

DISASTER RECOVERY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

June 4, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 1:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Chair
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member (left at 3:05 p.m.)
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (left at 2:27 p.m.)

STAFF: Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Keone Hurdle, Legislative Analyst (backup)
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka‘i Residency Area Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Clyde “Buddy” Almeida, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Brandi Kaoni, Criminalist, Criminal Investigation Department, Department of Police (DRIP-6)
Nelson Hamilton, Captain, Criminal Investigation Department, Department of Police (DRIP-6)
Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, Administrator, Maui Emergency Management Agency (DRIP-9(2))
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Jasee Law
Royal House of Hawai‘i, (DRIP-9(2))
Others (30)

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CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the June 4th meeting of the Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee come to order. The time is now 1:34 p.m. If everyone can please silence their phones and other noise-making devices, that will help our cause. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you are not in the Council Chambers, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Also, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. My name is Tamara Paltin, and I'll be your Chair for today's DRIP Committee meeting. With us, we also have Committee Vice Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. Aloha 'auinalā.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair. Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR PALTIN: And Member Tom Cook. Aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, good afternoon.

CHAIR PALTIN: Good afternoon. And Member Gabe Johnson. Aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmember, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office, and I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And we also have Member Tasha Kama. Aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair. Good to be here. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. They never give you hard time at the credit union, nah?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, no, no, no, no, they didn't. It was--took long time, that's all.

CHAIR PALTIN: Good. I seen that. We was coming and going, and you was still there.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR PALTIN: Next up, we have Council Chair Alice Lee. Aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair. I'm home alone in my workspace. Nobody here except me.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Make sure you behave.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I will.

CHAIR PALTIN: Next up, we have Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Aloha 'auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā kākou, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I'm at my private residence, not alone. There's a minor child here taking a nap, my

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other minor child will be returning from Junior Lifeguard soon, and my adult husband, Makena Fernandez, is also at home in another room, but he may come into this room sometimes.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Next up, we have Councilmember Shane Sinenci. Aloha ‘auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey, aloha ‘auinalā kākou, mai Maui Hikina. Here at my home office, I'm here by myself except ten of these guys.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, my God.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: If anybody wants one. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR PALTIN: Very cute. Very cute. My minor canine does not need any friends though. Thank you. And last but not least, we have Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. Aloha ‘auinalā.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aloha ‘auinalā, and looking forward to a very interesting meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. This meeting of the Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee of the Maui County Council is located on the traditional ‘āina of Kānaka ‘Ōiwi, who never ceded their sovereignty to the United States. We recognize that Her Majesty Queen Lili‘uokalani yielded the Hawaiian Kingdom to the United States in duress under threat of violence to avoid the bloodshed of her people. We further recognize that Hawai‘i remains an illegally-occupied nation-state by the U.S., as documented in a 2021 scholarly article for the National Lawyers Guild Review by Andrew Reid, Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Generations of Kānaka Maoli and their knowledge systems have sustainably cared for Hawai‘i, and continue to do so. We are grateful to occupy this space and learn the ways in which we can contribute. As a Committee, we seek to support the varied strategies that the indigenous people of Hawai‘i are using to protect their land and their communities, and commit to dedicating time and resources to working in solidarity. With us today, we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Mike Hopper; from the Maui Police Department, Captain Nelson Hamilton; also from the Maui Police Department, Criminalist Brandi Kaoni; and from Maui Emergency Management Agency, Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, Administrator. Committee Staff, today we have Senior Committee Secretary Yvette Bouthillier; Legislative Analyst Jarret Pascual; Keone Hurdle; and Legislative Attorney Carla Nakata; as well as Assistant Clerk Jean Pokipala.

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**BILL 158 (2024), RELATING TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH
THE COUNTY OF KAUAI FOR FORENSIC TESTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE
KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT (DRIP-6)**

CHAIR PALTIN: We have two items on today's agenda. DRIP-6, Bill 158 (2024), Relating to an Intergovernmental Agreement With the County of Kaua'i for Forensic Testing Services Between the Kaua'i Police Department and the Maui Police Department; and DRIP-9(2), Maui Emergency Management Agency Strategic Plan and Integrated Preparedness Plan. We will take testimony after any opening remarks or presentations. My hope was that Bill 158, DRIP-6 would go relatively quick, and we can spend the remainder of the time on the Strategic Plan. So, if there is no objection in proceeding on...in that order?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. The Committee is in receipt of Bill 158 (2024), entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I FOR FORENSIC TESTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE KAUA'I POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT." The purpose is to authorize the Mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the County of Kaua'i for forensic drug testing services. Today, we may consider...consider whether to recommend passage of Bill 158 (2024) on first reading, with or without revisions. The Committee may also consider the filing of Bill 158 (2024) and other related action. Okay. And the Police Department did ask if we could schedule this sooner rather than later, and so this was the time that they were available, and we were available, and so it's sooner rather than later. Is there any opening comments from our Corporation Counsel or our Police at this time, Captain Hamilton, or Ms. Kaoni, or Mr. Hopper?

MR. HOPPER: Chair, this is Corporation Coun...Deputy Michael Hopper. I don't not...do not have any comments right now. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Captain Hamilton or Criminalist Kaoni?

MR. HAMILTON: Hi, good afternoon. This is Captain Hamilton. I'll leave it to Ms. Kaoni to give the opening statement on this. She knows a lot more about this than I do.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Awesome. Ms. Kaoni, do you have any opening remarks? There's an unmute button on the top right-hand corner of your screen, two icons to the left of the leave rectangle...the red leave rectangle. No? No, it's...it's not working? Oh, shoot. Staff, do you mind get--providing the number to call in? Do you have a cell phone that maybe we can hear if you call in on, Ms. Kaoni? Cell phone? We can...we can provide the number. So, if...if you do have a cell phone, the number would be 1 (808) 977-4067, and then enter the meeting code 60792965, and then the hashtag or the pound sign. (silence) And I can repeat the number if you need it. Oh, 1 (808) 977-4067, with meeting code 60792965 pound, or hashtag.

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MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I believe she just joined under the last four digits 2168, so give me a moment to enable her microphone.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. PASCUAL: And I believe she just has to hit star-6 to unmute on her end.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Star-6 to unmute on your end.

MS. KAONI: Hi.

CHAIR PALTIN: Hi, Ms. Kaoni. Nice to hear you.

MS. KAONI: Oh, I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry about that.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, no worries. Not at...no problem. It...it happens to the best of us.

MS. KAONI: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: If you had any opening remarks or comments on Bill 158?

MS. KAONI: Yeah. So, the Kaua'i Police Department reached out to our lab to assist them with forensic analysis for court proceedings and for narcotic investigations. They reached out to us specifically because, one, they don't have a drug lab in Kaua'i; and two, our MPD crime lab is the only fully-staffed and fully-trained forensic drug lab in the state right now. So, you know, we're fully capable of meeting their request, and we hope we can do so, and continue to prioritize the work for Maui County, and assist KPD and Kaua'i when...when necessary.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much for those opening comments. We did hear that Corporation Counsel did not have any opening comments, and so we will open up for public testimony at this time for DRIP-6, Bill 158. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Testifiers wanting to provide oral testimony should join the online meeting via the Microsoft Teams link printed on today's agenda, or call in to the phone number, which is also on today's agenda. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking the raise-your-hand button near the top right of your screen. For those calling in, please follow the prompts via your phone. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the orders testifiers sign up, or once they raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand. Once your name is added, Staff will then call the name you're logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At that time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name on Microsoft Teams appears as the name you prefer to be referred to as, or as anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you are in person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes.

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If you are still testifying beyond that time, I kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Once you are done testifying, if you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. At this time, we will call on testifiers wishing to testify on DRIP-6.

MR. HURDLE: Thank you, Chair. The first person signed up to testify is Mr. Jasee Law, who's already at the podium.

CHAIR PALTIN: Have at it, Mr. Law.

. . .OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY (DRIP-6). . .

MR. LAW: Thank you, brother. Aloha awakea Luna Ho'omalulu Paltin. Welcome back to your bridge up there. Jasee Law from Kula Uka. I'm assuming this Bill 158 has to do with some kind of money agreement, and I'm wondering if the United States Government has anything to do with it also. I'm glad to see the different island governments working together. If we're going to get through these next couple of years, we'd better.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Law. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony, and we can proceed with the last call.

MR. HURDLE: Yes, Chair. This is the last call for oral testimony. If anyone would like to testify, please come up to the podium, or raise your hand on Teams if you would like to testify. This is the last call. The countdown is three...two...one. Chair, seeing no one has indicated they wish to testify.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Members, without objection, I will now close oral public testimony. Written testimony will continue to be accepted at any time.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY (DRIP-6) . . .

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Before we begin discussion, I would like to bring Members' attention to Granicus item number 4, which is a signed version of the bill, and when the time is appropriate, we can substitute that version for the posted Bill 158. And the amendment summary form lists that the reasons for it is, this one is approved as to form a legality by the Department of Corp. Counsel. It amends the memorandum of understanding start date and term, and it incorporates technical and nonsubstantive revisions. So, I'll start off with questions, either for...any of our resources. We have Ms. Kaoni, Captain Hamilton, and Deputy Corp. Counsel Michael Hopper. Ms. Kaoni gave in her opening remarks why we're doing this, and we all, you know, see our fellow Members on Kau...from Kaua'i at HSAC, and NACo, and WIR events, so we're very

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familiar with them. And I'll start off with my Committee Vice-Chair. Any questions, comments, or so on, and so forth?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Yes, I do. This is for Ms. Kaoni. About how much work do we anticipate doing for Kaua'i Police Department? Is that going to impact what we do on our end? Do...do we have the staffing to ensure that our work goes smoothly while helping Kaua'i out? Oh, can she hear me? Or I don't care who ask...answers the question. Whoever.

CHAIR PALTIN: Go ahead, Ms. Kaoni. I'm not sure if you need to press star-6 again.

MS. KAONI: Okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, we can hear you.

MS. KAONI: Can you hear me?

CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

MS. KAONI: Oh, okay. So, right now, we have two fully...we're fully-staffed with two analysts, and our plan for this is to have one analyst dedicated to Kaua'i cases. So, as they come up for trials or, you know, more pressing things, maybe a grand jury, we would get to those cases as they need to be completed. By keeping one analyst on KPD cases, we ensure that we have one full-time analyst to do any Maui rushes, or any other pressing cases. So, that's...that's the plan moving forward in terms of staffing. And I think the number of cases we get, it...it just depends on the size of the case, and how urgently it's needed, so it's hard to estimate like an average number. It...it fluctuates. But I think we're able to keep up with our work, and assist KPD when...when possible.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then out of curiosity, did you...while creating this memorandum, did MPD and Kaua'i Police Department like kind of run through all the things they've done, and how did they handle it before MPD?

MS. KAONI: So, prior to asking for our assistance, they had been using the Department of Law Enforcement, Narcotics Enforcement Division laboratory to do their cases. They recently underwent some staffing changes due to retirements, and so that is why they reached out to us.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KAONI: Just...we're fully-staffed, and our...could accommodate easier.

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VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. How long do we anticipate--I didn't see...I saw a start date--but how long do we anticipate this memorandum to continue? How long are we going to be working simultaneously with KPD?

MS. KAONI: I don't have a great answer, but I know...I know it's not going to be short-term because they don't have a lab -- . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KAONI: -- in Kaua‘i.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much for answering my questions. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Mr. Hopper, do you have an answer to that last question that Member U‘u-Hodgins asked?

MR. HOPPER: I'm sorry, the question about what was done prior to this agreement?

CHAIR PALTIN: No, how long the agreement will be...how long this memorandum of understanding will last.

MR. HOPPER: Oh, I'll double-check the --

CHAIR PALTIN: It says enforce one --

MR. HOPPER: -- agreement itself. Oh sorry, go ahead.

CHAIR PALTIN: It says from the date of the last signature hereto, and shall remain in force for one calendar year therefrom.

MR. HOPPER: Yeah. Then that would be a one-year...one-year agreement.

CHAIR PALTIN: So, then --

MR. HOPPER: So, they'd have to come to Council for...for an amendment.

CHAIR PALTIN: For an extension?

MR. HOPPER: Yes, an extension. Right.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then we might have good data on, you know, all the things? Okay. Let's move on to Member Sinenci. Your opportunity for any questions, comments, and so on, and so forth.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I just had one for Ms. Kaoni. Does that require that those samples be sent to our lab? Is that...

MS. KAONI: Yeah. So, right now, this is also their current procedure with the Narcotics Enforcement Division. They will mail the evidence to us at their expense, and that will be included in the chain of custody moving forward.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So, they're not flying them over or handing them over, you...you're going to use the...the U.S. Postal Service?

MS. KAONI: Yes. That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. That was the question I had for now, Chair. I'll yield to my fellow Councilmembers. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member Kama, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I think this is a question I wanted to ask MPD. That since we're the only police department with a forensic lab, do we anticipate maybe the other counties wanting to do the same type of MOU if they themselves also don't have a forensic lab?

CHAIR PALTIN: Captain Hamilton or Ms. Kaoni, are you able to answer or speculate that?

MS. KAONI: I...I can answer that. So, Honolulu County and Hawai'i County, they do have labs --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hum.

MS. KAONI: -- for--that conduct drug analysis. However, they're both either training personnel, or don't have all of their positions filled at this time. So, that's the difference.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I see. I see. So, we're fully-equipped here on...on Maui. So, for MPD, how much staff time would that take away from MPD to...to do this MOU, and to accommodate Kaua'i Police Department?

MS. KAONI: So, if we...if we strategically plan, we can test like items with like iPhones as to reduce the amount of extra time that it takes to test Kaua'i samples. So, if I know I have a batch of one particular type of evidence, I'm going to add on Kaua'i's evidence that is similar so we can kind of piggyback off of what is already being done for our own caseload.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hum. Um-hum. So, it says in the agreement that we're going to do the testing for KPD at no direct cost, but then there's a cost that's associated to the secondary technical review by Solutions for Quality Management, and so that cost would be borne by KPD. And do we know what that cost is?

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MS. KAONI: That cost would be included in their contract with --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, I see.

MS. KAONI: -- Solutions for Quality Management, so they're going to pay for that directly to not --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I see.

MS. KAONI: -- burden our agency reimbursements.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hum. That's wonderful. Okay. I think that's all the questions I have, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Member Sugimura, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I...I want to commend our Police Department for doing this, and I support it. I...the questions that I had, Member U'u-Hodgins brought it up. Thanks.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Lee, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Johnson, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. One of my...many of my questions have been answered. So, I understand, Ms. Kaoni, that you said there'll be--like is it a one-time fee for this? I'm just curious, maybe from the Department's point of view, if they have to do--pay folks during--for overtime, that's--it doesn't matter, it's just a one-set cost, one-time cost?

MS. KAONI: Could you say that again? I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, I...I understand that Kaua'i will...will pay for this service; is that correct? So, it's...it's like a...or is that not correct?

CHAIR PALTIN: No direct cost.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

CHAIR PALTIN: So, I think they'll get invoiced and reim...pay...reimbursement for the purchase of controlled reference standards. If the case requires new standards for the correct identification, if MPD is subpoenaed, or any other court hearing relating --

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- to the testing, they're responsible for all associated costs.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

CHAIR PALTIN: But as far as overtime, maybe we just wouldn't do overtime? Do you know, Captain Hamilton, or Ms. Kaoni, if there is a lot of forensic testing to be done, would overtime be authorized, and would we need to pay for it...Maui?

MS. KAONI: I can...I can address that. So, we're going to do the testing at no direct cost, but the fee per case will be to review the case file. There are, I guess, benchmarks that need to be met in every case, and every report. So we don't burden our other analyst, we're having KPD pay for that review with the Solutions for Quality Management third party. So, it's not to do the case, it's to review...it's to review the case file prior to issuing the report.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MS. KAONI: And the reimbursement for standards, sometimes we'll get novel drugs that we need to purchase reference standards. So, unknown drugs, we need to purchase from a commercial manufacturer. We have a DEA license, so we have to purchase and receive the drugs here in Wailuku, and that's why KPD would be reimbursing us for that specifically.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. KAONI: In terms of overtime, we'll try not to encumber any overtime fees for KPD cases, but there's still so much Maui work that overtime is...is necessary sometimes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I...I'm sure the...this type of work keeps you busy. . . .*(laughing)*. . . The...I guess my next question is like, you know, it's...it's kind of a what-if. So, like in a big bust scenario where you have a lot of testing, I assume--and maybe Captain Ham...Hamilton can...can respond to this. Like you...let's say you have, like, a big bust scenario. You just test once, or you test all the little things and then send it on? Is that...is that how that works?

MS. KAONI: So, we've had to meet the charge in the Hawai'i Revised Statute. So, really, if we reach a weight threshold or max amount, we'll stop there. If we reach a tablet capsule threshold, we'll stop at that point.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. KAONI: We'll...KPD has said they would screen and, you know, just send the essential things. So, I don't anticipate getting really large cases unless they're charging every

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single drug and count that they possibly could, but I don't think...I don't think that's going to be regular thing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, that...that's really what I was thinking. Like if there was thousands of pills, and you have to test each one, I can only imagine the work, but...okay. That's all my questions for now, and thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. Aloha, Ms. Kaoni, and...are there others? Mahalo, everyone, for being with us today answering our questions. All right. Okay. So, my...my first question is regarding capacity. I understand that currently, we have the capacity. But if at some point, we don't have the capacity in the timeline or time frame that KPD would need, you know, us to do work, what would KPD do in the alternative?

MS. KAONI: They can still reach out to any of the other labs if they wanted to or needed to, but before we even receive any evidence, they...they would check in with us that we're available to do it at that time. So, there'll be like a...like an immediate form of communication before even receiving evidence.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then at the bottom--my...I...I think this is my last question--where it says invoicing and payment, and then it talks about being subpoenaed for trial or other court hearing related to testifying done by MPD, that KPD shall be responsible for any and all associated costs, including travel and all of that. I guess...I don't know if this question is...would be for you, Ms. Kaoni, or...oh, wait. Maybe it would be. I'll just ask it, and then whoever can answer it can answer. Okay. Like, I guess...I guess my concern--or how much time do you think that could take for being subpoenaed for trial, or any other related...anything other really...that part?

MS. KAONI: I can...I can answer that. So, unfortunately, drug...drug cases, we are...you know, we are on the stand for quite a bit of time. For a one-item case, we could be on the stand for a whole day, like a whole eight-hour day. So, I would say for like a normal case, I would anticipate three days. If you start at the end of the day, you kind of have to pick up the next day, and you just never know if that's going to lead to one last follow-up. So, I guess when I prepare for trial, I prepare at least three days to not be in the lab.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Okay. So--and then that wouldn't affect MPD too much? Or MPD would weigh that all out, or...

MS. KAONI: Even our own trials kind of take away time from testing, so . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . you know, that's time away from...but, you know, there's...when you're off site, you can do work on your computer if you're waiting. So, I...I don't know how to directly answer that. It's hard to be doing Maui work when you're preparing for trial somewhere else.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that response. I think that was kind of the best that you could probably say, so I appreciate that. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Cook, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question is to whoever feels is most appropriate to answer it. On average, how many cases does Maui MPD have a month, and does Kaua'i have a month? I'm sure there's a variable, but I'm just looking for...to quantify this to some degree.

MS. KAONI: As far as Maui cases, we can complete anywhere from...between 1 and 20 cases a month, just depending on how large they are. And as far as Kaua'i, I'm not really sure, but they will be handpicking those cases that are going to trial. So, it won't be your routine seized drug bust that they'll be sending us, it'll be cases that are marked for trial.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. My second and last question is, ballpark, how long does the lab work take, and is it a matter of...I mean, when...is it...that's probably a big variable too, quantitatively, but how long is it...usually, when you're going to test in the lab, how long would you budget for that?

MS. KAONI: It depends on the item. You know, a whole case can be done in ten minutes, or it could take a week. It depends on the type of item, how many items, and ensuring that everything is working properly at the time of testing. So, it's...you know, routine testing, not more than a day. When you have more complex cases, novel items, or novel drugs, that could take a little bit longer.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. That's it. Thank you very much, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I think my question would be for Mr. Hopper. I didn't notice anything in the memorandum of understanding that indicates that we would put Maui first--like if a crimin..., somebody got sick, or separated with the County for whatever reason, and we're down to one. I know the term is for one year, but is there anything indicating that...you know, as available, or that, you know, we...we prioritize Maui cases if there is a shortage of staff? Not to the detriment of Maui, unfortunately to the detriment of Kaua'i because our taxpayers are funding, you know, the fringe benefits and all. Is that just understood, or should it be clearly, explicitly laid out in the memorandum of understanding?

MR. HOPPER: Hi, Chair. I...I'll admit I did not work on this agreement when it was first executed. I...I kind of worked on the follow-up as making the...the...the nonsubstantive changes. However, I...I can read the agreement and it does not appear to have something specific as to priority in the event resources change. I don't know how likely it is that resources would change, and you may want to talk to the Department about that.

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CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. HOPPER: Amendments requested, you would need to have the agreement amended, sent to Kaua'i, and revised.

CHAIR PALTIN: Ms. Kaoni, is there any...like, you know, if...if staffing levels should change, you folks would prioritize Maui's cases, or ask for an amendment to this agreement? Is that how we would proceed?

MS. KAONI: During our initial meeting with KPD, I did...I did very much stress that, you know, our cases, our investigations, that will come first. And in order, you know, to implement that, that's why we're having just one analyst deal with Kaua'i evidence, and the other analyst is fully dedicated to Maui County. So, any rushes, anything pressing, we have one analyst here solely dedicated to Maui cases.

CHAIR PALTIN: What if the analyst dedicated to Maui's cases gets sick, can we pull the Kaua'i dedicated analyst to handle the Maui cases?

MS. KAONI: In terms of responsibilities, I feel like from MPD's standpoint, that is our primary responsibility. So, I feel like that's understood, at least in the lab and in the Department. But, you know, I've communicated that with KPD, and they were very understanding. I don't think...I don't think...I don't think we need to like explicitly say that in writing, but should an event come up, we would communicate that to them in a timely manner.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Great. And Mr. Hopper, you agree since it was relayed orally, that it doesn't need to be in writing as part of this memorandum of understanding?

MR. HOPPER: Well, I mean, Chair, generally, the agreement would be governed by...by the writing. However, if...if the...that prioritization would...would happen, I guess the next step would be that Kaua'i's, you know, somehow saying, you're not providing us...you're...you're not performing under the agreement. And although I don't really know what, you know, enforcement methods they would necessarily have as far as going to court and requiring that, but I don't really see anything in the agreement about prioritization of Maui over Kaua'i. So, the obligations there, it basically says conduct accurate and timely forensic drug testing. So, if there's an argument that drug testing was untimely or something like that, then that would be an issue with the agreement. But generally, an oral understanding, it...it might help, but it's necessarily not, you know, enforceable over the written terms of an agreement like that. But if that's the understanding, and the parties do understand that, then, you know, that's...that's positive, but wouldn't necessarily override the written terms of the agreement.

CHAIR PALTIN: Would it help to put that part in the resolution, or it would need to be in the understanding...the MOU?

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MR. HOPPER: Putting it in the resolution wouldn't necessarily make it binding on the...a signatory to the agreement. You really need to have something like that in the agreement if you want to be specific as to those terms. It might be helpful for background, but, you know, it...it would probably rather...it'd be better to have in the agreement itself. Again, I'm not sure if this is a real live concern. If it is, then, you know, you could look at that, but you can't necessarily deal with all potential eventualities. But if this is a likely outcome, given the, you know, turnover rates and things like that, that could be something dealt with in the agreement.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Members, does anyone require additional questions?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I just have one tiny, quick question.

CHAIR PALTIN: Committee Vice Chair U'u-Hodgins?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. This question is for Ms. Kaoni. Only because you said, now I want to know. What do you consider a novelty drug?

MS. KAONI: So, a novel...a novelty drug is...you know, we'll take a classic drug, we'll make a chemical modification, and it turns into a new drug with a new name. We may not have the reference on hand to actually confirm that new, modified drug, so then we would have to go out and purchase that from a known company, or a reputable company. So, it's just some...like a new form of an illicit drug that we've seen before.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you for that. Excuse my ignorance on what a novelty drug is, I just wanted to know what that means. I can then pay attention in the news. When I see it, I can assume you guys are going to be busy. Thank you. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Anyone else need a second round? Seeing none. Okay. I think I'm okay with it as it is, but maybe next year, when we renew it, we can specify that we...in the MOU that we are prioritizing Maui's stuff first...just to have it in writing, as well as orally. So, at this time, I'll entertain a motion to recommend passage of Bill 158 (2024) on first reading, including any nonsubstantive revisions for clarity, consistency, and style.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR PALTIN: Moved by...shoot...Member U'u-Hodgins, seconded by Member Cook. And at this time, I'll entertain a motion to substitute Bill 158 with the proposed CD1 version listed on Granicus as Attachment 4.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So moved.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR PALTIN: Moved by Member U‘u-Hodgins, seconded by Member Cook. And as stated before, the proposed CD1 version incorporates the following; is approved as to form in legality by Corp. Counsel, amends the start date and term for the MOU, and incorporates technical and nonsubstantive revisions. Any discussion, Member U‘u-Hodgins?

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Happy to support Kaua‘i. No discussion.

CHAIR PALTIN: Anyone else, discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor on the substitution, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR PALTIN: We have nine "ayes," zero "noes," zero excused.

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

ACTION:	APPROVE substitution to Bill 158 with proposed CD1 version
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CHAIR PALTIN: All those in favor of the main motion as amended, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR PALTIN: Nine "ayes," unanimous for our good friends on Kaua‘i. The motion passes.

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VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Paltin, Vice-Chair U ‘u-Hodgins, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Kama, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FIRST READING** Bill 158, CD1 (2024) by committee report

MAUI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY STRATEGIC PLAN AND INTEGRATED PREPAREDNESS PLAN (DRIP-9(2)) (RULE 7(B))

CHAIR PALTIN: The...at this time, we're done with that item. Okay. Next up, we have DRIP-9(2), Maui Emergency Management Agency Strategic Plan and Integrated Preparedness Plan. And as you guys may know, we have Administrator Amos Lonokailua-Hewett in the gallery, and he will be coming up to join us on the floor. They've worked tirelessly on this Strategic Plan, and at this time, we'd like to receive any opening comments or presentation from Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett. *(silence)* And I believe his new presentation is up on Granicus as well. Item number 3 is the revised version that we'll be working off of, right? Okay. Take it away, Administrator...Chief *[sic]* Lonokailua-Hewett.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Aloha mai kākou.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, thank you for the opportunity to share with you our Strategic Plan. We did work tirelessly to...and Integrated Preparedness Plan. My team and I did work tirelessly to go through it, and provide at least a framework and direction for us moving forward. That thing not switching. This one should go. Okay. Yeah. So, just with MEMA's vision, MEMA's vision is basically whole community. And that term is thrown around a lot across the country. I think Hawai'i has it figured out in...in a way where community and Government work seamlessly together, and that's what we're trying to build. We're trying to build...have a vision of all...all of us, the whole community, coming together collectively, seamlessly, to respond and to recover. Pause for effect. Our mission is to...is based on relationships with our collective community, every entity, every partner that wants to partner, we want to have relationships with the

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entire community, we want to come up with plans and agreements, and we want to be able to call on those agreements in response and recovery, and collectively work together to overcome the challenges that we face. Pause for effect, yes. Okay. This is going to be slower than what I had wanted, but here we go. So, we did upgrade our...or change our logo. There's a lot of symbology connected to this particular logo. It is a visual expression of our commitment to our community, and our duty, and the professionalism, and integrity, and transparency in which we deal with our community. If you guys want a presentation on the symbology of our new logo and our new coin, I'm more than welcome to...more than happy to do that for you guys as well. A short story that kind of drives the Strategic Plan and our Integrated Preparedness Plan is that emergency management has changed. Not only are we looking at disasters and, you know, human factors, we are also looking at homeland defense. And the homeland defense and the way Government has changed at the Federal level, what they've prioritized has changed the way we have to address emergency management, which is kind of incorporated in our Strategic Plan moving forward. I think another really important piece is the way the public...what the public wants from...from us, which has definitely changed. There's a heightened angst about wildfires, and evacuations, and what was not a priority in the past is now a priority. And so, that forces us to change, and hopefully, those changes are reflected in the Strategic Plan, and we are actively engaging it correctly. Okay. So, we did build the Strategic Plan based on the...the various reports, the After-Action Reports, to include...to include the 2018 Hurricane Lane fire, as well as the FSRI investigation, as well as MEMA's After-Action Report, and that drove...from all of those recommendations on all those findings, it drove us to create a Strategic Plan that reflects all of those pieces...and I believe we have. And those lessons learned kind of fall into these categories that is...drives, once again, the Strategic Plan. So, kind of going through it, in individual, is the capacity to surge, and the capacity to sustain. I think as we all experienced, we weren't maybe positioned, or prepared, or staffed accordingly to match the pace of a large wildfire like we did. I don't think anybody was. But moving forward, we have to be. We have to look at the...the...the surge of an escalating incident, and have resources in place, or in position, to support what is necessary. And that's reflected in...in our budget to you, request to you, as well as how we organize our organization. Plans, processes, procedures, checklists, action plans...all of those kinds of things are critical to emergency management, and those things were identified as missing, or fragmented, or disconnected. And so, you know, we've committed to initial 23 plans through contract to get us up to speed. That includes a COOP plan, which is a Continuity of Operations Plan, as well as a CEMP, which is Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which is a really key document to bring all of the power of the County into one understanding in response. Unified and coordinated response is another really big one. And that means that, you know, the response...my job is to understand how all of the entities work in--under one vision, under one plan, in disaster. And there's...there's...that...that means a lot of things, but one of the things that we're actively working on is the incident command...incident command post, unified command, those initial commanders on the ground. We depend on them to provide information to us, and request support accordingly so we can mobilize the County in an effective way. And both the Fire Department, Police Department, and MEMA have been working to improve that, and

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that's reflected in our Strategic Plan as well. Community...the community connection and integration, there is no solution. I've said this openly, outwardly, in the past. There's no solution without the community, and we're investing in connecting with the community. We'll see that in the Integrated Preparedness Plan, provide some progress on that as well, but it is to effectively connect with community in response and recovery--in preparedness and mitigation as well, but that was a lesson that we learned that was identified in those plans. And of course, learning, certifying, training, and exercising is preparing our community to collectively respond, you know, in a...in kind of an understood way within incident command system, and some management structure. And so, we are also exploring--well, not exploring--we have taken a lot of action in that regard. So, going through the goals, starting off with the first is, improve administrator programs and processes. And what we follow here in the framework of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, or EMAP...in EMAP, it kind of gives us a framework of things that every emergency management agent should do nationally. I've had initial meetings with evaluators of EMAP, and currently, we are not in a position to pursue assessment or evaluation, but hopefully, we'll be available...we'll be in position January of 2026, is what I hope to get. So, when all of these plans and the staffing are filled, our new EOC, all of those things will put us in position to go through an EMAP accreditation...at least an assessment of where we stand related to EMAP. But that drives our...our administrative programs and processes, and just kind of talk about some of the progress we've made in that regard. So, organizational efficiency. Thank you for all supporting our budget and our staffing expansion positions because the truth is that they're super critical for us to do anything. And without positions, there are no lead positions, which means that there's no continuity or no growth within any section or function of the Agency. So, I think we're at 18 of 22 positions filled. There's...there's some progress as of today as well in...in reallocations and establishing positions, so that's going well. Thank you for the positions for FY '26. That three additional positions, they'll be critical. We're creating MEMA EOC staffing requirements that identify all the positions and its function for all of you to--for everybody to really understand what is it that the EOC does, and what are the minimums of...of staffing operationally in gray skies? And when the EOC...the new EOC is...is available, I'd like to offer you an opportunity to walk through EOC with us, and go through the operation so you guys can all see exactly what it means, and the structure, and the steps from 1 through...through 10 and...and...and just introduce you to the process of that. So, the plan is to definitely have at least the 23 plans--and there'll be a lot more than 23--but at the end of 2025, the plans that have been negotiated with our contract will be completed. And additional plans are...are already underway, and some others are already completed as well, and I'll share some of that with you. So, strengthening whole communities is critical to our...our success, and like I said, there's no solution without community. And so, there's a lot of effort that's been going on in the way we strengthen and connect whole community. Some of the things I'd like to kind of highlight is, you know, having a community outreach person to, you know, initiate the conversation with vulnerable populations, to include our kūpuna and our unsheltered, is an important piece. Without someone to lead that effort, there's really no sustainable or...a sustainable way to address that, but we are engaging in those vulnerable positions. We have also initiated some meetings with...to design a business network...or develop a

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business network, which is, right, to...a lot of business came...businesses came out, and gave up of themselves and their resources in response to the disaster, the wildfires, and some of those businesses suffered greatly because of it. And there is...there's a lot we can do if we organize a business network related to cost recovery, related to just operational coordination, so resources are not wasted, and there's no duplication of work, and those kinds of things. And so, a business network is also a part of the whole community preparedness and response. We've invested a lot in public education campaigns as well, and I'll talk about the community network in a future slide. Community Emergency Response...excuse me...yeah, the Community Emergency Response Team, CERT. We have a CERT Coordinator position filled by the State Workforce Program, and have some really cool, exciting efforts underway. We are...we had a Train the Trainer in 2024, and since that was our first time, we didn't have a real big amount of people that were interested or available. We have a Train the Trainer scheduled for June 26th to the 28th. We already have 30 instructors--or 30 signed up to be instructors. We have a basic CERT class in June 23rd to the 25th, as well as we're participating in a teen CERT program in June 18th...June 18th. So, a lot going on for CERT in June, but we also have classes set up in August and October of this year. There is a 10,000-person roster by 2028, and yeah, that might be a lofty goal, but we're going to try really hard to get that all mobilized. Because in my mind, for disasters, it will be with that community, the CERT program, that will provide some really critical support for a disaster. In additional effort, we are partnered with HI-EMA in the HHARP program, and it is a preparedness program for communities. And we have Molokai, Lānaʻi, and East Maui engaged with HI-EMA to take those communities to HHARP, I guess, certify it, if you will. That allows some additional funding through that program. It is a really good framework. It is kind of a six-month process, which is kind of taxing for a community, but we're going to try and go through it with Lānaʻi, Molokai, and East Maui, and see what adjustments we may have to make, but our staff specialists on those islands are engaged with HI-EMA for that. Emergency response capabilities. There's a lot we're doing in that regard to enhance how we respond together collectively. Beginning with the new EOC, this is a rendering of the new EOC. We hope to move in by September 1st. I think the scheduled sign off is at August 11th. We're looking at...because of the expansion of the...the Agency, the office spaces, which were one-person offices, are now being set up for two-person and three-person offices. And so, we've had to change the furnishings to accommodate the...the three...the...the additional staff. But the space is awesome for now. With the staffing that we have, it's a lot better than we have now, and we're excited to move into the new EOC.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, when?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Incident management. You know, we...we've been...we--if you guys look on the Integrated Preparedness Plan, you'll see the training schedules in the back, and you'll see all the courses that we have been offering, whether it's partnering with HI-EMA, or partnered with some of the response agencies in Maui, like Maui Fire Department, or we're hosting, there is a really aggressive training schedule. And basically what that is to do is to get MEMA staff firstly up and...up to speed, and qualified in all the positions, and the secondary positions that they may fill--get all of

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our response partners up to speed in what they need to fulfill when they fulfill it--as well as our community partners. And our Incident Management team is offering all of those opportunities for the community to train, and exercise, and...and get ready to work together in...in disaster and crisis. We are also very fortunate to now have three staff specialists assigned on East Maui...in East Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi, and those are really good staff specialists. We're very grateful and fortunate to have those folks. We are also building out a structure with...through the Reserve Corps as one option, and volunteers to support those isolated communities standing up. This is a recent fire on Molokai that had, and...and what you can see is, you can see a drone...drone picture at the top-right corner. And...and what that sets up to do is, we...because of those isolated communities don't have the resources, we are initiating a drone program to support the isolated communities. Those staff specialists are set up to go to the command post directly, and then report from the command post in a unified command way. We want to be able to give them the tools to not only...with...with response vehicles and drone technology to not only respond and give us situation awareness, but to also help our Wildfire Risk Reduction program that I'll share in just...just a minute, as well as do damage assessments throughout those communities with the drone...with drone technology. So, that's part of the enhanced isolated community response capabilities. *(silence)* Community network. So, we...we established a community network, which is just identifying leadership in the community in different moku, or different districts, that we can call upon for information-sharing and coordination in response and recovery. Basically, we're following the same model that happened post-wildfire, where these community leaders stood up, and we coordinated with those folks to supply, support relief, and we're just kind of doing that as well. And we started that in...on the first storm that we implemented that was January 30, and then we used it in April 18th as well, and it worked really, really well. There's a lot more to do with that, and we are planning to integrate more leadership, and more structure, and more support in the form of radios, and Starlinks *[sic]*, and that sort of thing, to really build out a comm network that we can call out that have the capability to sustain themselves. So, we're doing that as well. We actually had a terrific meeting with some of the nonprofits related to community resiliency hub efforts, and we'll look to integrate that leadership into our network to support the response and recovery. So, public information. Alerts and warning systems is a big deal, and everybody has angst in...in that, so let me talk to some of that...those pieces. Firstly, we...whoops. *(silence)* Okay, what happened? Sorry. Okay. Well, let's start with Genasys. So, you know, the Genasys Protect software that went into play, the...the reason that it went into play was, it's a way faster notification system to the community related to anything...any threat within their zone. And an example of that was the...the Molokai fire...actually, the airport fire that just happened, and we were able to get information quicker, and we were able to send out that first notification, which was an advisory within, I think, three to five minutes--which it would typically take, you know, 45 minutes. And so, we were able to get that information quicker, we were able, just through the software, to use that particular platform quickly, and it's...it's...there's only us getting better and more refined at the system. But to improve information-sharing...real-time information-sharing with the public, as well as faster notifications is the goal, and Genasys Protect definitely helps us navigate through that. We've been participating in

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many public events, many community events, including the Ka'ahumanu Emergency Preparedness Expo, the East Maui--oh--Taro Festival, the Molokai Resource Fair, and are scheduled to go to the Pineapple Festival, as well as many other partners have asked us to participate in their events. Our social media is up and running, and moving well. And there's other efforts with Spectrum that we've been able to fund through grant, as well as our radio partners. We've bolstered our capability there, and our presence on the radio, as well as have planned video series of training or education...like an education video on alerts and warnings forthcoming. So, a lot of effort going into public information and education. When you look at all these systems, these are all tools that we use to notify, alert, and warn the public, and we are trying to improve every single one of these platforms, beginning with MEMA Alerts. MEMA Alerts. We had discovered the text-to-opt-in capability, which allows people to put in a five-digit number and already get alerted without having to go through the...all the information input, which kind of was problematic for a lot of people. So, we expect the MEMA Alerts function to increase...or the numbers to increase. There's some stuff that we still have to fix before we stand that up. The siren system. We integrated, or started an inspection, which we just finished our second physical inspection of all of our sirens. We, once again, are bolstering our relationship and our presence on the radio. We are looking to partner with a radio company to support them in...with redundant power, alternate source of power so they can stand up and maintain during any kind of power disruption. We are updating our website. We've been updating our website, and the County is going to update a website as well, so lots to do with updating how we share information. Moving on to hazard mitigation. So, a Hazard Mitigation Plan is under HI-EMA review, which is the last couple of steps to adoption, and will be fully adopted before our deadline, which I believe is either October or November of this year. So, our 2025-to-2030 plan will be approved before that deadline. Per the DR-4724, we've been awarded money through that...that disaster for a generator project...32 generator...32 sites that we're...we're going through, using that...that funding to support the generator project. There's also DR-4...5474, which is a post-fire grant of \$2.7 million that are being--will be used to cut back or reduce all fire hazardous fuels that MEMA is not only managing the contract, but managing the project itself. Which takes us to the Wildfire Risk Reduction Program. So, currently, MEMA is piloting a program to reduce fuels, hazardous fuels and manage ignition sources, and basically do what we can to reduce...reduce wildfire risk. That is kind of a recent, very recent thing that we have been assigned to do, and we're going to pilot it until a better alternative shows up. But we are actively developing all of those plans, and have some projects in place, to include the...the DR-5474 monies to start to cut back on a number of properties to reduce fuel. So, we'll...we'll be looking at it now. When you're talking about wildfire risk, MEMA will be looking at it inclusively from that lens, and address any efforts, take any actions related to wildfire risk reduction. So, MEMA is in charge of short-term recovery. Medium...or intermediate recovery and long-term recovery falls with the Office of Recovery, and so short-term recovery includes, you know, the immediate relief, the immediate restoration of...of power resources and the like. And so, that means our Mass Care Plan, which includes feeding plan, logistics supply chain, pod management, logistics sheltering. I don't know if I might have just said that, but all of those things are plans that are part of the 23 that will be completed by December. The short-term

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recovery does include community resiliency hubs and the mobilization of that with the community network as well, and the business network. So, you'll see in the...the Strategic Plan at the end, you'll see some...kind of a guiding principles. The three principles that kind of have through the whole process--from August 9th for me as a volunteer all the way until now--there's really three principles of...that have stood out, and the first one being kuleana. And this is what leads me in all the decisions that I make regarding all the partners that we engage with. The first is...is the responsibility, first to our individual selves, and our responsibility that we have to each other. And we all know what kuleana means, but I mean, really, the implementation and application of kuleana as it comes to emergency management...the first question I'll ask someone or a partner that wants assistance from me is, what have you done too? And I think that's a valid question moving forward to whole community resilience is that we all play a part in protecting our whole community, and we all have to participate in that. And if we don't, then we don't succeed; and if we do, then we do. And so, it's an important part. 'Ohana is also--and 'ohana, when I say 'ohana, I mean family, but I also mean community. There's all kinds of traditions, Hawaiian traditions, that keep 'ohana and community together, and I do look at my community as family. And so, I approach partnerships, and relationships, and conversations with that mindset, and embrace the community. And so, our traditional perspective on 'ohana gives us some really great insight on how to deal with relationships, and we follow those traditions when we look at and think about 'ohana. And the last is aloha. And aloha means love to a lot of people, but to me, aloha means Godliness. And it's how we interact with people with a true reverence and respect for God, which is a respect for people and His children. And so, we delicately walk through some of the conversations with that in mind as we try and problem solve together, not with adversity or anger, but with humility and Godliness. And that's how the Strategic Plan is written, that's how we engage as an agency, and open for any questions.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett. Before we move on to questions, is there anyone wishing to testify on the presentation that we were...just received? The testimony will be limited to the presentation we just received, the Strategic Integrated Preparedness Plan.

MR. HURDLE: Yes, Chair. The first person signed up is the Royal House of Hawai'i on Teams.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Let's keep it tight to the Strategic and Integrated Preparedness Plan, please. Thank you. Go ahead.

. . .OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY (DRIP-9(2)). . .

ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAI'I: Aloha. I'm to...I'm here to testify on everything, and if any of the --

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, not everything. Just the Integrated Strategic and Preparedness Plan.

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ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAI'I: Oh, okay.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAI'I: Yeah, that. And if any of the beneficiaries of all the royal patents on those lands were contacted...because we're not going to...of course, we're not going to evict everybody. Crazy. That is crazy, that...because everybody is all equal no matter what. Because Kamehameha III had to make that for everybody. And if you guys ever saw Kamehameha III's laws...because it's really good to use also because it's really humanitarian. And there's land laws, there's water laws. There's all these...like humanitarian laws for everybody to live equal...equally and to rejuvenate the...all the ahupua'as. But...yeah, I suggest to use a few of his laws because it's really humanitarian, and it would really benefit everybody. And thank you for hearing me out, and God bless you all.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Any further testifiers?

MR. HURDLE: That's all the individuals signed up. I do see Mr. Jasee Law approaching the podium.

MR. LAW: Luna Ho'omalua Paltin, thank you for having this discussion. And I really appreciate the last testifier's remarks, and I give the rest of my time to the Hawaiians.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. At this time, we can get a last call for testifiers?

MR. HURDLE: Yes. This is the last call for oral testimony. Please come up to the podium or raise your hand on Teams if you would like to testify. The countdown is three...two...one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. If there's no objections, I will close oral testimony, and accept written testimony into the record, and continue to accept written testimony at any time.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY (DRIP-9(2)) . . .

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I'd like to open the floor for discussion until it is exhausted. I propose...three, four minutes? Three? Three? Three minutes rounds of questions, and we can go as long as you guys' endurance allows.

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

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CHAIR PALTIN: Although there is a West Maui in-person community meeting tonight at 5:30, Lahaina Intermediate School. Just in case anyone forgot, tonight is Wednesday night community meeting. We're doing it in person like once a month nowadays. Okay. We'll start with Committee Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins. Any questions, discussion?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you so much for this presentation. I appreciate your folks' hard work. It looks like you guys have been very busy. Do you guys do like interdepartment simulation training for like predictable hazards in each area with maybe Genasys, or AI, or even just a round-table discussion of how things would go? We've met so many times with the safety of Pā'ia Town, and then there was a fire on Monday. I was watching it happen as I was going to walk into this office. I had to tell my grandma, please leave. I could see it happening. And then there was a fire last night right across the street from the Kihei Fire...I'm sorry, Kihei Police Station. And you guys have a little chart about what's predictable in each area. So, do you guys do an interagency simulation training?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Mahalo. So...so, the answer is yes.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Cool.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Do we do it with all of our partners for every situation? No. We do...we do bring in each of the departments, and actually in...in that...that effort, each department comes in, and they actually tell us...and teach us about their capability, and limitation, and where we engage, as MEMA, with each department to kind of explore the...the relationship, and how we call onto each other, so on, and so forth.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: We do a training with all the departments. We did one a couple weeks ago. It was just the orientation of the EOC. We've done training using Genasys Protect with Police and Fire.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: But every agency's capability integrated into a tabletop or some exercise? No. I definitely expect to do that with...within our new EOC because the...though the process in this EOC and the new EOC would be the same, the space that it's held in is different.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And so, we'll wait until we do that there.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. So, we're going to take the no and make it not yet?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

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VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Cool. I like that. So, for Genasys, you had your QR code up for a little while. So, while it was up, I scanned it, and then I put my address in, my parents' address in, and it lets you know if there's any issues going on. What's the radius for which it lets you know for whatever address it puts on? So, like for instance, my parents live in Pā‘ia. There's the fire, like I said, on Monday at Holomua Road. Would it let people from Kahului know that there's a fire in Holomua Road, or Ha‘ikū know that there's a fire at Holomua Road . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and maybe avoid Pā‘ia Town area? How far is that notification span?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, the notification through Genasys Protect is related to the zone configuration.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, if you're not signed up in that zone or in that area, you would not be notified.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: MEMA Alerts, however, does offer information. Anybody signed up with MEMA Alerts --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- if you...if you are in the area, it will...it will...it will notify you via MEMA Alerts, not Genasys Protect.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And then...I'm sorry, since we're...I know I heard my bell, but can you just tell us how to sign up for Genasys? How does that work?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: You can just go to the app store --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. App store.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and then download Genasys Protect. It's a black icon with a green lettering.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And following the prompts, and save your location.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And then you can save five locations total --

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VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Perfect.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and you'll be notified. So, it'll follow you. So, whatever zone you're in, we'll also notify if there's a threat to your zone.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Cool.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And then the other saved locations, you'll be notified about that.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Wait, mine's is not black, it's like greenish with blueish stuff. Is it that one?

CHAIR PALTIN: Dark --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It says Genasys.

CHAIR PALTIN: Dark blue with like a --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It's the fluorescent green --

CHAIR PALTIN: -- fluorescent green.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. That one. Sounds great. Thank you. Just did it.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: You're welcome.

CHAIR PALTIN: Next up, Member Sinenci, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Administrator Hewett, for that presentation, and also mahalo for the--your department's presence at our East Maui Taro Festival. That was very informative to have your guys' booth, and also working with our Community Specialist Notestone. And so, I don't know if you have some...some information you wanted to share that people were asking you at the booth, or some of their concerns for East Maui?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I don't know of any specifics, other than--we had conversations about a lot of the areas being cut off from the rivers running over the roads, connectivity relating to communications, the relocation or renovation of the containers next to the shelter. I'm not sure what...what concern you're...you're addressing, or...but --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- yeah, we're...we're acting upon those concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And...and our district...our district office oftentimes--and...and may...you...you did mention the HHARP funding. And so, we've been trying to work

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with, you know, those isolated communities, we get in Ha'ikū as well, down in Nāhiku. And so as far as evacuation routes, we have some old bridges, but people...people still live down in those...the Ula'ino areas, and the Waikoloa areas, those have the rivers that come across. So, we're often...those are the ones for us, in...in times of emergencies, we're...we're having to either move mauka, or check on our families, those people that are kind of cut off, they're...they're on old Government road sections. And so, some of them had old bridges, but I don't know if the HHARP funding would...would assist in possibly upgrading some of the evacuation routes, particularly over those streams, in an event of emergency evacuation.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes. I...I don't think the HHARP funding would be enough to fund bridges. What I would like to say is that East Maui is a really good example. I mean, there, you guys have tremendous amounts of challenges, for sure. And what...with Captain Gale Notestone, it begins the conversation on how we actually address the challenges that you guys have. And what I was thinking when you were talking was . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . real...really, this need for me to understand what the community would want versus what I think is necessary for East Maui. I've had some conversations at the Taro Festival with kūpuna that have ideas, and what I know about East Maui, at least the people that I was with, East Maui is very resilient. And--but to learn from East Maui community and kūpuna on how they've survived all these years, and what we can do to support them, is something that I got to figure out how to do...because, I mean, it's full of challenges. You know, building a bridge --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- is one solution, staying out of the way is another. And just knowing to make good decisions, and just stay out of the way because you, as the residents of East Maui, you know exactly when it's going to flow, where it's going to flow, and how long it's going to flow, and you guys are the most aware of how to survive in that setting. I just want to be able to come behind you, and provide solutions that...and resources that would help you, and really identifying that help, I...I'm going to lean on you and that community to tell me what that is.

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

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Kama --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. Thank you, Chair. So, I want to thank you, first of all, for the April 12th, Saturday, the Emergency Prepare Expo that was held at the mall. That was wonderful. They had a lot of people there, a lot of resources. They gave away a lot of door prizes. But after they did a...like a three-to-five minute spiel about their particular division and what they do, and then they asked questions, and then they gave

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awards to people, and gifts, and things like that. But I thought it was really informative, and that was very interactive because the community was actually paying attention to what they were saying because they don't get the prize until they answer the question, right? So, I thought that was really interactive, as opposed to just giving stuff away. But thank you. And I'd like to see maybe more of that if possible, just to get that engagement going. But I wanted to ask you, how do...how do pe...when you...when...when you're wanting to evacuate a community for whatever reason, how does...how do the people know where they're supposed to go? Is--do we have something in place, or will something be in place to say if this happens, this is where you go; if this happens, this is where you go?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, you know, we've talked about this a lot across the country, and what is the...the right way to address evacuations, and evacuations out...routes out of their area. And what came back is the idea that every person needs to know where their routes are. So, my job, though, is to tell you where the impact is coming from, where the threat is, what the impact is, or--well, expected impact--and what roads are closed. Each of us have the responsibility to know our own routes out, so that...that's what I would say. So, information via shelters open, reunification sites would come with Genasys Protect, and we would tell you, hey, that these shelters are open. That will also come through MEMA Alerts as well. So, we would tell you where the threat is coming from, what roads are closed, and what shelters might be open via Genasys Protect versus I need you to go to the left.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Right. Yes.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. Yeah. Oh, that's...that's great. So, how would...how would...I was just thinking about the Genasys Protect, and how great that app is, and how...how can we encourage more people to get that app onto their phone so that when they need help, they can just go to the app?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That is a good question. I can only say that just--so, what we've done is . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we have a meeting with the airport and we're going to use the...put Genasys Protect signage up in the airports. We have additional approval from the schools to send home flyers with the children to...to their parents.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hum. Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: We expect to engage the community a lot more in this community resiliency --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- kind of workshop --

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- that I've been talking about, and the...that's just related to filling that position first --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- to engage in that work. But the point is that we're trying to create all kinds of opportunities to educate the public on how important it is. As we start to, you know, use Genasys Protect, and that system starts to prove itself --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- we're going to expect the increase of people using it.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And so, public education campaign, for sure. Alerts and warnings video, for sure. And then hopefully, just through time --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- people will learn how important it is for them.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hum. Um-hum. Um-hum. Okay. Thank you. Chair, I think I heard the bell. Thank you so much.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Johnson, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for joining us today, Mr. Lonokailua-Hewett. I appreciate you, and your valuable time is important to this Council. So, the...the plan is, you know, really, you know, thorough, and I appreciate your presentation. Does...does the Inte...Integrated Preparedness Plan, Strategic Plan offer...allow you to unlock any Federal funds, or State funds, or any type of fundings because we have plans? Sometimes those fundings require plans.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, I know the...the HMP is required...Hazard Mitigation Plan is required for HMGP. There is conversations related to what's going to happen with public assistance, or PA monies, whether that moves from Federal to State, and that isn't exactly clear yet.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Does the PA money require a plan?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: The PA money does not require a plan, but it does require--which is what we're working on--is a...is prepositioned contracts that align with FEMA

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guidance, which is another plan that we're utilizing to identify the businesses, take them on, get their contracts position and qualifying under FEMA that allows reimbursement.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that. So, of course, when I saw your slide about drones, I thought of my community. George Periza (*phonetic*) loves his drones. A very skilled drone operator for Lānaʻi. Are the drones located on the isol...in...in the isolated communities before--well, if like after the...the disaster would happen, then they arrive?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: No, they would still be living in that community.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That's great to know. Because that's usually--the speed of having those there already is really important for those isolated communities . . .(*inaudible*). . . --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: 100 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- so... I'm really curious about the wildfire risk reduction. It sounded--now, I'm just listening on your tone, I could be wrong, that's why I'm asking.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It didn't sound like that you were fully accepting of that idea, but it's on your plate, so you're taking it on. What...what projects, what specific properties are you looking at? And hazardous fuels and vege...vegetation management, that's going to be in your wheelhouse? Are you going to contract out that? You know, can you --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Initially, all the work is going to be contracted out --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- until we can find a better solution. There's a lot that comes with that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I've been actually exploring this idea for about a year --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- because the actual effort to address hazardous fuels, wildfire hazardous fuels in perpetuity is a really, really big need and responsibility.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And just from department to department, it doesn't really fit in anybody's scope --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- nor does anybody have the capacity to carry it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's the follow-up, is the capacity --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- right?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, contracting . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . out is the path you would...you would take?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: For us, definitely. You know, we...luckily, we do have monies for the...the DR-5274, I believe.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What's that in plain English?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- provided an initial sweep of 100 properties. Fire Department has identified these properties for us, and we will pursue the contract, and manage the grant, as well as looking at other funding sources to support the additional projects. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. My time's up. I appreciate your responses. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Lee, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Mr. Hewett, thank you for your presentation. It was...it was very eye-opening, but it did seem rather ambitious. So, do you have all the resources and employees that you need to carry out this agenda?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Not as fast as I would like. So, we are taking smaller steps, rather than bigger steps. We are making progress in all of the things reflected in the Strategic Plan and Integrated Preparedness Plan. I'd like to move faster. We cannot move fast until the positions are established and filled, but --

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- we're still making progress in every one of the areas.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, let's say of your top three, top three priorities, how many can you accomplish in the next six months?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Are you talking about the Integrated Preparedness Plan, that priorities?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, I can actually...do you want me to go through that right now? I can.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, just...just pick the top three of your priorities that you think you can complete in the next six months.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, so, based on the --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because, you know --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- Integrated Preparedness Plan, you know, there's five priorities --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- it seemed like you had so many objections--it seemed like you had, you know, numerous, numerous objectives. It's...it's mind-boggling to think that you could possibly accomplish all of them in one year's time. But what about six months? What are the top ones that you can actually accomplish in six months?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, actually, we've...if we're following the Integrated Preparedness Plan, we've made tremendous amounts of progress. Let me go with community resilience as one of them. So, in...in the community resilience...hold on real quick...so, in the committee resilience, some of the things in the organization and equipment factors are establishing a community response capability, COMNET. So, the COMNET has been initiated, has been used. Will it get better? Yes, as we started providing resources, but the COMNET...community network already exists. Seeking a point of contact to support the management of nonprofit organizations, that is in motion, and we've identified a point of contact. Aligning with HI-EMA implementation of --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Are you--excuse me. Are you doing this Countywide, or you're just starting with West Maui?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Countywide. Okay.

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Implementation of the HHARP program, though it's not Maui-wide, it's...Lānaʻi, Molokai, and East Maui have started the process. Funding the...the...the positions that support the effort, there's two out of the three positions that are already filled. Three staff specialists, Molokai, Lānaʻi, and Hāna, already filled. So, there is progress in every single one of the areas...not completed, but moving.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, on the...the outer islands--Molokai, Lānaʻi, and...and East Maui--are these resource employees . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . going to live in those locations, or they're going to travel to those locations?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: They live in those locations.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, they would be responsible for organizing their particular volunteer group and resource group for --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- each of those areas?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. We're looking to...especially the isolated communities, right now, there's one person kind of holding up the entire community. The Reserve Corps is a way to fund the second position that would support when that person wants to take vacation, or support if the incident is escalated, as well as a volunteer group that would also support those...those staff specialists in those isolated communities.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And so, have you upgraded our communication devices, systems, so that we can communicate with everywhere in our County?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we, through the Homeland Security grant, MEMA supports the building out and funding of communications infrastructure Countywide, and those are all driven by the Police Department's projects. And anytime I can commit monies to the Police Department, they are my number one priority. So, related to total complete communications infrastructure resilience . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . the answer is no, we haven't...we don't have a complete communication infrastructure resilience in every single community because that requires a lot of infrastructure, but MEMA supports the Police projects in communications through Homeland Security funding.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. My time is up. Thank you.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, your opportunity?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha,
Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: First, congratulations on getting this...the Strategic Plan completed. We love the new addition to MEMA, our Molokai area specialist, Justin Neuhart. We had the opportunity to all work together when the IRT team was here last week. I also love the section on the deliverables. Okay. So, for the...while we were talking story with IRT, we did, you know, talk story about the CERT training on Molokai, the Community Emergency Response Team training on Molokai. Do you have any updates on when that can be offered on Molokai? Our community is super eager about it.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: There is a schedule...so, there's a scheduled...there's budget and a schedule for August and October. I'm not sure if that one is on Molokai or not, I can find out. But getting training on Molokai...or pivoting to get training on Molokai is kind of an easy thing to be able to do, so I can follow-up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Awesome. Mahalo. All right. And then...all right. And this is super minor, but I'm just going to ask it anyway. The new Maui EOC looks great, but I noticed that there's carpet. Do...do you know why carpet was chosen?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I not sure. I no like carpet either. They going spill coffee on my EOC, and I going get fussy, so...I...I'm a more...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's what I'm saying. Carpet ends up in there for decades.

CHAIR PALTIN: Nobody wants a fussy Administrator.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. That was a...that was a...I...I'm not supporting carpet. I need to figure out who...I don't know if that's a rendering or that's actually what's being put in, but I...I'm not...I'm not for carpet either.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you for validating my question. . . .*(laughing)*. . . All right. Okay. So, folks, I thought...I...I think the drone program is awesome. I...I know it's really helpful to have eyes on the...the area, on Molokai. I know it's hard for you folks, and often impossible to be here in person, so a drone is like the next best thing. So, I think that's...it's already been really helpful. Okay. And then someone shared with me the share...or the Watch Duty app. Have you heard of that?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Do...so, they said that they...they signed up for that. I didn't sign up yet. I will. But it...they'll often get alerts ten minutes before the MEMA Alerts through...through the Watch Duty app. Oh, yeah. Okay. Member Paltin is also nodding her head.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So...so, we met with the Watch Duty representative, and that person--I forget his name, actually--basically probably just connects with people who are tracking scanners . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . that provide information via the scanner. I think the challenge for us is really getting the accurate information from the incident commander related to what we're doing versus not. There's a gap on both sides of that. Sometimes, you know, just saying that, yeah, there is a fire, it's located this side of...of the gulch is...is valuable, and that's what we're trying to do with Genasys Protect. But then we are still waiting for incident commanders to communicate actionable information, which is what the delay is. So, we cannot send out, you know, information--and trust me, we are...we are definitely posturing and leaning forward to really send out the notification based on our assumptions because we have fire background, and we're really restraining ourselves from doing that because we'll set a precedence, and potentially have conflicting information if...if we assume wrong.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that. Appreciate it. Mahalo, Chair. I heard the timer.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Member Cook, your opportunity?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes. And thank you, Chair, and thank you, Administrator Hewett. I think the...the logo is great. It visually conveys a lot of information, and just the whole vibe and feel is really refreshing and engaged. Carpet on the floor may be acoustics if it's a concrete floor, for what it's worth. Maintaining hazardous fuel vegetation and the 5474 money availability...this is extremely timely. I've been seeing the Haole Koa seed pods drying out, and when I was coming to work today, I was thinking like this is red alert. This is really serious, especially in my district of South Maui where we have...you know, we're perpendicular to the trade winds and the pasture lands coming to the edge of the highway, and then the fact that it's ranch land, State Department of Transportation, County of Maui Highways, and a variety of other people along the way makes it complicated as far as who you're going to reach out to. My little two cents, it...it seems like a good opportunity for landscape contractors who are capable of mobilizing and doing small-kine work to have a list of them, and have...pound it out. But I'm...I am deeply concerned about that. I wanted to bring it to your attention. I was going to contact Fire, Public Works, State, and Highways, and everybody, but I have you. . . *(laughing)*. . . So, my question is this. Should I...should my office still send out a little memo to everybody about concern, or...

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I will. But food for thought, I think that we do have the resources. One of the unique things, the small...the...when I say landscape contractors,

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they would have the capacity and the ability to do \$20,000-and-less contracts, mobilize promptly, have the equipment and the manpower, and it might just be good financially for the community as well to be able to do that. They...they need a right-of-entry from all the different players, and so the Department could hopefully help mitigate that aspect of it. Anyway, I love the picture of your crew. Over the last year, I've met with you a few times. You've come to our town hall and given a presentation. I've seen you go to other...Pā'ia and other town halls to give presentation, and I just want to commend you for your leadership. The Department is definitely growing very strategically, systematically, professionally. So, good job. And let's keep it up because we desperately need it. But this is really refreshing, that--I think over the next continuation of this, going to pull our community together, and enable us to feel safer, and be able to protect ourselves. Like you're saying, if the...be akamai, and be...be aware...not just reach out to somebody else, what should I do? So, anyway, thank you, Chair. That's my two cents.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I did have some specific questions. The resilience hubs, would that fall under goal number 3, or where...where would the resilience hubs be located? I...I just was at one of their network meetings.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It'd probably fall under whole community. It would start there, but it...it...it connects to different things, it connects to response capabilities as well.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Is there a point person if...I know Makalea said that she had gone to something with you folks, but--and she did share that with the network, but is there a point person if folks within the network had questions that they should go to?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, we actually met with Makalea this morning at 8:30, and --

CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, sweet.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- had tremendous discussion, and pathway forward. And the connection point for Makalea, which was given to her, is...is our outreach specialist, which is Courtney Dumlao.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then my next question, do we have pre-position contracts for rubbish hauling and portable toilets? Nearly every disaster that I've assisted with, that's like a need. Whether it was the 2018 fire, or the flood, or whatever, there's need for portable toilets and rubbish hauling. And so, do we have pre-position contracts?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I...we have...we have people we call. The pre-position contracts, as it qualifies under FEMA, is going to be completed by August, where we're going to identify all of the...the different contractors that we would call upon, to include

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porta-potties, refuse companies, lights, portable lights, tents, tables, chairs, all of those things.

CHAIR PALTIN: Barriers.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Barriers, yeah. That's being contracted out by Tetra Tech. That's one of our...it's called Mini PA (*phonetic*). That's one of our big plans that have been worked on, and will be completed by August 1st.

CHAIR PALTIN: Cool. And then you know how schools have fire drills? Are we thinking that we might do some Genasys Protect drills in concert with the schools? Because I imagine most schools have kids that are more navigable around apps than adults, and if we were to like run an exercise with the kids, at least they could hopefully share that information with their makua, or kūpuna, or...or do it for them, if it's summer or a weekend.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, we are open to all of those things, for sure. And it's just kind of related to how we're prioritizing that with the capacity that we have. We are--been in touch with DOE, like I said earlier, and have an initial agreement to send out information related to Genasys Protect. The idea is definitely to exercise, exercise, exercise. That's really --

CHAIR PALTIN: Like incorporate it with their fire drills or something?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Cool.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It's just...I...I keep saying this, but it is really related to having somebody grab on to that effort, and leading it all the way through in a consistent manner, all the way across in a --

CHAIR PALTIN: Like at each school --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

CHAIR PALTIN: -- or at the superintendent --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- level, or . . .(*inaudible*). . .

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Right. So, we meet with DOE--I'm not sure if it's every month or every quarter--but we have these conversations. Once again, it's just related to us being...saying, yeah, this is what we want to do, and somebody to lead...lead the effort.

CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. Because --

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we will exercise wherever we can, as much as we can, to include incorporating the schools--whole community. I mean, we're really trying to figure out how we mobilize the whole community in training, in exercise. That might be lofty, but we're looking to do that.

CHAIR PALTIN: I guess, you know, some other concern is in the fire, they let the school, the boarders, drive out by themselves [sic], and we know plenty people got stuck in their cars. And so, we...we don't want to have that happen again. Luckily, they made it out, but just knowing that the buses aren't at the schools and things like that, contingency on contingency. Is there a contingency for when there is a disaster, and there is no DJ at the radio station? Have we worked out that issue?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we had --

CHAIR PALTIN: Last time in Kā'anapali when the sirens were going, I turned on the radio and had Hawaiian music playing. So, that...I mean, coming from Hilo, sirens turn on the radio, they tell you what to do. You...you weren't in charge at that time, but we turned on the radio and had Hawaiian music.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we have been in many conversations with radio partners to bolster the radio connectivity. To your Big Island example--which is true, it's a trustworthy system--sound the siren, turn on the radio, get information, so on, and so forth. We are looking to grant a generator to a station to support, once again, redundant power in case of disruptions. We're moving on that. Conversations on the DJ are happening...not confirmed in any kind of plan or agreement yet, but they understand the...the need. So, I can only say that there's conversations about that, that we...we know what the need is, and how we actually make that work is...is still under talks, is what I would say.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then I guess my last question is, do...do we have you in a permanent capacity? Have we settled the DM-89 issue?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: No.

CHAIR PALTIN: And so, there was a change at the State level on that. Do we know any idea how we're going to navigate forward through that?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: There is a path forward. I'm not sure what the status is on the steps in that path, but there's a step...there is a path forward that we have discussed.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. On...on the radio issue, is there a prerecorded instructions for the various disasters that we are aware of? Any...any type of prerecorded instruction that could be remotely deployed or something? . . . *(timer sounds)*. . .

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we definitely are trying to build the capacity to do that from our EOC...our new EOC. And what that means in detail, I'm not exactly sure. But having...sending out messages to radio from the EOC is part of the...part of what we're planning to do.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Members, does anyone have need for a second round of questioning? Going once.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I have want for questions.

CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Committee Vice Chair U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. This is kind of what Member Johnson was asking, with the wildfire reduction task force that I guess maybe you guys are going to do. You mentioned that you folks are looking at 100 properties, certain properties. Can you tell me more about that?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, through that...through that post-fire grant, which was before me --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- 100 properties were identified by the Fire Department. I have maps on it, and I kind of perused through it. When we're ready to move on it, then I will refocus on it, but there were 100 properties that were identified via that grant.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: The 100 properties were identified because they have concerns with potential wildfire --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Wildfire --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- issues?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- Urban Interface...the...the Wildland-Urban Interface...so any area that impacts residential areas.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I don't expect you to know all the detail and all 100 parcels, but if you could...are they like throughout Maui County, are they --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Throughout Maui County.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- primarily like West Maui, South Maui? Where...where do you think primarily those --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, I mean, what we know is that the critical areas of West Maui, South Maui, as well as Pā'ia --

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VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- Upcountry, Molokai...I mean, they're all...all leeward areas that --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- always burn.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: When I perused through, I saw...I didn't see 100...I didn't look at 100 properties, but I --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- did see the areas that were focused...that were included, and it did include those areas.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And then you're going to look at those properties, and then you guys are going to alert the owners? I mean, like, eh, you guys need to clean this up, or do this, or do that? What you guys going to do?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah, there's a...so, related to the \$2.7 million grant, it's a one-time deal, it's a cost-share with...with...with property owners. It buys us time to sweep through. Some of the properties, if not a lot of the properties, already cleaned up some of the areas. So, what we have to go through is, we have to go and identify the areas in priority, which ones would be impact...have the most impact to residential areas, prioritize that correctly, check on those properties --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and...and then based on the status of those properties, reprioritize, and start to take away the...just basically go down that list of...of properties in priority. And this one is mechanical removal.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Mechanical.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: There...in the future, there's going to be other opportunities for, you know, grazing, and greenbelts, and those kinds of strategies. Right now, the understanding of all of those properties and that entire plan . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I don't have.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Who came up with the 100 properties, that list?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Fire.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Fire did? How many are County properties?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: They're just identifying...I'm not sure. I...I'm going to have to go through that analysis real soon. We have meetings tomorrow and Friday related to mobilizing that plan to identify which ones are County. So, the priority is Wildland-Urban Interface --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- versus County lands.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I agree with that...that direction and guidance. We want to protect the communities. So, we--there...there's a...there's, you know, a sensible way to prioritize it. I don't have that right off the top of my head, but, you know, I would prioritize the leeward areas that always burn --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- that are--affect the Wildland-Urban Interface --

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and then go down the list.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you so much.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PALTIN: Member Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. So, following-up with Member U‘u-Hodgins' questions, as far as prioritizing areas to evaluate for--or to address the high-risk areas, I think maybe, if you haven't already, work with the Fire Department not only to look at general areas, like leeward areas, I think you need to look at the areas that have been reported constantly...the...the repeat reports of fires breaking out in certain areas. Pā‘ia is one, and Wailuku is another one, Pi‘ihana. So, those...those areas are very critical because

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in Pi'ihana, you know, a wildfire could wipe up Happy Valley plus Hawaiian Homes. So, that's very, very important to look at their records --

CHAIR PALTIN: And Historic Wailuku.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- of where all the re...pardon me?

CHAIR PALTIN: And Historic Wailuku Town.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And Historic Wailuku Town. So, you know, just looking at the records of the Fire Department should...you know, should have an influence on where your priorities are, okay? Thank you.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you.

CHAIR PALTIN: Anyone else need a second round? When...when would we expect, I guess, an update, or progress report next on the Strategic Integrated Preparedness Plan? Like after you move into the EOC, is there like a blessing, or come check us out, or...

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

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes.

CHAIR PALTIN: Don't...wipe your feet off before you come on our carpet.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: No step on my carpet, no drink--no, just kidding.

CHAIR PALTIN: No spill coffee or you not going get saved. Nah. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, you said updates on the EOC or updates on...on the Strategic Plan progress?

CHAIR PALTIN: All of it.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we provide a Strategic Plan progress report to...a monthly report to the Mayor. I can give you that, if you guys want to see that. Now, when we--the EOC is built, then yeah, let's have a party. You know, everybody's invited. And definitely want to go through the...the operation of the EOC with all of you at some point in time. I don't know how to schedule that, we'd want to share with you guys.

CHAIR PALTIN: Maybe we can do one...one site visit or something so that we can go all nine, you don't have to do nine tours.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Okay. I appreciate that. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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CHAIR PALTIN: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Members, any further questions? Going once, twice, three times, we're out. Let's see...if there are no objections, the Chair will defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: SS and YS)

ACTION: DEFER.

CHAIR PALTIN: This concludes today's Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee meeting. Thank you very much, everyone. I am giving you an approximate 45-minute vacation for today. The time is now 3:42. This meeting is adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 3:42 p.m.

drip:min:250604:lt

Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

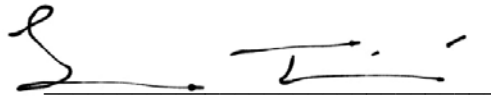
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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 44 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 27th day of June 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Logan Tsuji', is written over a horizontal line.

Logan Tsuji