yes, suspense, exactly. So our parent organization is Lines for Life. That is a 988 from Oregon. So a little bit about them is that their mission is to prevent substance abuse and suicide and also to promote mental wellness as a 988 call center. They do this in three ways: public policy, prevention, education, and, of course, the crisis lines. Their services you see listed on the slide there include multiple services, which is including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Oregon affiliate for that. The Veterans Crisis Line, they're also the ambassador for the VA, connected to the crisis line for veterans and their family. Alcohol and Drug Helpline, which is a support and resource line for affected...those affected by addiction. And then a military confidential helpline for veterans, active duty military, and their family. Multiple contact lines is a part of Lines for Life. Next slide, please. So people have asked all the time, what is YouthLine? And as I mentioned, you know, obviously we're a peer crisis and support center, but we also are many things just besides that. We do classroom education and community outreach. We have been to several schools in Maui County. Most recently, we were over with Lahainaluna High School, which did a mental health lunchtime lemonade stand where we actually interacted with, like, 300 students that day. It was pretty powerful. And that's actually part of another program that we have going on that we're going to be offering our various Maui County schools in the future, and Ashley will talk more about that as we move through. And then, of course, we do volunteer mentorship and workforce development. One of the most interesting things that I found when being associated with the statistics, that I heard that many of the youth volunteer actually go into social services or mental health positions and remain in the community, almost 50 or 60 percent, historically. So this is going to be a great way to build our own mental health supporters, social services supporters throughout Maui County as we go through to the future. Next slide, please. So, again, these are our contact numbers. You can call us. You can text us. You can go on our website, YouthLine, and you can chat with us. We generally have four or five youth volunteers on staff whenever we're open. And we always have a clinical supervisor on staff as well. We get a lot of questions about how our amazing youth are able to do this type of work. And it's absolutely natural for us adults to care and protect for our young folks. But the fact is that even before YouthLine Hawaii came here, there was young folks...young people calling YouthLine from Hawai'i or texting or contacting them. And our youth are already talking about problems that they have with their peers. So why not have peers that are trained to be able to listen, to be able to reflect, to be able to have that basic mental health

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knowledge to be there for someone without judgment and making them feel more comfortable to talk with each other? And I don't know about you, but I wish that there was something like this when I was growing up because the service we provide is absolutely amazing. And if you were to ever just view our youth in our call centers, they are very, very excellent at what they do. Next slide, please. So we harness the peer-to-peer connection, okay? That helps break and support the stigma, and it normalizes a help-seeking behavior. Asking for help is a sign of strength and not weakness. And the more that we can do that in our community outreach, in our focus groups, when we're in schools, when we're on the lines, wherever we can do it, getting that message to our youth to let them know that somebody's there for them is so, so important. And many feel isolated. Many have problems with maybe family issues or friend issues, mental health concerns. Some might even be thinking of taking their lives. But relationship issues, self-harm, anything that you can think of that might be...something as simple sometimes as an A student who got a D on a test and doesn't know how to tell his parents, or something as critical as someone harming themselves or living in a family where there's domestic violence in the home. But YouthLine is a peer-to-peer crisis support services, which is such a benefit, not just for Maui, not just for the mainland, but for all of Hawai'i. At this point, I want to turn it over to Ashley Tone, who's the deputy director of YouthLine Hawai'i.

MS. TONE: Aloha, good morning. Thank you, everyone, for being here. Thank you for allowing us the time to share about our resource. Our hope and goal is to be able to reinforce the support mesh for our youth that are across Maui County and, of course, across our state. I do want to say, before I get into this slide with these cool little pictures that I love so much, we are...I just want to reemphasize that we are help, support, and a crisis line. We do not have any assessments or markers as to why folks can call in. And our hope is really that youth will reach out to us before they get to a point where they are thinking or engaging in self-harm and suicide. Yeah. Okay. So this fun little slide, I like this because I'm a very visual person. So we only go up to 2021. However, you can see from 2013, when we started this graphic here, how many...how we've grown as a service, and part of that is that we have increased our availability on call lines. We've grown our volunteer...our volunteer numbers. We average about 200 volunteers between each of our different sites throughout the year. But as you can see, Hawai'i is already pinging from early on, well before we got here and started operations last year. Next slide, please. And here's another graph for our visual learners and our data folks. So this one breaks down our call volume from 2015. To no surprise, 2020 was a really hard year. Lots of youth isolated with families during COVID. That was our largest year, with about 28,000 contacts. And when we say contacts, that is the group term for our calls, chats, and phone contacts. And as Danielle had mentioned earlier, we range at about the 25,000 count for our call volume annually. Since we started operating our call center here on Maui in January, we've noticed that our call volume from youth all over the State of Hawai'i has increased. Comparing numbers from 2025 up to just the end of April of this year, our call volume has increased 225 percent. So all of the, you know, advocating from you folks here, from our outreach that we've been doing has really helped to spread the awareness of the service, and, you know, we're really glad that there are youth from across the island chain that have called in. We've done outreach on different islands. Actually, we've done outreach on every island except for

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Molokai so far. Molokai and Lānaʻi will be our focus schools to provide outreach and education to this coming school year. Gabe, I'm coming for you. Next slide, please. So Danielle had mentioned the training that our volunteers go through. Again, I just want to emphasize that our youth are already having these conversations with each other. I think we can all definitely tap in and relate to that as we were young ourselves. At one point, some of the conversations that...you know, some of the conversations and experiences we have as youth are really tough, sometimes to talk to our parents. We're always happy when our youth call in, like, yeah, my parents are my person. It always makes us happy. But for many, that is not the case. And so, the training that we offer is really...a lot of it is based around self-awareness for our youth volunteers. Really hard for folks to be there in support if we are unaware, ourselves, of where we are in our own mental health journeys. So as you can see here, cultural responsiveness is one of the top things that we like to train on because our youth volunteers are serving folks from all over the country. It's super important for us to be aware that everyone is coming from a different place, noticing what our biases are as we come into these spaces. And we also talk about things such as sexual violence. We talk about, you know, how to maintain our supportive nature when folks are calling in for bullying. I mean, there's a whole list here. As part of the training week that our volunteers go through, before they are done, we actually have two nationally recognized certifications, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Safe Talk, and those are amazing and incredible trainings that our youth have the privilege to undergo. Youth Mental Health First Aid is really like a first aid and CPR class for our entire bodies, but this one is really encompassing and incorporating how we care for our mental health and how we can support others. And also, so assist training is an applied suicide intervention specialist training.

MS. BERGAN: Skills training.

MS. TONE: Skills training, almost...and after six months of our volunteers being part of our program, we do offer that, and we wait six months because it is a much more intensive certification. Yeah. Let's see. And next slide, please. Yeah. And so, as Danielle had mentioned earlier, so all of our volunteers come into our call center. There is no remote work that is being done, and that is due to the nature of the work that we're doing. Also, we want to make sure that our volunteers are -- bless you -- are very well supported. And with that support, on every single shift, there is at least one master's-level clinician that is at the call center physically. We do also offer...we do also have some clinicians that are supporting us virtually from our Oregon offices. Our ratio is for every four volunteers that we have, there is at least one adult there. And now that we are a growing 'ohana of volunteers, we are all hands on deck every single shift, and we're super excited about that. I do want to note that because of the high acuity of some of the natures of...nature of some of the calls that we get, all of the training that our volunteers go through, you know, we have high confidence that our volunteers are able to handle these calls, but they shouldn't have to. That's why we are in the room with them. And so, if anyone is actively suicidal, or if there is harm or abuse happening in the house, imminent danger, or if we have to reach out to any kind of crisis mobile outreach or EMS services, those are things that we do, we the adults. And then we'll go to the next slide, please, because it has some pretty cool information on there. So I really, really love this, the top line that's up there. Again, our volunteers, our youth are incredible,

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incredible human beings, having really difficult conversations already, bolstered by a lot of the training and skill development that they obtain while they are volunteering. They're able to deescalate 96 percent of all of our contacts, and so meaning if someone is coming in at, like, a level eight, nine, or 10, our volunteers are able to at least get them to commit to a safety plan, a self-care plan, and all of our calls don't always end up, oh my gosh, I feel so much better, but they are able to stay safe. We are able to establish rapport, trust, and help someone work through what it is that they're calling in for so that they can stay safe during that call and commit to safety until we usually schedule a follow-up, which is normally the next day. Let's see. Danielle had mentioned over half of our volunteers do end up going into behavioral health, education, or social services, which is incredibly high in need. I think Maui County is in dire need of more professionals in this field. And then I do also like to mention that all of our programming, our training, we are an accredited crisis service, so everything goes to the American Association of Suicidology. Next slide, please. Yay. So what YouthLine Hawai'i looks like. So what are we doing in the community? We...my job, I love to do the community outreach. That's my jam, but we are in schools providing mental health curriculum for middle and high schoolers. In addition to students, we do also offer training for staff and teachers so that, you know, as we are helping the whole, we're very holistic in how we approach community engagement, education. And so, it's really hard to just ask the students to improve if the staff also has opportunities to grow themselves. Community outreach and events. June is amazingly full of events this weekend, so come catch us at any of the events coming up on the Saturdays coming up and creating connections with any youth-serving organizations. We do love to facilitate training for our adults that are youth-serving so that they can better support. I think one big opportunity that I am hopeful for is that we are able to engage with athletic coaches and trainers from all across different fields. As we all know, our coaches spend probably more time with our keiki than their teachers, so being able to just help them support their athletes, their students much better. Our hope is that they also feel more comfortable if something does come up. We are locally staffed. Our youth are here from different high schools. I believe right now we are...we have students from King Kekaulike. We have Kamehameha School, Seabury Hall, Maui High School, Baldwin, and...am I missing someone? Not yet. Almost Lahainaluna. We're almost there. We are hopeful to actually have a satellite center that we can open up in Lahaina. That way, our west side youth are able to give back. As Danielle mentioned earlier, we did outreach at Lahainaluna. And actually, if you want to go to the next slide, that'd be fantastic. So at our outreach at Lahainaluna, we were able to meet with the Interact Club, amazing group of young folks who are so service-oriented. The picture that you see on the left-hand side is the mahalo flyer that they put together for us, but they were able to talk mental health, provide resources for students, for about 300 students. But yeah, it's hot. They had a frozen lemonade and frozen POG truck that came to campus, and they were able to do that. And most of them expressed that if there were something on the west side, they would absolutely want to participate. Such amazing, compassionate folks that are on the west side there. And these are just some other photos. The top-right photo, we...there's no way that we could have done the work or set the course for YouthLine Hawai'i without doing focus groups and hearing from our youth. We conducted, I believe it was five different focus groups from different parts of the island here, and we were able to get input and feedback from youth from, I think,

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late elementary school all the way up to high school and a couple of college students as well. One of the things that we really try to do is elevate our youth, elevate youth voices. Many of our youth have stated that they, at some point, have had a decision made for them that they had no input on, and I don't know that many people really love that. And so, being able to provide opportunities for our youth to advocate for their needs, to share information to better inform our lawmakers and policy makers on how to best move forward with things is something that we super love doing. The picture that is on the bottom in the center, we were able to take some of our youth from YouthLine Hawai'i. We also had youth on this panel from Maui Youth and Family Services, EPIC 'Ohana, and Kōkua Kalihi Valley, but we took them to the healthcare State of Reform on O'ahu in January, and they were able to share their mana'o on a youth mental health panel. We all know it's always a good sign when we run out of time because there's so many questions, but everyone was pretty engaged or locked in, as we like to say. Next slide, please. And so, Danielle also mentioned...so we are currently running our summer training cohorts. We were hoping for three. We got seven, so we're really excited. Majority of those students are from King Kekaulike, this cohort, so we do know that outreach works, and it can be effective. It's day two for them, so after this, we'll check in and see how they're doing, but a really great group of folks from all diverse backgrounds, interests, but all with a heart to serve. Our recruitment is a rolling recruitment. And so, we will...we are happy to take applications for volunteering throughout the year, and we will run maybe four trainings per year. Our next training, we're looking at running over fall break in October. Save the date. So our next slide is a video. It's a 50/50 chance will work, but we'll give it a go. Okay. So she no like go, so we're going to...oh, maybe we're loading. So as we're hoping and hoping and hoping that the video works, I will say that the video is on our website. Okay. We're passing through it. Thank you, guys. Yeah. Okay. We might try at the end. Yeah. Okay. We might try at the end, but we do...one of the things that we do try to encourage is for, again, our youth voices to be heard. That video that we are efforting is a video that is...that highlights the voices and feedback from our volunteers from our Portland office. One of the cool things that we are looking to engage in with our Hawai'i group is to create all of our own videos and theme marketing giveaways that feel more like home. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce one of our volunteers, Kelsey. She's been with us since our spring cohort. Her development, watching her from day one at our training up until now, where she's now taking live contacts, has been tremendous. It is a privilege to be around these young folks, and I'm so excited to have her share a few things.

MS. LOREE: Hi, I'm Kelsey. Thank you, Ashley. I am a student at Seabury Hall, a junior, and I joined YouthLine to advocate and spread awareness for youth mental health, knowing personally how the difficulties and hard mental health challenges can be in a teen's life and how stressful those issues can come up. Before this opportunity, I felt that mental health for teenagers, especially in resources, were really limited and overlooked, and that really motivated me to join this opportunity. Being a part of this group, I truly feel like I'm making a difference on those nights on the lines, taking real people with real issues, big or small, from all over the country. As a student, as I said, from Seabury Hall, I've had the opportunity to participate in numerous amount of community service opportunities, and I've found that YouthLine is a truly unique one and definitely the

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most impactful opportunity that I've had the pleasure to be a part of. Being a part of YouthLine, I realized a lot of the tools that we use to support our context can be applicable to my outside life with my family and friends. This made me realize how truly powerful this space is in advocating for youth mental health and how important that can be. From my experience on the lines, I've got to talk to a variety of people with a variety of issues in their lives, and something that surprised me was, unfortunately, how young these mental health challenges can start, just especially today with the rise of, like, mass media and social media and just how that can affect a teenager or a young person's mental health, as we weren't being in contact with so many people and hearing all those opinions can be really stressful, and it's just really can take a toll on someone's mental health. YouthLine is a truly amazing resource for teens and offering an amazing judgment-free space for all types of problems in one's life has given a space to be recognized, respected, and supported, and I'm really happy to be a part of it. Thank you.

MS. TONE: Thank you, Kelsey. That's so awesome. It takes a village, and sometimes that village looks like youth supporting youth and the power behind what it means to have someone who is your age or close to your age who just gets it. It's a long time since we've been teenagers. And so, to have that relatability on the line supporting you is incredibly powerful. Next slide, please. Amazing. So I do want to take an opportunity to just mahalo everyone for giving us the time and space to share about YouthLine, the dedication that you all put into your professions and in your personal lives to help support. You know, those in your circles, your communities, is incredible and special and very meaningful. Like I said, it does take a village. And so, with all of us working together to spread awareness and advocate for a better tomorrow for our youth, I feel like we can make a very impactful and positive effort together. I think just one thing that I want to reiterate about the program is that it is a free program that is confidential. Youth that are reaching out to YouthLine do not need parental consent to reach out to use a service. Unfortunately, we all know that sometimes it is the family members or the guardians that may be where the issue may lead. And so, one of the things that we like to just say is our youth shouldn't have to wait for someone to say it's okay to reach out for help. Our call line is 24/7, and they can reach out to us anytime. But again, there's a QR code there. I believe it takes you to our website. But again, mahalo for allowing us the time and space, and we're glad you're here. Oh, try again. . . .(echo in background). . . It's kind of DJ-ish. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ashley, Ms. Bergan, and Kelsey. Thank you for that presentation. Before we go to questions from our Members, Staff, do we have anyone else wanting to testify?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, no one has indicated a desire to testify. Would you like us to do a last call on this item?

CHAIR SINENCI: Sure.

MS. MCKINLEY: So, proceeding with the last call. If anyone in the audience or on Teams would like to testify, please come up to the mic and begin your testimony or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams. I'll provide a brief countdown, three, two, one.

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Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated they wish to testify on this item.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Members, any objections to closing public testimony at this time for this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Do we have any other resources online for the Members to ask? Okay. We can go ahead and start our Q&A with Committee Vice-Chair Johnson, followed by Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. First off, Chair Sinenci, thank you for this agenda. It's very kid focused and family focused, and I really love the flow of the agenda, so thanks for bringing this up. I also want to thank Ms. Bergan, Ms. Loree, Ms. Tone. The work you guys do is very valuable. I'll try not to get triggered on this, but when I was an eighth grader, my best friend Jeff killed himself over a divorce, and having gone through that as a young child myself, it's always been tough when we talk about this topic. So, you know, I guess my overall question is, you know, how do we get the kids that are falling through the cracks? You know, that's the overall question. I know you guys are in the schools but take, for example, my friend Jeff. They were going through the divorce courts, and I wonder if there's a place for the courts to recommend to use this, to use your services. There's eviction courts. There's times when children are being affected through our court systems, that maybe they could get involved in educating about this hotline or something, anything. It's...really what I'm looking for is all this trauma that is being built up through the courts or just through life. How do we get them when they're not at school, you know, when they're not going to school or when their lives are in chaos because of family, and they're not necessarily being on at school or not even paying attention? So maybe something in the courts is just my top of mind, but I'd like to hear what you guys...how do we get those kids that are falling through the cracks?

MS. TONE: Thank you for that, Gabe. And, you know, thank you for sharing the story. That is a tremendous amount of weight and emotional, you know, just emotions to carry. Especially when we lose someone that we love. Our hope and goal is that we can collaborate with all the different systems, with all the different partners and entities that are involved with youth. We in no way think that YouthLine is the solution at all, but if we're able to help support by providing that extra service, our availability, I think, is one of the strengths that we have, but that still requires our youth to actively reach out for that help. We are happy to go into places and spaces to do presentations, to advocate for, you know, why this service might be helpful and impactful for youth. And I think especially naming youth in the court systems, they're there with...they have no power. So to feel so powerless in these spaces where it is the adults in their life that are trying to work through things. Like, they are the collateral that oftentimes carries burdens for the rest of their life. And so, how we can support them? Our service is there. If there's any way that we can just have conversations. Like, we're so open to any ways that we can be in a space to talk story.

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VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah, sorry, my dog's whining. If you heard a weird noise, it's my doggy. But I...you know, I think I recall in family courts when folks are having a divorce, they have to take a class or something if there's children involved. And maybe that would be an opportunity, if there is a class, for folks going through the family court that they could be educated on a service like this. So I'm glad that you guys are open to that and I would certainly support that so, appreciate you guys' efforts on this topic. Funding-wise, are you guys okay? Do you...you know, where are you getting your funding from? County, you know, maybe there's a lane for us. But are you...how are you guys doing on funding? Maybe Ms. Bergan can respond here.

MS. BERGAN: Currently, we're well funded. You know, we know the importance of reaching out and getting as much funding as we can from whether they are private entities or . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . right now we are substantially funded through a couple different grants and actually one from the federal government and one from the state. It's from CAMHD. So we're thinking at some point, you know, one of the reasons we wanted to be here today was just to let you know who we are and what we're doing. And, you know, you never know down the road. You know, we could be reaching out for funding in the future, but we wanted to make sure that we could be sustainable at first. And I think that that's the most important thing, especially in this day and age, where, you know, funding is so critical and it's so difficult to get.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. Thank you for that. I've heard the time. Thank you, Chair.

MS. TONE: If I can just add one more bit to that, I think part of it is as we are new in setting up the first site outside of the state of Oregon, we want to make sure that we're doing things in a pono way, in a very ethical way. And so, rather than doing the grab for all the funding that might be available, we want to make sure that we're able to provide the deliverables. And so, yes, the funding is fantastic, but certainly, as we look to grow and expand our capability to serve more youth, that conversation will likely come up. But I appreciate the ask and the support behind that. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ashley. Next, we have Member Paltin, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for the presentation. I guess my first question would be, like, how do you measure success?

MS. LOREE: That's a very good question, and I think that's really important to acknowledge because this is the work that happens on the lines and what we have to...a lot of the issues that we have to deal with, a lot of the time, even personally, I've had to deal with more often than I thought when starting this opportunity, the assessment for self-harm and suicide. And being able to measure the success is just, whether that takes one or two hours or even just a few minutes with that person, is just taking them down from that really high acuity situation and just offering them that space. And even if that means...like, I've had to learn as a volunteer in short term that we cannot guarantee their safety, for one, the next day or a week from now or a month from now, but it's just that success is just keeping them safe for that one night and coming up with that safety

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plan and self-care plan for that one night and making sure that they're safe while they're talking to us and just giving them space to share what they need to...they feel like they need to be heard about.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What if the issue was a struggle between parent and kid, social media access. Like, I think five to seven hours a day is sufficient. My kids don't agree. And so, that's, like, a point of contention in my house. Like, how would you address that?

MS. LOREE: That...well, on YouthLine, we don't really...as volunteers, we don't come up with necessarily...we don't tell them what to do. We almost...we can lead them and kind of explore options with them. But we...if a teen is coming to us with an issue like that, when they're feeling they're conflicted with their own parents, we kind of...we just have to give them space to talk about that, and we can't really tell them what to think or what to do because, again, we are short-term support, and they only truly know what is best for their lives, even...and it's just giving them that space to be heard that I think that even also as a teen, I definitely would feel sometimes being conflicted with my own parents, and I think it's just really powerful, this space, and having...feeling like you're being heard, even if that person can't necessarily tell you what to do, but just being able to brainstorm with them and talk to them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If our Hawai'i kids call when it's Oregon, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . .is it sometimes hard for them to understand or connect with that? Like, Oregon picks up instead of Hawai'i picks up...the phone.

MS. TONE: Yeah. And that's a very fair point because all of our...everyone that reaches out to YouthLine goes through, basically, a centralized queue. And so, part of that cultural responsiveness training is not just for our volunteers here, it's also for our volunteers that work at our other sites in Oregon. So we've had partners like Michelle Navarro from Piha Wellness go up. We've had folks from KKV go up and do trainings for our volunteers and staff up in Oregon. We can never be perfect, but we can always work to try to be better in supporting folks.

MS. BERGAN: And that was one of the...oops. That was one of the main concerns we had in the very beginning. That's why we did the outreach with Michelle's group and with other groups. You know, they...Oregon flew them over and brought them to the different call centers and spent time, not just with the youth, the volunteer youth on the lines, but with the adult supervisors as well. So we realized that that was such an important tie-in, especially, you know, giving them an example of maybe some kid calling in and speaking Pidgin and, you know, we do have also...you know, it's relatable, I think, to those in the Native American area as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Next, we have Member Sugimura followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thanks for bringing this up, Chair Sinenci. I appreciate your...always your heartfelt Committee work. I think at the beginning, I think it was Danielle, she mentioned EPIC 'Ohana. And if that's correct, was that mentioned as one of the resources that you have networked with here?

MS. BERGAN: Yes, it was. We've done trainings with them.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Great. I was on their board before I did this job, and I was just wondering, you know, how they are engaged because to me, Members, they are foster care, foster youth. And I think the mission of that when I was involved was to get them recognized. So once they're 18, and they're no longer part of, you know, high school, that they would continually get care, financial care, foster kids up to age 21 or 25. I don't know what it is. So I was wondering what you're doing with them. And I'm glad to even hear their organization mentioned.

MS. BERGAN: Do you know the trainings they get?

MS. TONE: That's a great question and thank you for bringing that up. We love EPIC 'Ohana. The work that they do is profound and so important. We have done cross-trainings with them. So they have helped to inform our YouthLine as far as what the experience of a child going through foster care might be like. YouthLine, in return, has done trainings around trauma-informed care, although they are very trauma-informed. I'm just giving it from a different lens, from a YouthLine lens. The material is similar, but it's also informed by our youth who are doing the work. And so, how that partnership looks like is we are another one of the resources that we could potentially help support some of the youth going through some hard times. Caseworkers, the peer mentors are not always available. And so, in those spaces and gaps where they don't get to be with their people, that's kind of where YouthLine falls in. But we've learned a lot about youth in the foster care and some of the things that they typically struggle with from our partners at EPIC 'Ohana.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. That's it.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Next, we have Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. And thank you to our resources. To the young woman who goes to Seabury, you are so eloquent. That was impressive to hear you speak and hear what you folks do. When I was listening to the original presentation, I was kind of wondering, like, what kind of impacts and support you folks might have when you're listening to other people's concerns. Don't get me wrong. You guys are all impressive but always impressed with our keiki and how well they handle. Even just doing this right now is not an easy job. But other than that, I really don't have any other questions except what kind of resources you folks might need as you internalize other people's issues, which I know is really difficult. It's difficult for us sometimes when we have to hear what our community goes through. So if you wouldn't mind answering that. Thank you.

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MS. LOREE: That is a very, very good...to acknowledge that concern. And during our training, that has always been something that is acknowledged, as Danielle and Ashley always putting the volunteers' mental health before even the contacts because they're taking their time to being there for those people that are struggling. And me, personally, I have had contacts and hearing about issues with whether it's self-harm, suicide, or even small issues that may...mental health struggles that I may have seen, relatable in my own life, has definitely stuck around for weeks after I take those contacts. But just having even that, just having that in my head is still supported by our team at YouthLine as if it's a really hard contact that we take at night and just taking a 15, 20, 30-minute break after, if that's really taking a toll on that person and how that's affecting them. But it all really just depends. And YouthLine always gives us opportunity to talk about, as volunteers, if there is an issue that is affecting them. So I think just YouthLine itself offers that support to its own volunteers as well.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That's good to hear. Thank you. And thank you, ladies, for being with us today. I appreciate your time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member U'u-Hodgins. Yeah. I just wanted to add a follow-up for Kelsey. I know you mentioned, you know, sometimes mom and dad and with people that call in to, their parents or their guardians might be the issue. How do you as volunteers, kind of like you mentioned, maybe to de-escalate if there's anything going on at the home? As the volunteer, how do you, you know, try to de-escalate what's going on at the house? Do you compromise? What are some of your, I guess, approaches? Oh, and before you do, I do see Chair Lee. Welcome, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, everyone. Sorry for my tardiness. I had to go to the doctor today. I'm home alone and in my workspace. Looking forward to your meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. I'll go to you afterwards for your question. Go ahead, Kelsey.

MS. LOREE: That's a very good question. As...wait, I'm so sorry. You said...oh, the tools. I'm sorry, I got distracted. So the tools that we use that we are taught in our training is to validate, a lot of the time, of our contacts as they're going through a very hard time and just being heard is really powerful even if that doesn't mean a change that is right away in their lives. But just validating their feelings and offering a care plan as we talk about that. And just also another tool that we use is just summarizing a lot of the situation that's going on at home. And that, a lot of the time, does just de-escalate the issue because a lot of these kids are mostly just experiencing isolation and not really feeling heard in their particular situation and knowing that there's somebody out there that can help and support, even if it is just talking for one night. Regarding if there is a situation at home that may not be safe for that contact, we are, like, mandatory reporters. So, like, if there is any cases of neglect, abuse, and...neglect, abuse...imminent injury, we are required to report to outside resources. And it also depends on the age of the contact, which we ask when starting the conversation. Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for that. I'm so impressed that, you know, you can recognize all the different types of situations. Mahalo for that. Members, any need for...oh, I'll go to Chair Lee. Chair Lee, did you have any questions for our panel this morning?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Not really, just a couple. Thank you for scheduling this item. I think it's very important. But I just wanted to check with any one of the resource folks if, and if so, how much funding do you get from the County?

CHAIR SINENCI: Ashley.

MS. TONE: Thank you. It's nice to see you, Alice. We are currently not receiving any funding from County. I think probably mentioned before you hopped on, we're sustainable at this moment. And one of my responses also to the funding is we want to make sure that we're able to deliver on the services that we are, you know, putting forth as an ask for funding. This conversation, I'm hopeful we can keep open for future. Right now, we're doing pretty good. But as we look to expand and to be able to grow our service here so we can support more youth, certainly funding is one of the things that typically comes up. I appreciate that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, thank you. Thank you for the work you do. And if there should be a need for funding or other types of resources, please don't hesitate to call us.

MS. TONE: Yeah, mahalo. I think really where we are is we want to just expand the awareness of the service. We want to be able to support more youth. I think especially because we have so many youth in rural areas with very few resources or access to resources, we want to try to be one of the resources to help reduce some of the barriers for our youth to get that support that they're looking for.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wonderful. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Members, any need for a second round of questions? Go ahead and raise your hand. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering what you consider a youth. Like, what if there's someone in their early 20s? Is that still...like, is there a cutoff? Like, what if an adult calls, and they're in crisis, like, with their youth? Is that not...do you say put the youth on the line or...?

MS. BERGAN: Generally, we speak only with youth or whether it's by text or call, whatever it might be, and the ages are 10 to 24. Our youth volunteers are ages 15 to 24 as well. And if it is...let's say, a younger adult who's maybe in their mid or late 20s or whatever, we can always refer them over to the 988 lines or at least take a moment to listen and see what's going on and, you know, try to provide the best resources we can as a referral. When I was first brought in with YouthLine, I developed across, you know, at least across the State, a vast resource list of whatever situations, you know, might come up that we might be able to help them with. So we wouldn't just dismiss them. I think we would spend some time with them and then make sure that they're connected to get the

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help they need at that time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I'm glad you mentioned up to 24 because, I mean, I would have assumed 18 or something, so that's good to know.

MS. TONE: Yeah. I think there is...with the peer-to-peer model, I mean, the reason why it works so well is because there is a relatability. So below 10, it gets really tough for our teens to relate. I think one of the cutest contacts that we had, one of our volunteers was chatting with someone who was 12, and this person just wanted to talk about dinosaurs. And so, our volunteer looked at us and said, "I don't know what to say. What do I say?" I'm like, bro, just talk about dinosaurs. Ask him what his favorite dinosaur is. And so, we also learned something about that volunteer that evening is that they also used to really love dinosaurs. And so, sometimes we get so dialed in and tunnel vision, like we're going to get these really high acuity calls all the time, but sometimes it's not. Sometimes it's just, yeah, they got more chores than their sibling, and they want to talk about something else. So it is interesting, obviously, when, you know when if our contacts are older, there's usually kids involved or marriages or divorces. And our teens are just like, huh, what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you trade? Like, is there a range of people, and they're like, oh, I got someone with a kid or having a marriage issue, you want this one? Or once you take the call, you're stuck with that person?

MS. LOREE: Um, not necessarily. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . As whenever you take a call that may, say, also...say it would be bothering that person to the volunteer, there's always the option to switch over to another volunteer that is more comfortable or, like, more equipped to feel like they can support that person the best way. Regarding marriage and divorces, I'm not sure I've ever really experienced that as there's mostly...I've gotten up to as young as, I think, 11 years old to maybe 18 or 19. And just, their issues are definitely very different. But being able to support them and just making sure that they feel heard.

MS. TONE: I'd say the typical age range of youth that reach out to us are between the ages of 13 and 17. Yeah. And I just want to touch real quick because we have youth now from Hawai'i, and we are receiving contacts from Hawai'i, our service is also anonymous, both for our volunteers and for the people that are reaching out. We've had it happen one time so far where we had a contact that had reached out and the volunteer that picked up this text knew this person. And so, we will never have anyone that knows each other work a contact, for many different reasons. Mostly for the health and safety of our volunteer who, because we're confidential and anonymous, may see this person at school the next day and could say nothing. And that is a very heavy emotional burden for our folks to potentially carry. So I just wanted to name that because we are a small community and as we continue to build awareness around the service, it is highly likely that we will start to see more youth from Maui reaching out. And so, I just wanted to touch on that real quick.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Any other questions? I did want to add, I'm happy that there is someone real on the other side of the line to answer their questions. I know that we've heard some horror stories about AI and AI not helping very much. So I appreciate having somebody real on the other side.

MS LOREE: Just a real quick add. There is, a lot of the time, definitely, that our contacts do ask us, am I talking to a real person? And just even having a couple typos in your text can tell them that you are talking to another teenager or not a bot that's just artificial intelligence.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, yeah. Thank you for that. Okay, Members. With that, I did want to mahalo Ms. Bergen, Kelsey, Ashley, thank you guys for answering our questions. Very informative. Again, can we...we have the scan code online. If we wanted to share your information on any of our social media blasts, we can do that?

MS. BERGAN: Yes, of course. More the better, share as much as you like.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Great. Thank you. Members, mahalo for all of your poignant questions this morning. And are there any objections to deferring this item at this time?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: KB, TC, and KRF).

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Again, mahalo for your presentation this morning. Members, we'll take...we'll come back at...we'll do our mid-morning break, and we'll come back at 10:30, and we'll switch out for our next item. Thank you. It is 10:17, we'll be back at 10:30. WASSP is in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:17 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:33 a.m.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .(gavel). . . And welcome back to the WASSP Committee meeting of Monday, June 1st, 2026. It is 10:33. Mahalo for the quick break. On to our final agenda item, Members.

ITEM 1(20): OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CAMPUS (Rule 7(B))

CHAIR SINENCI: WASSP-1(20), the Overview of Proposed Community Resilience and Youth Development Campus. And mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Johnson. Yes, we've got...we're investing in our youth and as we go into our summer months. Today, we have invited Mr. Thibodeaux from Kupa'a Enterprises and Mr. Diaz from Ho'oilina Group LLC to talk about their proposal to develop approximately 320 acres of Kahili golf course land in Wailuku, Maui, for a community resilience and youth development campus. The campus would be a multi-use community hub integrating youth sports facilities,

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workforce training programs, community programming and resilience infrastructure. I did want to mahalo Chair Lee for introducing this to the Committee. Mahalo for that. And so, before we take public testimony, I'd like to turn the floor over to Mr. Thibodeaux and Mr. Diaz for their presentation.

MR. THIBODEAUX: Thank you. Aloha, Chair Sinenci, Vice-Chair Johnson, Councilmembers, Committee Staff, and members of our Maui community. My name is Milton "Bubba" Thibodeaux, Sr., and I've served as president of Kupa'a Enterprises, a native Hawaiian organization, non-profit, focused on youth development, workforce opportunities, community resilience and long-term stewardship. Today, I'm here to share a vision for Maui's future. It's not simply a project, not simply a sports complex, but a long-term community asset designed to serve Maui families and future generations. Over the last several years, and especially following the Lahaina tragedy, many of us have reflected on an important question. How do we create opportunities that allow our people to live, work, raise families, and thrive here on Maui? That question is what we led...is what led to this vision of the Community Resilience and Health Development Campus. The vision brings together several important community priorities. Youth sports and recreation, wellness and healthy living, workforce training, apprenticeship opportunities, community gathering and cultural programming, emergency preparedness, resilience, infrastructure, long-term economic opportunity for local residents. From Kupa'a Enterprises' perspective, our focus is people. We believe in creating opportunities for our youth. We believe in mentorship. We believe in workforce pathways. And we believe in strengthening families. And we believe in building community infrastructure that continues serving Maui long after we are gone. This vision is about investing in our future generation. It's about creating opportunities that help our young people succeed. It is about creating workforce opportunities that help residents build careers. And it is about strengthening Maui's ability to prepare and to respond to future challenges. Today, we're not requesting approvals. We're not requesting any fundings. We are here respectfully seeking guidance, discussions, and an opportunity to better understand how this vision may align with County priorities and community needs moving forward. We appreciate the opportunity to begin this conversation. We welcome your mana'o, your questions, and your feedback. Mahalo for your time and consideration. At this time, I would like to introduce Mike Diaz, and he's with the Ho'oilina Group, LLC, to provide an overview of the site and long-term planning vision. Mahalo.

MR. DIAZ: Mahalo, Bubba. I appreciate that. Good morning, Chair Sinenci, Councilmembers. Oh, there you go. Again, mahalo, Bubba. Good morning, Chair Sinenci, Councilmembers, and Committee staff. My name is Mike Diaz. I'm currently the owner and operator of Hitter's Paradise indoor training facility in Kahului. And I'm here representing the Ho'oilina Group, LLC. First, mahalo for the opportunity to participate in today's discussion. Being a resident for over 40 years on Maui, I've committed myself to the betterment of our youth and our community on Maui. The Ho'oilina Group's sole purpose is to offer our youth and community opportunities that will allow Maui to sustain an economic model that benefits our County on a year-round basis. We have been evaluating the long-term potential of this specific property and the possibility of creating a thoughtfully planned, phased campus that can serve Maui's community

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needs for generations to come for some time now. In fact, it's been well over 10 years. From our perspective, this vision is about much more than just the development per se. It is about exploring how this opportunity, how this property may responsibly support recreational facilities, wellness opportunities, youth and workforce programming, community gathering spaces, and, above all, resilience-focused infrastructure that'll strengthen Maui's long-term future. Ironically, the people from YouthLine, who just proposed before us, would need a campus, and we would fit right up there on point for them to have our youth, to have our kūpuna. In essence, we basically have something that we're proposing as a group, as a whole, as a community that will basically go ahead and encompass everybody, from the tourism to our locals to everybody that's on Maui that would be able to benefit, specifically our youth. As we look at the property, we see the potential for a balanced and community-centered environment that could integrate athletic and wellness facilities, open spaces, workforce and educational opportunities, and emergency support infrastructure in a way that aligns with the broader needs of the island. Our role is primarily focused on land stewardship, long-term planning, infrastructure coordination, and phased development feasibility. Kupa'a, right now, where Bubba is the president, and we've aligned ourselves with Kupa'a Enterprises, it brings the nonprofit mission, the community programming vision, and the long-term focus on youth development, workforce opportunity, resilience, and, above all, public benefit. We understand the importance of responsible planning, the environmental stewardship, the infrastructure coordination, and the meaningful community engagement as these discussions continue moving forward. At this stage, we're here to begin the dialogue. As Bubba already stated, we want to listen carefully. We want to better understand potential pathways for the collaboration and alignment with county priorities and the long-term needs of Maui's communities. We feel for a youth sports complex proposal or, for a better term, a youth sports village, our strongest entitlement path would probably likely be we would probably want to preserve a significant portion of the land in active agriculture. We'd want to develop baseball, softball, soccer, football fields, and a large indoor gymnasium as a community recreation component. We would incorporate agriculture education, farm operations, or even ag tourism uses. We would seek a Special Use Permit rather than attempting a full rezoning to expedite build-out. Our concept is basic. It's 60 to 100 acres of sports fields, agricultural crops or orchards surrounding the fields, the farm market, and educational facilities. Tournament public parking and support buildings would generally align more closely with Hawai'i's agricultural land use policies than a purely commercial sports park or village. This location is especially attractive to us because it sits in central Maui with direct access to the Honoapi'ilani Highway and already has substantial recreational infrastructure with the existing golf courses. The King Kamehameha property alone occupies roughly 150 acres in the Waikapū foothills. If we are seriously exploring this, together, only together, can we plan our future, whether Maui County Agricultural Zoning and State Land Use Agricultural District rules would support it or not. We have provided a conceptual site, as you see on the screen, showing the fields, the parking, the agriculture, the concessions, and the tournament play and the capacity for your review to give us better and modify ideas that'll better suit Maui County. Again, we appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process, and we look forward to the Committee's guidance, mana'o, and questions. Mahalo.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Diaz and Mr. Thibodeaux. I'm sure if you build it, they will come. But before we go to testimony, I'd like to introduce Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Aloha and good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha awakea, Chair. Aloha awakea kākou. E kala mai for my tardiness. I'm at my private residence, alone in this room, but my children may walk around unnamed, and then my husband, Makena Fernandez, is also here. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thanks for joining us this morning. Staff, is there anyone wishing to provide testimony for this item?

MR. STACKHOUSE: Chair, there is currently no one who has signed up to testify. Would you like me to issue a final call?

CHAIR SINENCI: Do you want to testify? No? Sure, go ahead.

MR. STACKHOUSE: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let staff know, or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is the final call. Three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any objections to closing oral testimony for this item at this time?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . END PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WASSP-1(20) . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Okay. Members, I'll open up the floor for questions and comments. Each Member will have three minutes for the first round and three minutes for the additional rounds as needed. I will start with Chair Lee, since she introduced this in the Committee. Go ahead, Chair Lee

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, gentlemen, for being here today and sharing your incredible vision. And that's what caught my attention when you sent your email to our office. I think that you have a tremendous amount of imagination, and this would serve a tremendous need in the community. The way my brain works is I always think who's going to pay for it. So did you have...besides the sports development program, did you have an economic development program to pay for this? And the second part is...my second question is, are you sure you just want a Special Use Permit? I'm not sure if you can get funding on something like that. I think the bankers would prefer a more permanent land use situation than a temporary Special Use Permit, which needs to be, you know, usually renewed, and then it's not all that secure. So those are my first questions. Okay? Thank you.

MR. DIAZ: I'll probably go ahead and answer and then defer to Bubba. Being the representative of our Ho'oilina Group, thank you, Chair Lee, where you brought this to the table and you do have an imagination, just like we do. Living here for over 40 years, it's always

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been to me working with the youth, working with the parents, working with kūpuna. You know, I'm 66 years old, and I'm a grandfather. My granddaughter's 11 years old and seeing her learning how to surf here on our shores before she learned how to walk, it was special. But now she's getting into softball, she's getting into all these gymnastics. And you know what the problem's always been? They always have to leave our island to go to the mainland to do tournaments, to do training, to do whatever. Just like we do in colleges. We don't have a sustaining athletic college here on Maui that the kids can stay here. So we've been thinking about this now for...it's been over 10 years. And over 10 years, we wanted to always do pono, do the right thing and do the right thing by everybody, not just the youth sports. Your first question was, how do we fund this? I was part of, 1996, the funding and the origination and the development of a small campus called Cooperstown Dreams Park in New York. And Cooperstown Dreams Park started with three fields. It started with about 12 teams, and it started with a gentleman by the name of Lou Persutti. And Lou Persutti's dream was everybody should have the opportunity to play baseball. And the target group at that time was 12 and under. So we went there in 1996. I had a 10-year-old son. And at that point in time, I...firsthand, I viewed what had happened. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And kids were coming from all over the country to visit one place, and it was called Cooperstown. And Cooperstown, the hall of fame of baseball, it was the destination site. So as we thought over the last 10 years, what better destination site, without baseball, without softball, without youth sports, without anything was better than Maui, Hawai'i. I can't think of one. So I played for the Hawai'i Islanders, and I was on Oahu for two years in Aiea. I made trips to Molokai. I made trips to Lāna'i. I made trips to Kauai. My last trip was to Maui back in 1984. I have not left since. Maui is the special place that nobody understands until they come here. And what makes it so special are the people. The people, the beauty of the land, the kids, the respectfulness. Just absolutely loved it. It's been well over 40 years. We found that if we could go ahead and do the same business model that Cooperstown did, which currently they bring in 30 million every 12 weeks. They do nothing but tournaments. So if you were just to go ahead and relieve us of everything, and we were to go to a banker and say, we're going to bring X amount of teams off island from Korea, Japan, mainly from the west side, west of the Rockies, from the mainland and from internationally, Mexico, Australia, Canada. They inquire every day. And that's at where I work currently, which I'm the owner of Hitters' Paradise, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . where they come to training camps. And we'll bring anywhere from 12 to 60 kids out, stay at local hotels, and we'll train with them all week. The beauty of it is they're not used to training on the beach. We train two hours on the beach. They're not used to training on a beautiful field, out in our beautiful island. Go there and train on the field. And when we close everything off after nine hours in one day, they come indoors to Hitters' Paradise. And we had said 10 years ago, if we had a place where you guys could come, like a Cooperstown, and we had more than one sport, would you come? And it's always where can we sign up? Cooperstown currently gets deposits two years in advance for 12-year-olds. So they pay two years in advance of a 10 percent deposit up front to come here...or excuse me, to come to New York when they're 12 years old. So we did an analysis, a financial feasibility study in regards to just tournaments. We would sustain ourselves. With that being said, it always comes down to how do we develop a \$300 million project? So we had to go outside, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and we went outside of the box. And my good friend, and part of my 'ohana, Bubba Thibodeaux,

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we said, do you have any ideas? And he'll go ahead and expound upon that a little bit more about his ideas, the rest of the funding.

MR. THIBODEAUX: Mahalo, Mr. Diaz. Mahalo, Chair Lee. Next, we have...you'll have plenty of opportunity. We've got a couple more questions coming. Next, we have --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, maybe you want to explain the format, what the bells mean and stuff today?

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Yeah. Everybody gets three minutes. So and then we'll ring it after 30 seconds. But next, we have Committee Vice-Chair Johnson followed by Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And good morning, gentlemen. Mr. Thibodeaux and Mr. Diaz, thank you for joining us today. I appreciate your vision. It's a big vision. Let's...you know, that's big what you guys are talking about. My question is, is the owner of the land on board for this project?

MR. DIAZ: Yes. In fact, it's my partner, a gentleman by the name of Dr. Jack Cassis (*phonetic*), who's a surgeon who had a lot to do with inventing the stent. 80-year-old gentleman who's been wanting to invest in Maui. His daughter is one of the partners in Ho'oilina Group. And yes, he would go and he would make the initial purchase of the land.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Who owns the land presently, then?

MR. DIAZ: A gentleman out of Tokyo. He's owned all of Kamehameha Golf Course and Kahili. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: That's right. Okay. I recall that. So, you know, a big project like this, we want to have some community input. Did you guys do any community input? Because I'm sure pickleball people would love to have a conversation with you. And then do you plan to do any community outreach?

MR. DIAZ: We would love to do that. In fact, that's what the dialogue is open for right now. As far as doing focus groups and what have you, we might have the best focus group on island right now with our 150-plus families at Hitters' Paradise. Also, we also have Bubba, who runs a volleyball academy for the last 15-plus years with his families. I also deal with all the high schools here on a regular basis. And we've thrown it out there indirectly. Nothing that has been significant in writing until today. And we didn't want to move forward without the, I guess you could say, opinion and the help of the Council.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: A project like this reminds me, myself and Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez just came back from Japan. And I remember the Budokan. I don't know if you guys remember Live at the Budokan. But basically, that was a sports...sports, judo, kendo, martial arts facility that they also had live rock concerts, live...the Beatles played there in '66. So having the sports facility with big events, you know, concerts, I don't want to throw a wrench in it because I can imagine it just widens

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the permits and widens the, you know, scope. But when I think of a big facility like that, there's going to be so much you want to put in there. And I was reminded of the Budokan, how it used to be, like, a sumo wrestler thing. And all of a sudden, you've got rock concerts. But anyways, I just was curious, you sounded like you said everything is on the table at this point. I just wanted to --

MR. DIAZ: One hundred percent. In fact, ironically, I lived in Japan for five years. I played for the Lotte Marines over there. So I speak enough Japanese to be, I guess you could say, dangerous. I can take a cab, and I can eat.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Abunai.

MR. DIAZ: Yeah, abunai. But . . . *(indiscernible)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thanks for your time.

MR. DIAZ: All right.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Johnson. Next, we have Member Paltin, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. You know, it's always great to have dreamers in our community. I guess my suggestion would be, like, you talk to somebody that does this for a living, like consultants, Munekiyo or somebody, because same thing as Chair Lee. If somebody is going to invest \$300 million, a Special Use Permit is not going to do it. With that amount of money, you want to have permanence, you know? So, like, change in zoning, community plan amendment, a lot more and not just the sports community outreach, all the surrounding neighbors, parking requirements, all those things. And, you know, also taking into account where the Central Maui fields are, it's pretty close for a population of our size. The Halau of 'Ōiwi Arts is being built to withstand a category 3 hurricane. So, I mean, if you're going to do a resilient center for a shelter, like maybe upscale it to a category 5 or something. But yeah, land ownership and permanency...where would you get your startup funding from? Like, the first hundred million for phase one?

MR. THIBODEAUX: So being that a Native Hawaiian organization, right, and we're going to be doing this in phases, and, of course, the first phase would probably be me getting funding. And there's funding out there for this particular kind of projects, you know, access. But getting...planning it the right way where we start...when we do phase one, that phase one will consider *[sic]* of sports that would generate income already to start the second phase. So it will be self-efficient once we get phase one started. You know, I come in with the workforce programs, the, you know, everything else to do with the community side of it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I mean, just like the planning and design for phase one, like

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the Halau of 'Ōiwi Arts was, like, four million.

MR. THIBODEAUX: That can be accessed through grants and stuff.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hundred million?

MR. THIBODEAUX: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. THIBODEAUX: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If you got access to a hundred million off the bat, I don't know that there's anything more that we can give you that you don't already have.

MR. THIBODEAUX: Oh, I understand. I understand. But then, you know, being here with your folks' guidance and everything, you know, like I said, we're not here for fundings. We're going to find our ways to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I wouldn't even come to us for guidance. I would go to a professional, like, you know, a professional planning organization because . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I'm just a lifeguard. Member Johnson's a farmer. You know, like we're not the professionals.

MR. DIAZ: We absolutely have professionals that build all of Florida and the spring trainings of Major League Baseball.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, like professionals of Hawai'i for planning, all the things that you want to do, like, because it's a little different here.

MR. DIAZ: Hundred percent. That's what we would go ahead --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I heard the bell.

MR. DIAZ: -- and reach out to. But thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Next, we have Member Sugimura, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins, and then Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Very creative. So this is the Kahili Golf Course. So my question is, then, if you're talking to the owners from Japan, are you also talking about having to purchase the King Kam Golf Course also?

MR. DIAZ: No. Right now, King Kamehameha is being purchased by a gentleman right now. It's in escrow as we speak. But because of our flooding and the extensive damage of over \$8 billion in our community, it's being restructured. So it's already been on the table and escrowed to go ahead and purchase it. And we have gone to them. I'm sure you're

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familiar with the attorney, Paul Mancini. And we basically have gone to him and say, is this something that your new buyer would go ahead and consider? He said, absolutely. He's doing nothing with Kahili Golf Course. He just wants to revamp, refurbish, and make Kamehameha Golf Club the cat's meow, so to speak, and make it as well known, you know, as the plantation. So, yes, we have discussed it. It is on the table. Are we stuck with doing only Kahili? The answer's no. We've had several different sites. We've had Olowalu. We've had Kihei. We've had a number of different places where we can go. But this seems to be the number one choice of everybody because of the access. And there's existing sports there. We are open. We just have the infrastructure to do it. We have the resources. We have the experience. And above all, we have the money. It's just now of getting the blessing of the community, of the Council, that's saying, hey, this just isn't about youth sports. It's so much more than that. That's kind of where we're coming from.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So if I try to understand what you just said, is that the ownership for King Kamehameha and Kahili is under 1-1, and the Kamehameha Golf Course is being sold, and you are going to be asking them to build this?

MR. DIAZ: No. The new prospective buyer, the new potential buyer of Kamehameha is buying both. He's buying Kamehameha and Kahili. It's one piece. And that one piece of property, he's chosen not to develop anything on Kahili, on the Kahili side.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I see.

MR. DIAZ: So we went in and said we would just like to use the 320 acres of the Kahili side.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, so that's a whole other layer that you must go through. So another big thing, always with Maui, is water. So what is your water accessibility, then, for the Kahili?

MR. DIAZ: The ironic part of that is, is all our fields are AstroTurf. We won't be watering our AstroTurf very often. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: But you still will need water.

MR. DIAZ: So we're not concerned. We've addressed that. We're not concerned with the acres...excuse me. The amount of gallons that go through per day, it's like 750,000, 750 million. I forget what the number was. The attorney had told me what it was. But when he found out that we were going to be doing nothing but turf, we really don't have any more than what they're already using currently. And I think Kahili's been dormant now for what, seven, eight years?

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Diaz. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Next, we have Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Thibodeaux. Nice to see you again. Nice to see you. The other gentleman, I'm sorry, I forgot your name earlier.

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MR. DIAZ: Mike Diaz. Diaz.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Mike, very nice to see you. I really don't have any questions. I don't disagree with my colleagues. I'm curious what a planner might get you. I know you would have to come to us if you needed a change in zoning or something similar. But other than that, I guess I look forward to seeing what you guys put forward in the future. Thank you.

MR. DIAZ: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member U‘u-Hodgins. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, for your opportunity.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha. Mahalo for your presentation. My apologies. I missed the very beginning of it. I understand that you're here to share and not to request funding or anything like that right now. I guess, looking at your projected budget or estimation of the stadium alone for 80 million and knowing that the state has been struggling to figure out what to do with the dilapidated Aloha Stadium and then knowing that, you know, they had, I guess, appropriated 400 million for that and now it's, like, 650 million dollars, how did you get 80 million for your estimate for the stadium? And maybe you should go talk to the state guys because they're estimating 650 million.

MR. DIAZ: Yeah. It's of a different scale. So you can scale up as high as you want. We can go ahead and build a million dollar...excuse me, a billion-dollar stadium. We're building basically a college, spring training type stadium where we'll seat no more than 5,000 people. It'll be more to the likes of Murakami over at...I played in Aloha Stadium, I understand. That's a major league NFL football stadium. We don't have any aspirations of doing that. We would be more of the Murakami Stadium for Hawai'i Mānoa University. Spring training stadiums, they run anywhere from 50 to 60 million. After consulting with a number of people on what we wanted to do, as Councilmember Paltin said, we've consulted with professionals where they said you would maximize it probably within three years of about 80 million bucks. So that's where we got our information. But it would be significantly smaller than Aloha Stadium.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. They're projecting 31,000 seats. So you're projecting 5,000.

MR. DIAZ: One hundred percent.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then I looked at Cooperstown Dream Park's website.

MR. DIAZ: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I see lots of smiles and kids happy to be there. But I see them driving there. So when I think about folks like these 12 and under

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or those with the dream to play baseball professionally or otherwise, I don't think there's anyone who wouldn't want to come to Maui to play baseball. Often, it's just cost prohibitive. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So I can see folks driving to Cooperstown. So I guess, you know, when thinking about the access and the cost to come to Maui, if that was factored in when comparing it to Cooperstown.

MR. DIAZ: I don't know if that's so true, and I'm not disputing that. But originally, I'm from California. And being from California, 90 percent of their teams come west of the Rockies. And yes, the local teams east of the Rockies do drive there. But they bring 120 teams in per week at this point in time. And very, very few times do the people that are local want to go to a local place. In fact, they go out to California, whereas the Californians, the Coloradians, the Arizonians, they go back because it's such a huge trip. Well, currently every year, we probably send no less than a dozen teams here, 12 and under, to Cooperstown as we speak. What does it cost? It costs about \$1,500 per person. Travel with mom and dad, it's probably about a \$5,000 to \$6,000 week. And it's really interesting that parents, including myself, back, God, when my son was 10, 11, 12, it was no problems, if I had access to it, a \$30,000 summer to give him the opportunity to go to Cooperstown, to go to Maui, to go whatever. We did it. You're only going to be 10, 11, 12 once. To go and have a staycation, so to speak, and play sports with the family, we just not have had any people say, I don't want to come. Currently, we run programs for just training and development on our beaches, fields, and our indoor facility with no sports village, and they come in droves. That's what I do for a living. We get people to teach them about the culture of Maui. We teach them the culture of Hawai'i. We teach them how to do leis. We do a lū'au. They taste our cuisine. And Maui's a special place, in my opinion. I can't say enough good things about it. And I don't know what to say, rather than I don't see the deterrence of people flying here from...especially coming from the orient, from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, as opposed to flying all the way to Cooperstown. So we would kind of be the west side of Cooperstown. Yeah, great question, though. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your response. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. For my opportunity, I'm just glad you're designing a sports complex and not an ice center or a data center. But, Mr. Diaz, it sounds like you guys are open...it's still in the conceptual stages, and you guys are opening to either scaling it to kind of either, whether it be to fit the community needs or to fit your budget, so those are things that are still up in the air.

MR. DIAZ: Absolutely. We just don't want to overstep our bounds. As Councilmember said earlier, Council Paltin [sic] said, we're dreamers. At 66 years old, I've got nothing left to do but dream. So to leave our legacy and make an impact on...I'm with kids every day. I'm with parents every day. I'm with grandparents every day. And they always ask me, when can we stop leaving Maui? When can we bring the world to us? And when I say, well, it's not in my hands. Would I love to do it? Absolutely. But there's a lot of stuff that has to happen to get here. But the biggest thing, as we've always said, and it's already been stated earlier, is the funding. Well, when we met with Kupa'a Enterprises and the funding was there via grants, sponsorships, just the whole NHO, when that

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presented itself, that gave us a whole new light. Otherwise, I would continue what I'm doing. We're benefiting more local children on Maui than you could possibly believe. In fact, anybody that comes from off island, we charge them an exorbitant amount of money to pay for our local kids. And why we do that is because they're willing to do it. If you're going to spend \$1,500 a night at the Grand Wailea, well, that could afford me to get two local kids to train and develop and play games for free. I'm very partial to our local community. I've lived here over 40 years, and I know how hard it is to travel. I know how hard it is to get here. But when you do get here and you do have some discretionary amount of funds, you make things happen. And to get those kids to surf, to play tennis, to play soccer, to play baseball, softball, I don't think we do it enough here to understand what the world wants to do, specifically when we're rebuilding Lāhainā, when we're rebuilding our community. It always comes back to, well, it's kind of like we're giving back and still getting something. Yeah. It's kind of a quid pro quo because we are still building, and we are still fighting back. And the kids are kind of struggling. So that's kind of where Kupa'a and the Ho'oilina Group kind of coincide. That's why the marriage was perfect, from them having the expertise and having the resources to fund and build and do the local. We do this training and development and tournaments and get kids college offers worldwide. It just so happens we live here.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Diaz, a second question. Are you open to not just expanding for athletics but also athletic trainers and sports medicine?

MR. DIAZ: That's a huge part of our business. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Usually, the kids...when people say the kids aren't as good on Hawai'i, specifically Maui, well, it has nothing to do with the kids. It has everything to do with training the trainers, training the coaches, training the managers. I lived in Japan for five years, and their teachers were exceptional. In fact, when they left college, they would pay them six-figure money. I said, well, if we did that in the States, I'd probably never leave school. Our focus is to go ahead and really, really get quality people to take care of our keiki and really to take care of them to a point where they'll sustain themselves, even if they're not that good athletes. But if they learn something about what pono means, what aloha means, I've hanaied probably over 200 families. It's crazy what's out there when you learn about it and understand it, and it all starts with us as the adult.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Members, any need for a second round of questions? Go ahead and raise your hands. Member Paltin, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Being that you said maybe one of your funders is 88, you're 66, and like that, what is the timeframe? I mean, at least, I guess, for phase one. And maybe you might want to also speak with Mr. Atherton and his journey into developing around this area as well, the housing and infrastructure and whatnot. I know you said you're going to do the AstroTurf, but I imagine you're going to need a number of bathrooms, sinks, parking lots, things like that. So, I mean, with you being 66, no offense, and the other guy being 88, it's kind of a short timeframe you got there to make something happen. And how do you...like, I didn't see any dates or goals or things like that, and how is that?

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MR. DIAZ: Great question, and I'll be very specific. We'll go as fast as the Council lets us. And when I say as far as the Council lets us, you're talking about permits. If we had permits, whether it's a Special Use Permit, whether it's a change of zoning, right now we're dealing, it's agriculture. We need housing. We're going to sleep 900 people on a given day. To do that, just when people...like, when they go to Cooperstown, they sleep over...I think it's close to 1,000 kids in bunk beds. So when they travel, instead of putting them in hotels, they put them in just, like, dorm barracks. We need to put that somewhere.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you know that Hawai'i is a right-to-farm state, so have you thought about the interactions between, like, any noise or pesticides or things like that? That's often some of the complaints we get from folks living in the direct line of agriculture, like whether it's heavy machinery for, like, coffee machines running all night and things like that, or spraying and things like that. If you have active ag, it's a right-to-farm state. So it's not like you can say, oh, we're playing a game. Don't do your farming this week, you know, kind of thing.

MR. DIAZ: Yeah. No. We're going to leave that up to Kupa'a Enterprises. That's his expertise, and that's why we're...yeah, we're the experts in the tournaments, the training, the development, the facility. But as far as the community and what have you, going back to your original question, the timeframe would be hopefully the second we have the approvals and the blessing. We would immediately go for funding. We'd suppose that would take no more than anywhere from six to 12 months, in my past experience. So in my past experience of developing facilities from 10 to \$20 million in other regions, it could move pretty fast. Being 66 years old, the great news about that is I have plenty of younger people that are much smarter, much more mobile than I am. But to be able to be a consultant until the good Lord takes me, I'm not worried about my age whatsoever. Currently, I'm in my facility throwing batting practice eight hours a day. That being said, the whole project, if given the opportunity to get permitted, change of zoning, whatever it may take, the funding in place, probably take anywhere from three to five years.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I would just talk to a professional land use consultant to kind of ground truth your ideas.

MR. DIAZ: One hundred percent, and we have spoke to Mike Atherton before, and we spoke to the . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . other landowners out in Olowalu. We've kind of been all over the County in regards to what piece of land best suits for the County to go ahead and benefit because it's so much more. We have 10 sports. It's just not baseball, baseball.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, that land isn't necessarily flat. It's at the foothills, kind of, right?

MR. DIAZ: The bottom part of the golf course is all flat.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So that's where you're looking at, the flat area.

MR. DIAZ; Yes. Yes. Well, we'd use a little bit at the top, but right now, currently, it still has

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the golf course.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So a lot of grading and grubbing, and that...I mean, that alluvial plains is kind of, like, important ag lands because of all the nutrients coming down in that area.

MR. DIAZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I mean, have you spoken to farmers or people that would rather do farming than sports over there, the surrounding community?

MR. DIAZ: Yeah. We're immediately right now in our first steps.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because I can see a lot of the sports people being excited, but I can see a lot of the other folks doing other activities in that area. Be like, you know, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we often run into NIMBY folks, whatever it is, housing, sports. Like, someone just bought their \$10 million house, and they don't want to hear people screaming and cheering all the time or something like that. You know, I'm sure people from away would like it, people who want to play sports, but maybe not someone that just bought their house and want, like, peace and quiet and not a lot of traffic or something. So, I mean, I just want to temper your dreams a bit in reality by ground truthing with a consultant, ground truthing with other members of the community that aren't, like, baseball players and things like that.

MR. DIAZ: Again, I completely understand and agree with what you're saying. We would work with those people, with those professionals, and we would look for their guidance, and then we would actually make a specific plan as opposed to a generic, which you see. Right now, the dream is something that's going on throughout the United States, that we're just so much more than a baseball tournament facility. We're a village for the community.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Diaz. Up next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez for your second round.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a quick comment and then a question. The dorms, I think that would be great for Member Johnson, Member Sinenci, and my district. Our kids, our high school...well, just all the kids that have to travel to Maui, you know, it's always a challenge to find a place to stay, so that's a highlight for me in the comments and presentation. My question is regarding the name of your group, Ho'oilina.

MR. DIAZ: Yes. It means legacy, our legacy. That's where the name came from.

CHAIR SINENCI: Is it Ho'oilina?

MR. DIAZ: Yeah. Ho'o'olina, H-O-O-I-L-I-N-A. Probably misspelt it wrong in the presentation. Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. You mean it as legacy? Yes, it is.

MR. DIAZ: That's where it came from, our legacy.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, I mean, you know, 'olelo Hawai'i has multiple meanings. It also means inheritance, heir, and a burying place.

MR. DIAZ: Ours is specifically legacy.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. It's just important to know all the meanings of words when you choose one.

MR. DIAZ: Yes, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because it doesn't just come with one meaning, it comes with all the meanings, and that was one of the meanings.

MR. DIAZ: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Okay. Members, if there are no other questions for Mr. Diaz and Mr. Thibodeaux, we wanted to mahalo them for joining us this morning and to share their vision with all of us. Members, are there any objections to deferring this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: KB and TC).

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo. Staff, is there anything else before we adjourn this WASSP Committee meeting?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there is currently nothing outstanding.

CHAIR SINENCI: Again, mahalo, Members, for your great questions participating this morning. This concludes the Water Authority, Social Services, and Parts Committee meeting. The time is now 11:21, with some more to spare, but this meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 11:27 a.m.

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CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne L. Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 32 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 4th day of June 2026, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



Terianne L. Arreola