

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

MINUTES

February 18, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:07 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (left at 12:13 p.m.)
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (arrived at 9:34 a.m.)

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst (back up)
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

County of Maui Office of Recovery:

Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area, Office of Recovery at
Lahaina Gateway

ADMIN.: Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management
Maria Zielinski, Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Jolie Jenkins, Program Manager, Community Development Block Grant
Guy Hironaka, Real Property Manager, Department of Finance
Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel

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

February 18, 2025

OTHERS: Sean Tierney, Partner, Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP (Item 23)
Curt de Crinis, Managing Director, Columbia Capital Management, LLC (Item 23)
Henry Maio (Item 22)
Kaniloa Kamaunu (Item 22)
Lala Johnson (Item 22)
Kainoa Hopfe (Item 22)
Others (17)

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . (missing audio) and I'd like to welcome everybody to this online meeting. As you know, it's being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And as a...as a reminder, when your name is called, please tell us who is with you in your workspace, and minors do not need to be identified. So, I'm going to start off with our Committee Vice-Chair Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair and mabuhay --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- is the greeting for today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mabuhay. Okay. Next, we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Chair. Dahil sa'yo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good when we can all laugh, yeah, to start off. Okay, Tamara...Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mālō e leilei, and aloha kakahiaka, kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mālō e leilei. And Member Johnson.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Yeah, we have a lot of work to do. Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good morning. Aloha kakahiaka kākou, mai Moloka'i Nui a Hina. I'm at my private residence with an unnamed minor who has Teacher's Institute Day, so she's home from school. And there are currently no testifiers at the Moloka'i District Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, how nice. Next, we have Member Cook.

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair and all, and looking forward to today's meeting. I'm told that there's no testifiers in the Kihei District Office currently.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Cook. Member U'u-Hodgins called to say that she'll be a little late. There was a three-car accident, and her car was in...second car right after the accident. So, it delayed her --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- from getting in. I hope everybody is safe. I think she told me her...her...her children gave snacks to the children that were involved in the accident. How sweet. But she'll be here eventually. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Chair and mabuhay, na imbug nga alding. Here at the Hāna District Office, and I'm here with District Staff member Dawn Lono, and there are no testifiers, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Welcome, everybody. From the...we have full Staff here for our bills. Of course, our--I don't if I want to say favorite, but I like it when we see Josiah Nishita here--Managing Director. Welcome, Managing Director. I think we're going to have you here in perpetuity for today. I appreciate you being here. Office of the Mayor, Leslie Milner, Budget Director. We also have Jolie Jenkins, which is, she...she's in the audience, CDBG Program Manager. And I think our office will contact you once it's going to be your turn, so you don't have to sit here the whole time—that's the third item on our agenda--brand-new CDBG Program Manager. Department of Finance, we have Director Marcy Martin. Nice to see you here. Maria Zielinski, Deputy Director of Finance...Maria. And Corporation Counsel, is it Yukari--thank you--Murakami? Nice to see you here. Other resources for Bill 15 and 17 are the County's Bond Counsel, Sean Tierney, from...Partner of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP; and the County's Municipal Advisor, which is Curt de Crinis, Managing Director, Columbia Capital Management, LLC. So, I would like to designate them as resources, Members, with your permission --

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- thank you--under Rule 18A. Now, our Staff. So, thank you very much for working hard on this agenda, Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk; Peter Hanano, thank you very much, Legislative Attorney; I think I also see here Richelle Kawasaki, who's our Deputy OCS Director, as well as Legislative Attorney; Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; and Pauline Martins, which is Senior Committee Secretary. Thank you very much for working hard on this. Yesterday, we met with Kirsten to go over Bill 16 and 17, so thank you very much for all your extra work, Kirsten. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. And Members, for...thank you very much for attending today's meeting. We have very important items on our agenda. I'm going to be focusing on the first item--first two--which is Bill 15 and 17, Amending Fiscal Year

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

February 18, 2025

'25 Budget: Estimated Revenues; Department of Finance (Countywide Costs) and County...and Capital Improvement Projects (Department of Management, Countywide); and Bill 17, Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget: General Budget Provisions, Section 18(A). The next item is Bill 18 [sic], Amending the Fiscal Year '25 Budget: Appendix A, Part II, Open Space, Natural Space...Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Presentation...Preservation Fund; and Reso 25-53, Authorization for the Acquisition of Real Property Located at 104A Lower Waiehu Beach Road in Wailuku. And that relates to Bill 8. And the last item on the agenda is...is Bill 116, Amending Chapter 3.36, Maui County Code, relating to the Maui County Grants Program, and Chapter 3.40, Maui County Code, relating to Concessions Awards and Rentals of [sic] Lease of County Property. So, those are the items on our agenda. Do we have testifiers?

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. SZABO: Chair, at this time, there are no testifiers --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. SZABO: -- signed up to testify.

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

ITEM 23: BILL 15 (2025), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET: ESTIMATED REVENUES; DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (COUNTYWIDE COSTS) AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, COUNTYWIDE); AND BILL 17 (2025), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET: GENERAL BUDGET PROVISIONS, SECTION 18 (A)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Members. So, we're not having any testifiers at the beginning of the meeting. We will be taking testimony before we get into each item. So, at this time then, let's get into the critical part of our work. Members, Bill 15 and 17 are important as we move forward with all the things happening in our...in our County. And I have said that even if this takes three hours--the whole meeting--to get all your questions answered so that we can come with a good decision, I'm willing to do that because I think it's this important. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just a point of information, you meant Bill 15 and Bill 116, which is BFED-17?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no, I meant 17...Bill 17.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't have a Bill 17 on my Granicus.

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. It is number 3 in Granicus, I think, unless...if the numbers changed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mine one says Bill 116, which is BFED 17.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hang on. Let me look. Bill 17 is the bill that the Administration submitted, raising the bond limit to 250 million. So, Members, do you not have it?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Huh? Okay. I'm looking. I'm opening it. I understand my...my Granicus number's...yeah. So, I have Granicus 1 is Bill 15. Granicus 2 is transmittal of budget, that's dated January 30th, the transmittal letter. And then number 3 is Bill 17. Do you have it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's...it's under...Ms. Szabo just showed me. It's under the same item as Bill 15. That is...that...that's okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I actually have it under second item, which is --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For...for me --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hanano, is that correct?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- it's in Granicus --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Huh?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- under Bill 15.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: My Granicus says Bill 17, under 3.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. Yes. So, both Bill 17 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What?

MR. KRUEGER: -- Bill 15 and Bill 17 are under the first item on...on Granicus, BFED-23. They...they're part of the same item.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you for the clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, it's listed together, or it's...and...and the third item? Oh. I see what you're saying, based on the agenda. Okay. So, do you have it? Now you have it? It really is Bill 17.

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Now I have it. I clicked on meeting details and it's...it's the third item under Bill 15.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. All right. So, Members, we're going to be taking up the first item on our agenda, which is Bill 15 (2025) and Bill 17 (2025). Section 18(A) of the Fiscal Year '25 Budget limits the maximum aggregate amount of unreimbursed transfers and loans from County Funds to the Bond Fund, or the Housing Interim Financing and Buy-Back Revolving Fund for \$100 million. So, if you all remember, we did that during Budget Session. The Administration has indicated to us that they are very close to the 100 million cap, bond cap. Got that? They are close to the 100 million bond cap. Members, if you recall, the passage of Fiscal Year '25 Budget, the cap was increased from 55 million to 100 million during Budget. Also, please note that the County's last bond issuance was in September 2022. Further, because they are approaching the cap within six months to go before the anticipated issuing of bond, the Administration has proposed two bills to resolve the issue. Bill 15 (2025) would resolve the issue by recognizing 51,000 [sic]...\$51,814,799 in Carryover/Savings from the General Fund, and using it in exchange to...to change the funding source of current and previous year capital improvement projects away from the Bond Fund. So, they want to convert that amount--which was in bond, to cash, basically--so that they'll have usable cash to proceed. But we should let them explain it. Alternatively, Bill 17, also proposed by the Administration, would address the issue by raising the 100 million ceiling to 250 million for the bond cap. The issues can be resolved through either bill, so let's discuss the merits and consequences of both bills. Assisting us with our discussion today is Budget Director Milner, Director of Finance Martin, Deputy Director of Finance Zielinski, as well as we see here our Managing Director Josiah Nishita, and we also have our resources that I mentioned earlier. So, who would like to do the opening comments to talk about both bills?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Chair. Aloha, Members. Thank you for allowing us to be here today. And thank you very much, Chair, for kind of expediting and scheduling this important matter and kind of outlining to the Members, you know, the important nature of our discussion today. Happy to open us off here. You know, what the Chair said is correct. Ultimately, the two bills before you, it's...you know, look at it as kind of like, an either/or approach. We don't need to pass both pieces of legislation, it's kind of in a couple different options for the Council to consider. The main essence of both of them is being able to allow us to continue doing CIP projects, moving forward until we're able to get off a bond issuance, and then be able to reimburse some of the cash proceeds that we've been able to use during this time. The main pros and cons, I guess I would say, just at a very high level with both approaches, the...well, obviously the...the pro to both approaches, allowing us to continue to do CIP projects. And so, I think that is what we need to continue to move forward with, especially in the recovery of Lāhainā. The...I think when the Council last took up this measure--a similar measure to increase the cap--you know, I think that there was a lot of, you know, good discussion around it. And so, we want to make sure to provide different options for the...the Council to consider. The cash bill, I think it was Bill 15, essentially converting bond projects to cash to help us meet our obligations--and...and we'll go through a lot of the more

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

February 18, 2025

intricate details later during the question-and-answer period--but ultimately, the...the main con with that is, we'd have, you know, less available cash for the next fiscal year to be able to use for, you know, projects, and programs, and whatnot that we're going to need to be able to do that may not be able to be...may not be bond-eligible. The other approach, in terms of increasing the cap, would allow us to keep our cash in, you know, our Carryover/Savings that we're anticipating to be able to carry it over into the next year, and then to be able to use it for nonbond-eligible projects, as well as all the recovery efforts and other County operations that we have ongoing. That would, you know, require the Council to allow us additional flexibility, to be able to continue borrowing off of our cash reserves until a bond issuance can be done. I think one of the main questions I'm assuming Council has regarding this is, why have we waited to this point to do a...a general bond obligation issuance? Because, you know, once we do the issuance, we're able to kind of rectify a lot of the issues, and then be able to proceed forward. And I think my main response to that is, you know, there...there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding this, and when we deal with bond-rating agencies, as well as potential investors, we want to make sure that we're reducing the amount of uncertainty around a bond issuance that will reduce the overall, kind of, perception of risk that the County has, and also provide us more favorable outcomes in terms of interest rates that we'll have to pay. So, as you can imagine, in the immediate aftermath of the...of the wildfire--and we really appreciate Council increasing the cap previously--there was a lot of uncertainty in the marketplace, right? Downturn...potential downturn in the economy, outstanding litigation, you know, things of that nature, and then how...how's the County going to be able to pay for a lot of the projects that are...are coming up, as well as what other sources of funding may be available? So, what, you know, I've communicated to the team that we've been trying to do is really get to this point where...and we're going to work as hard as we can to get everything prepared as quickly as we can in the event that there's any changes at the Federal Government. I know there's a lot of concerns about that, especially on tax-exempt bond status, and...and things of that nature. And AGCO's been advocating for that for a long time. And so, we want to be able to be prepared in case, you know, anything happens at the Federal level. But, you know, a realistic time frame for us is in that kind of August time frame. And we'll do our best to...to be ready earlier if needed. The...the...the major points that we're able to--I guess if you want to say--accomplish to reduce a significant level of uncertainty around the County is obviously, you know, the economic drivers for the County coming back during this time, the amount of State and Federal funding that has been allocated to the County, as well as the reduction in uncertainties and risk to the County as it relates to ongoing litigation. And I think you folks have seen recently in the news, especially the Hawai'i Supreme Court most recent ruling regarding that as it related to the insurers of the different parties. So, those major factors, in addition to the announcement of Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding, the CDBG-DR Funding now available to the County, the public assistance programs that we've been going through and getting reimbursements back to the County for damage that has occurred, and being able to pay for additional recovery projects, and then the work that took place with our Congressional delegation and EPA counterparts to obtain State Revolving Funds through our Congressional action down to the State. And we're working with the State right now on those additional monies. During that time period too, we were also able to work with FEMA and get a lot of programs covered through FEMA, as well as

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

February 18, 2025

through mission assignments directly to other Federal agencies. So, the...the whole message that we'll be able to provide at this point, that we were not able to provide previously--if we were to do a bond issuance previously--is a significant reduction in the level of uncertainty and/or risk surrounding the County and our financial situation, as well as a plethora of additional Federal funding sources coming in to help the recovery efforts, as well as the economic recovery efforts. So, it does put us in a significantly better position when we go before the bond-rating agencies and to potential investors in selling our bonds, in terms of the financial strength and resiliency of the County, which translates into, you know, potentially lower interest rates and lower long-term spending on debt service for the County. So, Chair, I'm sure we'll get into a lot of questions, but I...I just wanted to provide that overview as to kind of where we are, and I'll turn it over to our Budget Director if she has anything additional to add. Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Managing Director. That was an excellent overview. I...I think the only thing that I might add is that for Bill 15, that bill would provide a reduction in a little under 32 million from the cap. So, I just...I just wanted to clarify that. It wouldn't be a \$51 million reduction in the cap because we needed to move the entirety of some of those projects that haven't been fully expended yet. And also, we are proposing to move 18 million from the FY '25 Budget that hasn't been expended or encumbered yet for projects that are related to wildfire recovery that we anticipate to move forward this year. So, just in terms of the loan transfer cap, it would just reduce it by a little under 32 million, not the full 51.8. So, I just wanted to make that point. And happy to be here to answer any additional questions Members have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Finance Director, Deputy Director; you have anything you want to add?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is it okay to clarify with Ms. Milner that that would put us at 65 million then, for Bill 15?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Around, roughly?

MS. MILNER: Yes, thank you. Yes, it would be approximately 64.9 million.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I just wasn't sure I understood what you were saying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions for Ms. Milner? None. Please proceed, Finance.

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

February 18, 2025

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. So, the Finance Department supports Bill 15 and 17, and we are here to serve as a reference.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: If I may add, just to...to clarify or...or to underscore what Budget Director indicated. With regard to Bill 15, that actually will be utilizing Carryover/Savings. So, it's not just the cash, of course. So, you know...and that would be, of course, the 51.715, I believe. So, it's a...it's a significant reduction in Carryover/Savings, so just a consideration. And I believe we have it in our...our response to you that, you know, that would knock...it would knock it down to about 64.910 versus the 121 that we have. So, just...just a clarification. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Staff, can you figure out what Granicus item number that was for their response, just for the Members' information, James, or Kirsten? Mr. Tierney or Mr. de Crinis, do you have anything to add? Oh. Is the mic on? Oh.

MR. DE CRINIS: No. I think Mr. Nishita covered it very well. So, I don't really have anything more to add to that, to what he presented.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Tierney?

MR. TIERNEY: Yeah. Same here. I thought the analysis of the factors regarding the bond issue are right on point. And so, I agree with all that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Sorry, Chair. And I just wanted to make it clear to at least where my position is on the...the two bills. We'll obviously support, you know, whatever Council wants, and we can talk through if there's clarification, or amendments, or things like that needed. But ultimately, I...I...my personal opinion is, I do believe it's best for the County to increase the bond cap as opposed to utilizing Carryover/Savings. But we can talk about that further, but I...I forgot to just clarify that in my opening remarks, that I...I do believe an increase in the cap would be the best option. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're recommending Bill 17, Mr. Nishita?

MR. NISHITA: Ultimately, we need to be able to keep moving with capital improvement projects. So...well, my personal opinion is that we should increase the cap so that the Council can maintain, and the Administration can maintain flexibility in terms of what we're going to have to finance in the next year with our cash reserves. I...I think that that's in the best interest of the County long-term. And then the specific details of how we get there, I think, you know, we can talk about what the Council may be comfortable with. But that...that would be my personal recommendation. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ms. Paltin...Member Paltin.

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just one clarification on what Mr. Nishita just said. I thought he said somewhere in there about amendments, but is this a kind of bill that the Council can amend outside of Budget, or we're just discuss what sort of amendment we want, and then you see if that's what you want to propose?

MR. NISHITA: Thanks, Chair. I guess I'm not 100 percent sure on the budget provisions, but generally, with the budget requests, it's an up or down vote from you folks. And so, I mean, obviously we're putting forward what our...you know, the Administration's recommendations are, and if Council chooses to...you know, that you don't like any of the recommendations, then we'll have to come back to you with additional ones. And we can talk about that here today. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just for your information, Members, in case you want to look, what the Finance Department said is Granicus item number 9. And the reason I had to check with Staff is because over the weekend, the numbers changed from what I had because we added the County...yeah, the County communication into it. So, it's item number 9 in Granicus if you want to check what was communicated.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify, too, that the two bills are under one BFED because we're not supposed to pass both of them, we're supposed to choose one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to pass one or the other.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Up to the Members, but...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All right, got it. But there's no request to pass both of them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Unless if you want to. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't want to. Thank you. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we're all singing the same song. But Member U'u-Hodgins, thank you very much for helping those people on Haleakala Highway. I...I saw that also. Welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. Everyone's okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good.

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I think the...the saddest part is the kids are pretty shaken up, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- luckily, everyone's okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I shared that you gave the kids snacks. That was very kind.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So sad. All right. So, welcome. You know, before we proceed, can...can Mr. Tierney and Mr. de Crinis, with your titles, explain what your role is in terms of how you help us with this situation? What is your role as Bond Counsel, and...

MR. DE CRINIS: Okay. I'll...I'll go first. This is Curt de Crinis, Columbia Capital Management. Our role as a municipal advisor is to advise cities and counties on their municipal finance matters relating to the issuance of bonds and incurrence of debt, which includes rating agency relationships, working to access the bond market through various underwriters whether it sells competitively or negotiated, and assist the County in processing the bond transactions. And that's...that's the role that we play, and that's what we were retained to do here for the County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Tierney?

MR. TIERNEY: Yes. Thank you. Yeah. My role is to be Bond Counsel. So, we're the lawyers that oversee the financing. So, we help the County with all legal matters relating to issuing bonds. We deliver an opinion to the investors that the bonds are legal, and tax-exempt, and we help the County develop the disclosure statement that goes to the investors. So, we're sort of here to oversee everything legal. We're experts in that area, been doing it over, you know, 100 years, and...and worked with the County quite a bit. Yeah. I know I don't look quite that old, but --

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

MR. TIERNEY: -- but it's true. So, yeah. That's our role.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Thank you for clarifying that so we know who to ask what questions to. Do we have any...any...that's all, right? You all...Administration has said whatever you needed to say? So, do we have any testifiers?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. There is an individual signed up to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, my sheet for testifiers. So, at this time, then, we're going to take public testimony. Is it online? Okay, so it is not anybody that is in the audience. So, you will have three minutes to testify and 30 seconds to finalize, in case you have any more comments. And you can sign up in...in the lobby if you would like to sign up

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

February 18, 2025

or else online, Teams link, and we will call you in the order that you have signed up. Under Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and at the...as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star-5 to raise and lower your hand, star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers signed up and...and raised their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand, once your hand is...when your name is added. Staff will then call the name you are logged in under, the last four...the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff; otherwise we will state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and beyond that you will be given 30 seconds if you need to complete. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you may also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We do...we'll do our best to take each person in an orderly fashion. And so, we will now call up testifiers. Thank you very much, Staff.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ITEM 23 . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's one person signed up to testify. We're proceeding with testimony on Bills 15 and 17. The individual signed up to testify is Henry Maio. Mr. Maio, are you here to testify on Bill 15 and Bill 17?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. JOHNSON: I would like to testify for Bill 8.

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you. We'll put your name down for that item. Chair, there's currently no other individuals signed up to testify for Bill 15 and Bill 17, so we'll do a last...last call. If there is anybody who would like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise hand function. We'll do a countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has signed up to testify for this item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, so, at this time, I'm going to close public testimony on Bill 15, 17 with your permission, and we'll take written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ITEM 23 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And I'm going to be allowing...or asking each of you if you have questions, three minutes, to ask any one of the Administration who are resources. And at this time, I would like to start off with Vice-Chair Kama. Do you have any questions?

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

February 18, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I wanted to talk about Bill 15. So, if...so, my understanding that...it's either one of the two bills we can go with, either one. It...it's not going to make any difference which one, it's just a choice that we get to make, right? So, if we go with Bill 15, what are we actually doing? And if we go with Bill 17, what are we actually doing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who would like to take that? Mr. Nishita? Oh.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. So, the Department of Finance did address this somewhat in their letter, but...so, Bill 15 will reduce our amount of Carryover/Savings by \$51.8 million, and that will use a portion to pay for projects that we were previously intending to bond and pay those with General Fund Carryover/Savings cash instead. And it will also move \$18 million of projects for Fiscal Year '25 under the Department of Management from the Bond Fund to the General Fund. Bill 17 amends the General Budget Provisions, Section 18(A), to increase the—we'll say ceiling--for loan transfers. It's currently 100 million, increase that to 250 million. And I just would like to say--I meant to say this during my opening comments, but all of the projects that will be paid for under that cap are projects that have already been authorized by the Council to be bond-funded. So, I just want to make that point. This is not a blank check for \$250 million.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: So, I just want to clarify that. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I like that answer. Yes.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. The only thing I did want to add is that, as Budget Director indicated, that will reduce the amount of the...the cap, what we have--not the cap--what we'll have spent to 44.921. So, we don't...we have some room, which is good because we need to have that ability to pay for additional CIP until we do our bond issuance. However, 44.9--which is, say, 45 million, right?--at the rate that...which CIP is moving--and...and Managing Director probably has a better sense as to, you know, the rate in which CIP is moving and the progress, it...my personal concern is that...my concern is that I want to make sure we have enough --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: In the --

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- until we get to June 30th --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- because we'll only get to 100 million, right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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

February 18, 2025

MS. ZIELINSKI: So, that's...that's the concern, whereas the other one gives us...Bill 17 gives us a little more freedom, a little more leeway. And I believe Managing Director indicated that as well. So, just...just...just an FYI. They both help us. But this one, I think...we don't...my concern is I don't...I don't want us to get into a bind during Budget Session. Then we're kind of...you know, we're...we're really in...we're really tight. So, that would be my . . .(timer sounds). . . that's just my personal opinion.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. That's very helpful. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, everyone, for being here. You know, it seems like that we are being rushed and, you know, is there any reason why all of this is coming down at one time, making a decision of this magnitude in one day? I mean...I mean, how much planning went into this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that Mr. Nishita?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair Sugimura, and Chair Lee. So, in regards to, I guess, why discuss it now is because--I think we relayed earlier--is the number 96 million we're at now? Somewhere around there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Close to 97 million.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. About \$97 million right now against that \$100 million threshold.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Let me stop you right there. So, wasn't somebody keeping track in our running total of...you know, when you're at 80 million, when you're at 90 mil...now you're at 97, 3 million below the cap? I mean, who is keeping track of all these things?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair, Director...Chair. We produce...Finance produces and...and we review the disbursements that are made for CIP. You know, we do cash disbursements. As of November 21, 2024--and this...this is actually in October, there's always a one-month lag, okay? So, in...at the end of November, the amount was 79.384. So, we were watching it. And, you know, we...we said, gee, we're...we're starting to get close. And we actually...at this point, we started to have discussions with Managing Director and Budget Director regarding moving something, doing something similar to what we're proposing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, you were aware of this in October?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Right, but we didn't--not October, November...end of November, okay? December, it was 83.9, okay? So, we were watching. We said, we really need to do this. And we started to do the paperwork on what needed to be done. And as Council knows, when we had that...the Von Tempsky purchase, that's kind of where we got to the point

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

February 18, 2025

where that would push us over. So, that was...that was our concern. We said, gee, we've got...we've got an issue. And that, of course, the Council --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: My point is that, to me, we did a little late. You know, you're up against the...the ceiling, and now you need a decision.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, let me see. The other thing I...a couple other kind of disjointed questions. You know, I thought the...the Water Fund was a restricted fund, you know? Where...where's the one where you're taking revenues from the Water Department, you're transferring it...that one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it Ms. Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know which one I'm talking about?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. I don't believe we made any transfers from the Water Fund, but if we did make transfers from the Water Fund, it would only be for projects that were authorized for the...to be bond-funded under the Department of Water Supply. I believe our balance . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . for transfers under the Water Fund right now is zero.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. No, it's mentioned in one of the--I can't find it right now--but in one of the descriptions that...revenues from the Water Fund being transferred. So, I just...we've always considered Water to be restricted funds, yeah? So, my time is expired already?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Fast, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I'll wait for the next turn. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi, guys. Okay. So, I think my first question is--or clarification--the last bond float was September 2022. And from September 2022 until about today, we've encumbered or spent 97 million. So, on the Bill 17, I guess my question is, that's about...a little over two years to get to 97 million. Do we think that between now and August, when the anticipated next bond float is, we're going to spend or encumber another 150 million?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who can answer that? Director.

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director, sorry.

MR. NISHITA: No, that's okay. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. So, I think some factors to consider is, generally speaking--and I think this is for Council and Administration too—we're always trying to push the Departments to like spend their money, yeah, get the CIP going. So, generally, we have kind of almost the opposite thing occurring. It's like, you guys, come on. We got to like get these projects moving. With all of the recovery efforts and a lot of big-ticket items coming through, things are moving quickly, especially with, you know, emergency proclamations and other things in place that the rate of spending is a lot quicker than it typically is. The other thing to consider is, in 2023 there was a change of Administration, and then the wildfires occurred in August. A lot of traditional County functions had to kind of refocus our efforts back on, you know, the recovery and response efforts. So, you know, a lot of things kind of got, you know, stalled in that short term as we kind of diverted attention to take care of our residents. So, the rate of spending slowed as well during that time period. We also worked significantly with our Federal counterparts to get as much funding for projects that need to get done through them and through their funding sources, through mission assignments, and other functions. So, the amount that we had to expend was lower. As we're moving forward, and a lot of these designs are coming through, and studies, and whatnot where we can proceed forward, as well as there's a lot of things outlined in like the long-term recovery plan, as well as, you know, other things that the community has asked for that, you know, we are actively working on, such as like land acquisitions or other things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I guess part of my question is, in reconciling what is being asked for with Bill...Bill 17 and Bill 15, the one option would increase . . .(timer sounds). . . 32 million, and the other option would increase 150 million, which seems like 118 million apart.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So, I think as our Deputy Finance Director mentioned, it gives breathing room, but it's not necessarily like the end-all solution. I mean, we would hope that that would be able to take us through the end of the fiscal year. I think that would remain to be seen. We're obviously trying to hold onto as much cash as we're able to because we're going to need that in the next fiscal year. So, you know, it would entail, in the FY '26 request, if Council chose to go through that route. Ultimately, we need to make sure that we're covering whatever would be occurring from that July to August time period too, in terms of spending. But I wouldn't take Bill 15 as like that's...that's for sure going to solve the issue up until August. It's kind of a carryover measure to--yes, a stop-gap measure, that's a good way to put it--with trying to preserve as much cash as we can utilizing that approach.

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think my bell rang, but for the next round, I would be asking how do you convert money that was already spent as a bond to cash. Like, how...how...do we go back in time? If you have a time travel machine, let me know.

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

MR. NISHITA: Well, I don't know. Chair, do you want to wait for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Okay, well --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Three minutes is --

MR. NISHITA: I think --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- too short.

MR. NISHITA: -- I think ultimately, maybe this would be a good point for maybe either Sean or Curt to talk about in regards to the...the time period we're allowed to borrow. I think...I've heard from not just them, I think, but from others too, the...generally, it's kind of almost the opposite, I think, for most communities is that like they don't have the cash to be able to...to do this type of approach. I think most other communities have to bond like ahead of projects even occurring to float the money to...to be able to make it happen. So, it...it is a little unique in that sense based on the financial position of the County. But maybe you guys can talk a little bit too, about the time periods before it changes to like a nontax-exempt, you...you know, for CIP that goes into service, or from the date of approval.

MS. MILNER: Sorry. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. One thing I want to clarify is the money that we're moving from bond to cash...we haven't expended bond funds. We've only expended cash. We've fronted ourselves the money. So, we haven't expended bond funds yet on those projects. So, I just wanted to make that clarification before . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: And --

MS. MILNER: Thank you.

MR. NISHITA: -- Chair, ultimately what would happen is we do the bond issuance—let's say it happens in August or whatever--it would essentially refund the County for the cash that was spent. So, we'd get that money back, and it would now be applied to those bond proceeds. But you guys can --

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And can I clarify what Ms. Milner was saying? Is it like encumbered with cash and then the bond was going to free up the cash?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah, the expenditures have currently been paid with cash. And so, when the bond comes in, that will free up that cash back to the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and that's the way we usually do it?

MS. MILNER: My understanding is that the way that we've done it in the past is, it's been a combination of reimbursement and projection over the next month-to-year that we've floated the bonds for, which is also what we're looking at for this bond float.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for that clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Oh, Mr. Tierney.

MR. TIERNEY: Just as a...oh, sorry, Sean Tierney here. As to the laws that...under the tax law, there's restrictions on both sides. One, as to reimbursement, you can go back 18 months from the completion of a project, but no more than 3 years. And looking forward, it's 85 percent--or you have to reasonably expect to spend 85 percent of the bond issue in three years. And it is true for most borrowers, they look to fund projects going forward. There may be some reimbursement for preliminary costs, and maybe in some cases whole projects, but most borrowers look forward because they want the funds available and on hand to be encumbered and available for the project. But there's pros and cons both ways.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mr. de Crinis, are you going to add to that?

MR. DE CRINIS: Yeah. I'll add to this. Curt de Crinis, Columbia Capital Management. In...in Maui, it has been the policy to advance--as you know, it was 55 million and it's up to 100 million--to advance General Fund money to be reimbursed from bonds later on. And as Sean had mentioned, that's normally not what most communities do because they don't have the resources a lot of times to do that. They will bond for their big projects, and the bond money then will...bond money will then be used to do the work. So, there really isn't a lot of reimbursement going on in...in that sense. So, you know, here, you know, for the reasons that have been talked about, the policy has been to advance money. And so, I think this is where the County finds itself right now is that you've already advanced almost 100 million, and there's a lot more projects that are still...need to be paid for before a bond issue can be put together. I suppose the alternative would have been that you would have bonded...issued bonds a year or two ago for the 100 million and you weren't doing reimbursement. But, you know, like you said, there's reasons, pro and con, for...for doing that. In as far as, I think, this bill goes, if the County moves forward in advances--you know, it goes to 250 million--that creates more flexibility for the County because then they won't...then...then when the bonds are issued, all that money will be reimbursed, and it will go back into the General

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

February 18, 2025

Fund. And, if...if...if it's not done, and the other bill is approved, then \$50-some million will...will be...you'll just be spending cash to do those projects. Then the question will be in your next budget year, do you need to then bond more projects to get that cash back in--you know...you know, in your next budget--so you maintain your same cash levels? So, that...that's sort of the other road you would go down if you, you know, went with the idea of, you know, just, you know, approving 50 million more in cash spending this year. So, I think...I think that's the reason why they are advocating increasing the cap. It just gives the County more flexibility.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Some of these responses are about three minutes, so I'm just going to read my questions and if you know, then we'll go --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- let me just get my questions on board. And I'm sorry if they are a little bit disjointed. But basically, the bond rating update. I know we had really good bond rating, A++, has...has it changed? Is there any future, you know, concerns, any expectations on our bond rating post-fire, post-COVID? Tax...tax-exempt bond status, I'd like to know is that under any threat with what's going on with the Feds, the tax-exempt bond status? Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding. Very interested to learn more about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding that Deputy Director Josiah Nishita mentioned--or Managing, I beg your pardon, Managing Director. The...can you use that to use...to do undergrounding power lines or hardening your...your communities post-disaster? And then, you know, it just keeps coming up that we have a lot of Carryover/Savings every budget. So, how do we reduce the Carryover/Savings? Is...what does it...what does that tell? Is there a sign? Is there...is there a reason why? I'd like to learn more about why we keep, have constantly Carryover...Carry...right. If it's tied to vacancies, I'm...let's have that discussion. And then, why does Maui County have so much cash on hand? Is...you know, we often think of like, we...we...we operate from a position of scarcity, and yet we have so much cash on hand. Why...why--you know, that's...that's...should influence our decision-making. And, you know, the...the Feds are...are start...throwing us money. And I guess they're throwing us the ball, but can we catch it? That's what I wrote down is, do we have the capacity? Do we have the grant writers? Do we have the people to accept the...the Federal monies? Because they can say, here's Federal monies for your community. And if we don't apply, we don't get. So, if they throw us the ball, can we catch? Those are my questions. And I think if we can start with the bond question. Is any...what's the bond rating? Has it changed? Any threats to our bond rating?

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

MR. DE CRINIS: Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. The current ratings are Moody's Aa2, Standard & Poor's AA+, Fitch AA+. And those ratings were recently affirmed post-fire. So, as far as the...all three bond-rating agencies, you know, they really...there really hasn't been much of a change. The...the...the Moody's was Aa1, so there's a slight

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

February 18, 2025

downgrade--I think it was about six or eight months ago, maybe a year ago. So, I think...but there hasn't been another bond issuance since then either. But they do do surveillance, and they do look at the financials every couple of years. And if there's a reason to...to downgrade a...they do do that, but they have not. And I think with this bond issue coming up, depending--you know, its...depending on its size, which may be . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . significant--there...there may be...you know, we'll have to see what sort of response, and what the...how the rating agencies view the County's financials at that point. And...and part of that feeds into a little bit of this discussion is--you know, to put it simply, the more cash in the bank, the more flexibil...financial flexibility exists, and the less pressure there is on the rating side to push through--you know, have a reason to knock the rating down from AA+ to AA. I don't think there's much of a risk of the County having a big rating downgrade.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DE CRINIS: But could the County get downgraded half a step from AA? Moody's did it. Is S&P or Fitch, are they going to go AA+, AA? You know, we don't know. Hopefully not, but it's...you know, it's certainly, you know, possible.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. DE CRINIS: But the...so...so, you know, the more cash, the stronger the balance sheet. You know, the, you know, the financial picture revenue-wise is...is still pretty good. There hasn't...you look at the financials, you don't really see a big change in financial position on the...on the tax receipt side because of the fires. And there's a lot of money coming into the County from various grants, and Federal Government, and so forth. So, we don't really anticipate there being a...much of a rating change, you know, unless--of course, if cash goes way down, then that starts raising issues and debt service goes way up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. DE CRINIS: You know, then that starts creating those tensions. And then, you know, it's not the end of the world, but it's...it's a balancing act because then you're going to pay more interest, you know, if rates are higher. So, that's my comment on the rating situation.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. TIERNEY: On the...on the tax exemption, the...the tax exemption is a Federal subsidy. So, your bonds, when they're tax-exempt, and that...you get a lower rate, investors don't pay any taxes on it. So, that results in less revenue to the Federal Government. So, by the end of the year, the tax cuts that went in 2017 are going to expire. They're almost for sure going to be extended. So, they're looking to offset those continued reductions in revenue and deficits with sources. So, tax-exempt bonds is definitely a source, and it...it's been discussed. It's not been specifically proposed yet, but people are thinking that it's more likely a likely source. There's really two big buckets of tax-exempt bonds.

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

February 18, 2025

There's what are called private activity bonds, which are hospitals, private schools, universities, all kinds of housing, affordable housing. So, that's one big bucket of tax-exempt finance. The other big bucket is Government tax-exempt finance, or municipal finance, which is where Maui is.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. TIERNEY: And that's a...a bigger source, but people are thinking the private activity bonds may be more vulnerable because it's for various political reasons.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's what I suspected, but --

MR. TIERNEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. TIERNEY: So, that's kind of the situation and it's...there's a lot of uncertainty. It's not been specifically proposed, but they have this blueprint where they're going to be looking for offsets.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. DE CRINIS: Let...let me add one thing to Sean's comments. Even if, you know, they do eliminate tax-exempt financing in the next tax bill for some reason, for general Government financing that would affect Maui, you know, that's...it's an interest rate issue. Because if the interest isn't taxable, the rate is...is higher. It doesn't mean the County won't have access to the bond market.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DE CRINIS: Right? It just --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We'll just end up paying more.

MR. DE CRINIS: -- right. And probably the bonds will still be tax-exempt if you are a Hawai'i resident, there'll still be a benefit of buying it. But, you know, there...there's a very active market in taxable municipal bonds already, and many issuers issue taxable municipal bonds, such as the City and County of Honolulu does that, and issuers on the mainland do that. So, I mean, there...that...that...that...that's a big market already.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DE CRINIS: So...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh. Mr. Nishita has something to say?

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Just clarification on the Moody's rating. I...I think it was in 2022--it was definitely pre-fire--I believe it was in December 2022, or maybe a little bit prior to that, that the County of Maui was downgraded from Aa1, I believe, to Aa2. And then that was primarily...I believe the two main drivers for that, although they had a couple different reasons was, of course, you know, reliance on tourism and that kind of thing as economic drivers, and then also on how like...like the pension and other post-employment benefits, the way it's kind of shown as like liabilities in relation to the County. There's a couple other factors that I'm not remembering at the moment, but I believe those were kind of some of the more higher drivers. But I...I believe they kind of, in the past few years, maybe five years or so, I believe Moody's has downgraded a significant amount of communities based on kind of a new methodology on how they're kind of calculating like the risk profile. In terms of the tax-exempt bond status, I think that...the only other thing...other thing I was going to add was yeah, other communities do do taxable bonds. Generally, I think for those, it...it comes down to like qualifications, like what can be qualified as a...a project for a...a tax-exempt bond issuance. And so, generally, for those types of projects that wouldn't qualify, instead of doing like a taxable bond because it costs a lot more, we'll utilize like cash or something like that to...to do that. You did have a question on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding. We did apply for, I believe it was around 800 to \$900 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding. The way it works out is, when a disaster occurs, FEMA comes in, and then there's some initial assessments as to what public assistance will be provided. And I know Chair and I had a conversation about this, and I think it probably would be good to just help clarify for everybody about the different buckets of funding, and what they mean, and...and what's available. But those are two big buckets is the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds. But the...what...you know, when they assess a disaster about how much damage is eligible for the public assistance, a percentage of that becomes available to the State for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. So...so, basically, you know, FEMA's coming in to help kind of like stabilize the situation, but they have a program to be like, hey, let's give you guys some more money so that you can mitigate future disasters from happening. We don't want to just keep coming in and just...after a disaster, like go help prepare for the next one.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Build back better.

MR. NISHITA: Right. So, that's what the Hazard Mitigation Program is essentially. That funding gets allocated as a percentage of what the overall public assistance is to a particular jurisdiction or the State. And then that funding, the Hazard Mitigation Funding, goes to the State for...for an allocation. So, roughly, the State is getting about \$357 million. That number could change, but it's going to be around that number. The...we applied initially, like I said, for about 800 to \$900 million of projects. They came back to us and basically said, okay, we're going to cut some that we just, you know, don't...maybe it's not the greatest project, or we want something different, or we have a different priority, or whatever the case is, cut us back to about 400-something to \$500 million, somewhere around there, of projects that then we're doing the applications for with them. They're deciding this month essentially what projects they're going to forward on. We did receive one notification, formal notification, already of

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

February 18, 2025

\$32 million for Emergency Generator Project. The other ones may be in jeopardy for us. So, it's something that, you know, we've briefly talked to the Chair about, and something that may come before the Council. But what the State decides to do with the remaining funds...generally speaking, what...what happens is that the majority of the funding available in Hazard Mitigation Funds goes to the community that was impacted. So, while it's eligible Statewide, they will make, generally speaking, the majority of that funding available to the community that was impacted. And then there may be smaller projects in other communities that also receive funding as well. And...and I think that's...that's where, you know, there may be some concern on...as to whether Maui County and/or the Lāhainā community will receive a majority of this Hazard Mitigation Funding. Your specific question was, is undergrounding power lines an eligible activity? And the...the answer is, it could be. It kind of depends on how that's scoped out. The...what was relayed to us from the State, on terms of their priorities for the Hazard Mitigation Funding, was essentially critical infrastructure and protection of critical infrastructure. So, when we came to you guys and talked a little bit about this a while ago, I know we named some projects that was on the priority list. And the priority list was identified. It included like moving some, you know, wastewater pump stations and, you know, things like that. It's because we're trying to fit all of our needs into what the State is defining as their top priority for the use of this money.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: It's also why we advocated so strongly, and we appreciate Council's support, for getting the CDBG-DR Funding directly to the County of Maui --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- so that we don't have to go through this with another entity, determining what the County's needs and/or priorities are. We can handle that at the local level. The HMGP Funding does come to the State, and like I said, we got one notification of award that we're going to be going through the process to give notification to Council and...and going through all that processes. But HIEMA, who runs it, will have to submit their...essentially what they are approving to FEMA, and then work through FEMA to potentially get approval for what they're trying to do. Whether that means that, you know, they're funding the County only \$32 million, or whether, you know, they're...they're trying to fund other projects in other communities, that will have to go through FEMA, and then get approval. And that timeline will probably take them out through about like August to September before funding would actually become available. So, I...I believe now that I'm talking through it, I think our...our last discussion was we're going to include that 32 million I think in the FY '26 request for the Hazard Mitigation Funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I'm going to pause --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Go to round two.

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- because Gabe Johnson was so smart, he added six questions, which is taking longer than the three minutes. So, Member Johnson, I hope you don't mind, I'm going to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Of course. I didn't expect you guys to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Everybody to continue asking --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- do them all. I just wanted to get them on record. But thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Well done. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And mahalo for that...all those responses. I...I didn't mind you folks going longer because I think it went in more depth than the opening remarks. So, I think that's really helpful for our...our understanding, and for the public's understanding. Mahalo for transmitting the preliminary report on temporary transfers and loans. That's been really helpful to understand how...what projects are listed for...for bonding all in one place, and to see, you know, what...what makes up the \$96 million that we're currently capped under. So, I see that the Council appropriated 440 million--at least that's what the report is showing if I understand it correctly--and then there's projects like the Ha'ikū Fire Station for 14 million. I...I haven't heard anything more about any...if...so are projects like that like going to move forward? Because...any information on that, I guess. Like...so, there's like projects in there...like that's a...that's one of the bigger ones that I pulled out. But there's a few of them that may not be like ready to go, and ready to encumber the...or get bonded. So, do projects like that then, at the end of this year, drop off this list tallying the 440 million?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. If the Department does not encumber the funds by--let's say we're talking about FY '24 funds--so, if the funds have not been encumbered by December 2024, then they will fall off the list. I would add that we do talk to the departments. As was stated earlier, you know, there's that...they want to have things expended in three years if possible, so we try and work with the departments to make sure they fall into that. And I know there have been some delays with the Ha'ikū Fire Station due to different reports that need to be issued, and things like that. So, I believe that project is still moving forward, but we may need to put the funds in a future fiscal year budget because I don't believe they were able to encumber the funds this year. But I will have to check with Chief Ventura.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. So, of the projects that tally the 96 million, are any of them...or, yeah...are any of them eligible for reimbursement by non-County funds--so Federal, State? And approximately how much, if so? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Percentage.

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: The --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I'm sorry. I don't have the...the numbers in front of me right now. But what I would say is, the only reimbursable ones, I guess, that was on the bond-funded authorization would be ones from last Budget Session, and it would be those bond-funded projects. So, I know...like one of them, for example, was the...like Fire Flow Improvements in Lāhainā. I think it was like 8 to \$10 million, something like that, that Council authorized in bond funds. And so, that one specifically, the preliminary studies and everything were done, and they're looking to try to go to bid out in about two months here. And so, there's those kind of projects that potentially could be reimbursable through like Public Assistance or some other Federal funding source. But it...it would be probably limited to those that Council approved in the FY '25 Budget that were recovery-related under Bond Funds. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Managing Director. Mahalo, Chair. I heard the buzzer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you...thank you, Chair. I have a couple of questions, the first one hopefully a very brief answer. Is the GE half-percent a restricted fund?

MR. NISHITA: I don't know how to give a brief answer because I don't know what you mean by restricted.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's...it's supposed...my understanding is, we gave auth...we were given authorization to utilize it for infrastructure --

MR. NISHITA: Housing-related infrastructure?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- for wastewater and for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Water.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- water development, but not for highways.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. The roads cannot be utilized, but waste disposal is also a part of the eligible uses. But generally speaking, its water and wastewater projects.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I'm...it just...it strikes me as just sort of a hybrid fund that it has some limitations. It's not like the Water Department, it's not like Environmental Management, but we can't use it for just anything. So, it'd be great if you could give the Council a little education eventually--not now--of how that particular fund's working. Because I see it listed just as a line item as far as a revenue source, and I'm curious about the availability of that revenue source to what degree. My question two is like

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

February 18, 2025

a...for a \$250 million ceiling for our bond ability. When we're bonding projects, is that basically going to be...is it an aggregate? You're going to do a wastewater plan for \$20 million. You're going to do a water development for \$7 million. So, accumulatively, these are adding up. What's happening--what I hear--our unique situation, because we have the liquidity, that some of the things we have started and will be reimbursing on. So, could we get a list eventually of the status of our CIP projects? What's being funded by cash, what's being funded by bonding, and the status of them?

MR. NISHITA: The...yeah. Yeah, no. Definitely. And maybe...if the Committee can put that in writing. But Chair, I believe you guys sent us a request on like Thursday, and we had to request an extension because we couldn't turn it around in one day.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: But...but anyway, yeah. We...we'd be happy to try to pull some things together for you folks.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And for my benefit, if you could kind of...if there was a...sort of like a Gantt chart, or a graph or something, instead of just a spreadsheet with a bunch of numbers, it would help. It would help for visualization, and to basically have it make...you know, make more sense.

MR. NISHITA: And, Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- if I can...if I can just add on the GET side. So, unfortunately, what's happening again, as it did last year is, you know, we did ask the State for funding last year. Unfortunately, that funding did not come through, and so we did have to finance a lot of the recovery-related projects through GET. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . They...I don't want to say the same thing is happening again, but we have different buckets of money that was allocated for wildfire recovery efforts and resiliency efforts, and those funding sources sit at the State again. So, this Hazard Mitigation Funding, as well as the State Revolving Funds of about \$350 million. So, for us to be able to plan accordingly--like we're probably on like Plan 17 now because they keep, you know, changing what they, you know, may be willing to do or not willing to do--and so, we are working with them but, you know, we do need that more level of certainty so that we can plan out, especially as it relates to like, you know, other...other areas of our community that are in need too, just in terms of how we can utilize the GET Funding to be able to, you know, spur on additional housing availability for our residents.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I...I don't have any problem with the flexibility, I would just ask that the Administration and the Council work together so that we have visibility of that flexibility. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. So, we will send a letter to Administration regarding that. So, you want to know how the GET Funds are being used, right? Okay.

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: Well, and...and Chair, I think he also asked for a breakdown --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

MR. NISHITA: -- of like cash projects, the bond projects, and then kind of the status.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We got that.

MR. NISHITA: And you can send that to Finance.

COUNCILMEMBERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: I'm just kidding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . We figure --

MR. NISHITA: I have enough transmittal letters to go through. I'm just kidding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We figure --

MR. NISHITA: I'll help out however we can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We figure Management, and you distribute to everybody.
Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. And I apologize if you guys had said this in the beginning and I wasn't here. So, sorry. But can you please talk it through how you guys decided on a 250 million bond ceiling? And what's our plans, and how do we plan to spend nearly 85 percent of all of that money potentially in the next three years?

MR. NISHITA: Well, Chair, I'll defer to Finance to open on the...the selection of the number, but these are already authorized projects. So, the...the...that limitation is on what makes it, I guess, continue to remain tax-exempt. So...so, when Sean was talking about that like 3-year, 18-month --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- time periods --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- that's more so in terms of like the...the bond funds need to go to that project within that...that time period --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: -- or else it could be taxable. So, it's less on kind of the borrowing between the General Fund and our reserves as it is to the tax-exempt status --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- of those projects. But Maria or Marcy, if you want to elaborate on that.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. Yes, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hello.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Basically, just to kind of give you a little history is that we didn't issue bonds...we issued bonds last September of 2022. As of June 30th of 2024, we had reached just about 55 million, which are...which was our cap at the...at the--well, the cap was right before. We changed it to 100, but as of June 30th, it was not...it was still at 55...so 55 million, June 30 of 2024. By December of this...of 2024, we had already reached almost 100 million. We were in the 90's, and right now we're at 96.7 --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- or something like that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MS. ZIELINSKI: So, the...the putting it to 250 is subjective, somewhat arbitrary, but given that we've kind of already reached the...you know, the...the 100, we felt that--and with regard to...and one thing that Managing Director had indicated, and I think you missed it, was that the CIP projects now are really kind of moving very, very quickly. You know, they've gotten all of the preliminary work done, and they're coming a heck of a lot faster than we ever expected, to be quite honest with you. As I mentioned--I think you might have missed it--but we were only in the high 70's as of late November when we got our last report, and then it was 83 in December when we got it. So, we knew we had to do something. We were watching it, but then it just...it's kind of the rate at which CIP has...has...has progressed is just so...so significant, and...and at such a very fast pace. So, just to kind of be--as I say, it's highly subjective--but just to be safe, recognizing that you folks are going to be going into...we're all going to be going into the Budget Session, and we want to make sure we're good and we can pay our contractors for the CIP that's already been approved by the Council, of course, and authorized by the Council, is we thought 250 sounded like a...you know, a...a safe number. . . .(timer sounds). . . Let me use that as a...as a good answer, or a good term.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you.

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you for that. And now that you mention it, I do remember us raising the bond ceiling, but that means we increased our bond ceiling by about \$200,000 in less than year. That’s...I mean, I understand the reason why, we have Lāhainā, but that’s a lot of money really quickly. I would like to know how this is going to impact what our future finances look like, but I heard the bell, and I can wait.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Round two.

MR. NISHITA: Well, yeah. And Chair, if I...if I can just clarify too. This is projects that the Council’s already authorized. So, we’re not like authorizing additional projects, or money to be spent, or anything like that, it’s just...it’s the method of paying for it in the short-term. Basically is...what we’re talking about is, Council’s authorized all these projects, it’s good news that the projects are moving significantly faster than, I...I think, was originally anticipated. That means things are getting done out in the field, and people are being able to return home and whatnot, which is great. But it just means in the short-term now, we got to deal with this issue of, okay, how are we going to continue paying for this? Are we going to either stall it and wait for the bond issuance to occur, or are we going to find some method to cover it in the short-term until the bond issuance can happen so that we can continue doing the CIP projects and moving things along? Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Yes?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It’s okay, Director.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Just one quick, very quick--that report that we did prevent...present to--or had submitted, yes--you’ll see that the total appropriator-encumbered is 263 million. So, if you kind of want to say the 250, that kind of would cover everything. And that’s kind of also a method to our madness. Thanks.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo for the...this discussion. Just following up on Member U‘u-Hodgins’ line of questioning. Director, you said that it’s...the bond funding increase will take a while. So, that’s why--I mean, how...how much longer before the increase kicks in?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: Chair. Well, I mean...I guess, if I...if I understand the question correctly, are we talking about like when the bond issuance could occur?

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. So, it looks like you mentioned that 96 million is already accounted for for some of the CIP projects so that we don't get taxed on some of those. I...I was just wondering...so the next line of...of projects will be under this? I guess my question is, could we use some of the...the Disaster Recovery Funds prior to using the increased bond funding?

MR. NISHITA: The --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I would say for the vast majority of these projects, these are things that probably even occurred pre-disaster, pre-fire --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- and/or projects that were just approved by Council that were recovery-related. The...any recovery-related ones that we could potentially get any temporary reimbursement on, we do have to front the money, and then seek reimbursement after. That reimbursement could occur sometime, you know, between three to five years fully for projects to be completed. And, in fact, some Public Assistance projects we have ongoing, like a decade later, trying to fight with FEMA to get reimbursement on. So, regardless, if it's a pre-fire project, we can't use recovery-related funding to pay for something that was happening, you know, prior to the fire. And then, post-fire stuff, anything that's reimbursable would...we would have to front it anyway. So, what...we're still kind of in that same situation.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it. So, it...it's probably like a case-by-case as far as each...each CIP project. Okay. Thank you for that clarification. And then for our bond representatives, for...so, interest rates throughout the...the next several years have been raises, or is this just going to be set, or are we open to interest rate changes throughout the...the life of this bond?

MR. DE CRINIS: Curt de Crinis, Columbia Capital Management. Once the bonds are sold, the rate is set. It's fixed depending on the term of the bonds. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you. I heard the bell. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Managing Director, you had something to add?

MR. NISHITA: No. All I was going to add was...is...I mean, interest rates can change all of the time. So...I mean, you know, we can't ever forecast like what it would be, or it depends a lot on market conditions and, I mean, macroeconomic forces and, of course, our own situation, and whatnot. So, there's a lot of factors that...that will play into, you know, where interest rates head over time here.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Members, it is now 10:32, and I'm going to take a ten-minute break. Is that okay?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we'll come back at...let's come back at 10:45. This meeting is in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:32 a.m.
RECONVENE: 11:01 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Great discussion. And Members, I kind of want to just--wait, did Member Sinenci have his questions? He did, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I wanted to bring you back to where we are basically. So, the report that all of you got, that we've made into this big 11 by 17 so you could see it, I want the public to see what we're talking about. Because we're like throwing out all kind of numbers. So, therefore, I asked Kirsten to do a PowerPoint presentation so that you can see. And if you look at the 11 by 17 document that we passed out on this preliminary report, which we received effective as of January 31st, we were told by the Administration--and that these are the numbers that everybody's talking about--that Total Loans is 440 million, and then we have encumbered of 263--or is it 83?--283 [sic], and then the temporary loan transfers actuals that were made is like 96 million. So, those are the numbers that we're all throwing out. And this is where it came from, Members, that we wanted...we wanted you to have a...the...the copy that we got was so small, was eight font or something where it could hardly read. So, I asked Staff to give you all a copy that you could actually read because I know the Administration wants us to have accurate information. So, therefore, Kirsten, can you see it? So, it's on page 3. Go ahead.

MS. SZABO: So, Chair, this is just a summary of the totals. It shows the total...total loans for bond appropriation of 440.9 million, bond project preauthorization or the encumbrances of 263.6 million, and then temporary loan transfers, or the actuals, of about 96.7. And then if we just do that summary, we have encumbrances of 263. The loans are at 96 million. This means the balance to spend on the projects is about 166.9. The...the increase in the ceiling for...from Bill 17 is 150,000, which would leave a difference of potentially unfunded projects of about 16.9 million. But that's just a summary, that does not mean that's representative of the Administration's intent.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do you see where that's all coming from? Yeah? Member Paltin, question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify if we do move forward with either bill, the earliest it would pass second reading is March 21st. So, between now and March 21st,

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

February 18, 2025

if a vendor needs to get paid, and that amount is over 3-point-whatever million, what are we doing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have an answer, Finance?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Chair, thank you. Yeah. We would only to be able to pay obviously to the extent of the...the cap, and we'd have to hold...we would have to speak with the department where the CIP project is, you know, originating from, and they would have to let the contractor know. We'd have no choice in the matter, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are you aware of any projects that are scheduled to be complete before March 21st, and the amount that we owe?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. ZIELINSKI: I don't know specifically. I have heard that there is something small that's probably coming down the pike from Parks. That's all I know, but it's small, and it probably could be paid with what we have thus far...you know, with the...with what's available yet. That's all I know. I'm not aware of anything else. I don't know if Managing Director might be aware of something else.

MR. NISHITA: Chair. I mean, the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: -- the only other main thing that I wanted to add was, you know, payment terms are, of course, dictated by the contractor and whatnot. But generally, they're about 30 days to maybe even longer, depending on the way that the contract's set up. So, I...I believe when we're looking at all the projects coming through and whatnot, I think our anticipation is we'll have enough to cover everything through that February time frame. And then, if Council can act on one of these bills, then we'll be able to make those payments in March...at the ending of March.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if we don't act on one of these bills today, then we won't be able to.

MR. NISHITA: Well, Chair, I mean --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: -- that...that also depends on the spend-down rate. So, if Council decides we don't want to do anything, or we're just going to hold the line here and whatnot, then we're going to have to tell the departments, you've got to stop spending on CIP. The other thing too, is, you know, if Council was asking for, you know, revisions, or whatever the case is, we can submit something for the Council meeting to have at first reading,

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

February 18, 2025

as opposed to like--if the Council's open to it--as opposed to having like another Committee meeting, getting something referred to and whatnot, to kind of help expedite the time frames.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If I could clarify what you mean by that, revisions as to already approved CIP projects? Because, you know, during the Budget, we kind of look annually at what has been approved in whole. But in recent--since the fire or whatever--we haven't looked comprehensively at this list, I guess, that's been accumulating over the last four or five years. And did you mean, like, removing projects that are no longer relevant?

MR. NISHITA: Chair. I guess what I was referring to is the two proposals --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. NISHITA: -- that are before you. So, if Council's like, you know what? We want to use less Carryover/Savings, or we want a lower bond cap, or we want a higher bond cap, or what...whatever the case is . . .(timer sounds). . . if we have to work through some of these things, we could expedite that at...just to have something referred at first reading at Council.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you haven't like prioritized this list as to like what things may not be relevant anymore or anything?

MR. NISHITA: Well --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Well, Chair, I mean, I guess I...I wouldn't say things wouldn't be relevant anymore. I mean, departments are moving on approved projects. Now, there may be a reason why a project can't be done, or ends up...like another entity...we get a grant or something, or another entity comes in and is able to help us do it. But generally speaking, I mean, the projects before you are what you folks approved, and what the departments requested and need to get done. And so, you know, we're...we're moving forward with them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sorry, my...my bell rang.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you know, I want to...I want to say something, is that Member Paltin brings up a good subject. Because we...you know, we all...throughout this whole meeting, right, we've been hearing well, these are what the projects that you approved, you approved, Council. We never looked at a list like this, right? And so, those questions are so relevant as, what is a priority. My Staff, we had a meeting with Finance, Ms. Milner, and we asked this question...have you talked to the departments? This is when we were going over the Bill, just 15. They didn't have Bill 17 yet drafted. And at that time--that was last week Friday--the answer was no, we didn't talk to the departments yet. So, was that Friday? Only you and I, we met Saturday. Oh, we met

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

February 18, 2025

yesterday, Monday. But...you know. So, those questions are so relevant. What are the departments, what is the priority, and what is...what is the Mayor and the Administration doing in terms of, okay, we've gotten into this crunch, really? I mean, this is like you have a kid that's overspending, really. And what do we do, right? It...it really has placed the...the Council, which we represent the people, in kind of an odd place where we're being told, it was kind of like your fault. You approved these CIP projects. Yeah. Because we were told, right, it's needed for whatever reason. But I wish we would have known before that we were getting that close up into the 100 million cap that we approved during Budget. I will also say that we did get County Communication--which we sent to everybody--the Communication which showed the numbers that you're looking at, right? Or no, it was at like \$91 million at that point, so really close to the 100 million cap. And that was given to us in December, yeah? So, what are we doing about it? And so, this is...this is what is happening. But I think the frustration that I have, that I think you have, is, was somebody paying attention, you know, so that we're not in this situation where the Council is then backed up against the wall to make a decision. And the other thing is, yes, we want us to have a working relationship with the Administration so that we can walk this through together. But this is kind of a big surprise for me when it happened, and yet we were watching, you know? And we...we were saying, I think, as a body, wow, we have so much Carryover/Savings, right? That's what we were hearing. Carryover/Savings. Carryover/Savings, which is cash available from where, and...but these are the CIP projects which are being impacted through this bond. It's a bond...the bond is like a big charge card, I guess. And once it gets paid off, there's cash back. You get your...well, that's...maybe that's too simplistic. But those...those are the concerns that came up by this. And I wish the Administration would have wanted to talk to us earlier so we're not sitting where we are today, and wondering should we do Bill 17 and raise the cap, you know, by 150 million so that's a 250 million total, or shall we take Bill 15, which was proposed initially. I mean, why wasn't Bill 17 proposed initially, you know? So, we're having this kind of a mumbo-jumbo discussion. And --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- it is important. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- like from what...what you're saying, and looking at the Bond Projects Preauthorized and Encumbrance and the Temporary Loan Transfers, you can see some of these projects have been completed. Like, I know the Kahana Nui Bridge Replacement is completed, and OCS Renovation...OCS Renovations and things like that. But some of them, it looks like, may have not began...begun...started. So, like, if we look at some of the ones that haven't started, would we be able to tell if between now and August, that there is a possibility of encumbering any money or started? Because I think part of it is like the timing issue, once we do...once we are able to float a bond, then we go back down to zero from 97, or whatever the cap is. So, I mean, it doesn't feel like that information has been laid out clearly. I mean, I...I...I didn't really understand all this stuff as good as after speaking to you folks, and...and now that I understand it a little bit better, if we pull out the projects that are already finished, we got no choice but to have paid back. And then if we pull out the projects that have some

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

February 18, 2025

money encumbered, then, you know, we want to keep those going. But if we pull out the projects that haven't even started, and trying to assess if it's feasible to start it before August, has that been done by the Administration?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. And I'm sorry, Chair. I can't remember exactly what your transmittal said last week Thursday, but I believe it was kind of in the same vein, was asking for kind of like that timeline, so-to-say, I believe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: So...so, that's what our...our staff was trying to put together to respond to Chair's request. I believe it...the...and, like I said, I can't remember the specific questions, but I believe it was kind of in that vein to kind of help better understand --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How did we get here?

MR. NISHITA: -- what could be on the horizon.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. My bad. Sorry. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. We didn't get an answer yet, but...Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think again, we're in a rushed position, and I...it seems that we need to take more time to vet this more thoroughly. So, in the meantime, I'm hoping--and I'll be happy to make a motion, but I'll just put out the suggestion first--is that we raise the cap to 150--not 250, but 150--and the Administration can always come back and discuss this further with more details. And then we defer Bill 15.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because they are going to float a bond in August. So, this is only six months away. And from what I see, they've been spending about 7...6 million on average per month. So, that's 36 million between now and August. So, I think 50 million should suffice for now. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director, do you have any comments?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I mean, ultimately, we'll work with Council, whatever you folks feel comfortable with. You...you know, obviously, there's...none of us can say with 100 percent certainty exactly what will happen into the future, but, you know, whatever modifications, you know, Council would like to see, I think, you know, we would be happy to work with you folks. And just with the understanding, especially if, you know, additional funds or authorization is needed just, you know, for the openness to have those discussions, so that, you know, we can make sure to fulfill all our obligations. Thank you.

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Managing Director Nishita, the meeting that I had was--so it's not all the Councilmembers when we asked the question--did you talk to the departments? And we were told, no...and recently, right? So, therefore, going back to Member Paltin's question, what is the priority for projects? And so, therefore, yeah, the 263 million that's listed, if we do all--I mean, if we can do all these projects by August, that's a miracle. I mean, really, that's a lot for to ask the departments. But maybe there is an opportunity to look at things a little bit differently. Can I ask for your opinion, please?

MR. NISHITA: The...yeah. And I...I guess, just to clarify, is...is the question to--based on what Chair Lee was saying--about like a modified cap?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: I mean, we'd be open to working with Council, whatever you folks feel comfortable with. Obviously, the additional flexibility saves us, you know, all...all of us the time and effort and, you know, continuously coming back to Council if that's needed. But, you know, if that's what's felt needed for, you know, accountability, transparency, whatever the case is, then we'll be happy to work with Council.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I think Member Cook had his hand up, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- after he's done, if nobody else has one, I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. If anybody online, let me know if you have questions also. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. For our two bond guru resource people--and I say that as a compliment--does this...does this discussion and the County's...Council Administration's support of increasing it as this time, does this conversation have any impact on our bondability, or rating, or anything?

MR. DE CRINIS: Thank you, Councilperson Cook. No, I don't believe that whether you agree to advance...you know, advance more money, or you pay it out of cash out of Carryover/Savings, it doesn't really change the financial position as far as issuing bonds go, with the sole exception that if...if there's...at the end of the day, if--the more cash the County has on hand at the time the bonds are issued, that strengthens the profile with the rating agencies, as opposed to less cash. But though...then again, they would also look at what your plans were for, in your next budget year, how much of the capital improvements were going to be bonded versus paid with cash. So, that would then come into play there too.

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. So, if we...if we increased it in a couple of different steps instead of one step, but we did increase the bond amount, the bond ceiling, that doesn't really affect the --

MR. DE CRINIS: Yeah. I...I...I don't think it would make a material difference in the rating review whether you, you know--because either way, you're going to be spending the money, so it's just a matter of, you know, what would...where do you end up in...in your financial position. And fortunately, the County has a fair...a lot of cash right now in general, more cash on hand than it had in the past. It's...so, there's enough cash already on hand to support the current ratings as far as that criteria go.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. That's it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Johnson--is that all right? Okay. Member Johnson, then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know, I'm going to kind of follow up on my question that I asked in the first round about the Carryover/Savings. And we do, we talk about it all the time. Like \$120 million is what the Carryover/Savings was at June 30th, and that's...and that's what I read, but correct me if I'm wrong. So, I want to ask Bond Counsel if...what if the Council decided to put some kind of caveats on the...on the Carryover/Savings, like a certain amount of percentage of this money must go for stipends, or signing bonuses, or cost-of-living bonuses? Because we often say that these jobs...or these...the Carryover/Savings is for jobs unfulfilled. So, what if we drew people in with a signing bonus, or some ways to get around adding to their pay, which would then incentivize them, and then fill that position. So, does the Bond Counsel...do you guys feel that like putting those kind of strings attached, I guess is the term, on...on the Carryover/Savings, does that affect our bond at all?

MR. DE CRINIS: I...I would say no because I think it's...that's very much into the detail of how the County manages its affairs. And I think from the bond rating standpoint, or investor standpoint, they're looking much...under much broader scope of how much cash is there on hand? What's the County's reserve policy? You know, how...how...what's the County's ability to pay bond debt service? So, I think that level of detail is not something that would really --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MR. DE CRINIS: -- come into play from a rating standpoint.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I know the Police Department was doing something like that to bring folks to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 9-1-1.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- to, you know, hiring. I'd like to hear from the departments, is this something you'd be interested in doing? Is there...can we do it?

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: Thank you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: -- thank you, Chair. There are a number of departments already that have that in place.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: So, it typically goes by...I mean, of course, the department has to apply for that policy and whatnot, and then it's generally like position- or kind of class-specific. So, like for example in my own department, I have that for our CTO position. So, I'm able to offer moving expenses, as well as--I...I wouldn't say it's a signing bonus, but there's like...kind of like a recruitment incentive that I'm able to offer. And then generally, we'll put some type of restrictions on that. So, it will be like maybe the individual can collect that over a two-year period, or they have to stay employed with the County, or maybe there's some provision like --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- you've got to pay it back if you leave early, or things like that. But, you know, that's kind of department-specific, and it goes by kind of class...like hard...really hard-to-fill positions --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. NISHITA: -- or whatnot. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I don't want to get off topic because this is...but it's relevant. I just wanted to hear what the Bond Counsel said about that. So, maybe in, you know, future discussions, let's open that up to more departments. Because we can't just have this constant . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Carryover/Savings. Every year, we have the same debate. What are...you know, what are...you know, why can't we hire people? All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I was wondering if you had a tally or...of how many of the projects, the CIP projects, are specifically related to the wildfire? And then, you know, the one about Roadway Connectivity Evacuation, it looks like it might be \$5 million, Fiscal Year 2025. And then, on Wednesday's afternoon agenda is the Lima Hana, is that...I think it's 1.7 million. Is that coming out of this 5 million that we appropriated?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director.

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Yes, Chair. That is my understanding. So, to also close on that property that would be impacted by--I mean, say, if you went with Bill 17 for example, that would add to the 96, the 1.7.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And as well as the Parks thing that might be...the Parks CIP project that you said? So then, we're really at 1.3 million after we do those two things?

MR. NISHITA: Well, Chair. The Lima Hana purchase still has to go through Council and get approval, and then we have to close after that. So, I mean, I...I...I don't know the turnaround time for that, but I'm guessing we're probably looking at like at least 30 to 60 days. Because...I mean, we still need full Council approval for that, and then kind of closing time, and escrow and all that after, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then ultimately, we could say that's part of the 213 million from the CDBG-DR Hazard Mitigation because so many people passed away in the Mill Camp area that we're mitigating a hazard by creating additional evacuation routes. But the thing is, we don't know when to expect that money. Is that what it is? Like we're fronting, and then we're going to bond fund, and then we're going to submit for Hazard Mitigation Reimbursement of the CDBG-DR bucket?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So, I...and I think it's...oh, it's not on our agenda. It's--what, next week or something? I...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wednesday afternoon.

MR. NISHITA: Oh, Wednesday, okay, yeah, when we take it up. So, specific to that...so, this is where we're going to get into a lot of decisions about doing something now while it's available versus like doing something later when it may not be available. Specific to like Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds, so like those haven't been appropriated yet. So, any of those programs or projects, like we just have to wait until it's done. So, FEMA won't approve until probably like August to September time period, then funds won't actually be available from that until next year. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, like anything we're going to do with like Hazard Mitigation Funds would be into next year, when actual money would get expended out of that. And we wouldn't be able to go back and reimburse through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. I will also note that they haven't...the State hasn't been so--I don't know how to say it--keen, I guess --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Cooperative?

MR. NISHITA: -- on land acquisitions through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. So, my anticipation is that wouldn't even be a selected or qualified project anyway through them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the wildfire-related projects that are on this list, we're not expecting to get reimbursed unless it's FEMA, PA, or insurance, or some other source?

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, FEMA, PA, and insurance would probably be the main ones. There are potentially--it's...it's a...it's harder, but there potentially could be DR reimbursements for expenditures. It's a...it's a much harder kind of process to go through, and you got to meet all these like environmental qualifications and other things. So, I mean, we'll...we'll look at that once we get formal approval of the HUD Action Plan by HUD, but...but that is...that's going to be a very difficult route to go through. So, it's primarily PA we're looking at, as well as, you know, any insurance proceeds and whatnot.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Which could take like 20 years or something.

MR. NISHITA: Well, I mean, we do have, what--at least a couple million that has already been transmitted to us from PA for reimbursement.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Good job, you guys.

MR. NISHITA: I think the last number was like 2 to 3 million, some...it might be higher now, but somewhere around there. And then the State has already received, I believe, about 20 million of our PA dollars, so we're trying to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: -- like get that from them, yeah. So, reimbursements are coming in, but I would expect full closeout to be in like the three- to five-year-time period --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wow.

MR. NISHITA: -- if we're lucky for everything. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the...the...basically, the wildfire-related expenditures we're fronting, and we may get paid back three to five years.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So, it has to be a PA project. So, like the Lima Hana one, we didn't own prior. It wasn't already-damaged infrastructure of ours or whatever, so like that's not PA-eligible. If...like Kaunoa Senior Center, for example, like we own that. That was destroyed, so that could be PA eligible, you know, infrastructure that was destroyed, things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then we can get the insurance, and stack it with the CDBG-DR, and...and...

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. So, I mean, then the DR side comes into play as a funding of last resort. So, I mean, a...a presentation we have set up is where, you know, you just have the different funding that can come into a pot, and then the DR would then slide in at the top.

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like, how the Council did for Kupuohi...or the...the County, not...you and us.

MR. NISHITA: Well, yeah. We need the Council approval, definitely, yes. But yeah, it's kind of that...to fill that last...last resort funding needed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sorry. Sorry I went over.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Managing Director, would you be able to look at this? This is facts to us that you provided. And this is like it, right, in terms of information? Although you didn't have a chance to finish your letter that we asked you for more information. But can you look at this and...and then--here, Managing Director, you can have this, if you need to look at it, but...

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I...I believe...if I'm not mistaken, I believe this is the transfer report that you guys get probably--I thought it was every month.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...we got one...we did get one, and then we were told that February 15th, no changes were made to that. So, that...that number is it --

MR. NISHITA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- from you.

MR. NISHITA: Well, I mean, I guess all I was relaying...I know that there was some comments earlier about concern, I guess, about not receiving the information. So, if...if there's a way we can better provide it, we'd be happy to, but we do send this to the Council every month.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You did send it to us by County Communication. And so, I distributed it to the Members so that they could read it because it's so small. Eight font is hard to read.

MR. NISHITA: You might as well put magnifying glasses in your budget --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- request, maybe, but --

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

MR. NISHITA: -- but no. Chair, yeah. I mean those comments are good because we can go back to the team and make sure they...you know, maybe we can reformat this or whatnot. If it's...you know, or different information that you need, or whatnot. I mean, you let us know what...what can be provided to --

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

MR. NISHITA: -- to help you folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this is great information, I'm not...I'm not saying to change it necessarily. I'm just saying, can you look at it? Because we're basing our decision today on what you have provided us, and to me, this is the facts, right? You are telling us that this is the numbers. And...and then the...by the discussion, Members are asking, what is the priority? Does it all have to be done by...you know, within the next six months or is there...what is it? You know, and are some going to be impacted by the Federal Funds, which you're saying it could be. So, could you look at this list, and then provide us more updated information, I guess, based upon what you're saying today? Members, is...is that right, what you're asking?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah...yeah, thank you, Chair. Yeah, I think you guys are already submitting a transmittal to us, so...yeah. Just include that in there, and then we'd be happy to pull together some info for your folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because if you are able to do all these CIP projects by August, that's great for all of us, you know, that. But I don't know if we have the capacity to do it all. So, that's the priority request, if you could.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah...we'll...we'll...if you put it in the request, yeah, we'll put together maybe...I don't...I don't know if a timeline, I heard a Gantt chart, or something like that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's Tom Cook.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Yeah, what can be best utilized by you folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, anybody have . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . any more questions? Do we need another round? Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Just to make sure, since Councilmember Johnson got all his questions in, the only one that we didn't address was, he talked about applying for Federal money and whatnot. So, just to close the loop on all that, the main funding sources that we have for all these recovery efforts and everything are all direct. So, like mission assignments are made directly from FEMA to the Federal Agencies. And so, we're receiving direct support, assistance, and funding through them, so it's not like a typical application process. PA...PA...both Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds, and then the CDBG-DR funds, DR's already been allocated, you know, to us by HUD. And so, we're working through the--I mean, by Congress--and so we're

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

February 18, 2025

working through the Action Plan right now. We have a consultant on board to help us submit the Action Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds, the State was already kind of notified of their award regarding that, and then we did put in our applications already for that, and we have a consultant on board that's helping us with that. And then the Public Assistance, we've been working...we have a consultant on board for that, and we've been directly working with FEMA on that. But those are all kind of like direct-flowing appropriations. It's not a...a normal like NOFO that's posted, and then we got to go and try to seek it. These are fundings that's available for us, that we either work with FEMA or the Feds on, or we got to work with the State on getting our portion of it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, the...having consultants for those direct lines of funding is great. But as those fundings go away, and next year, and next year, are we going to be relying on consultants again? If that's the path of least resistance, I'm okay with that, but I'm just curious. Is that a strategy for when the funds change over time?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I think it's been brought up in previous meetings that I think we're talking kind of like an organizational shift in terms of the grant programs, and how departments handle that. So, I think there'll be further discussions regarding that to make sure Council and Admin are on the same page. But ultimately, yeah, we do want to try to get as much Federal funding as we can. The only caveat I would note is with the current Administration, there's been a lot of programs that have been halted or frozen, and/or programs that have been taken away. And I guess it remains to be seen if that's just a short-term measure to evaluate things and then they'll be re-released or, you know, available again, or if those programs will no longer be available. So, we're...in that sense, we're in a little bit of a --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. NISHITA: -- wait-and-see-approach on what happens.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Chair Lee, do you have your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Are you ready for a motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody have any more discussion before we go into...oh, Member Paltin. Then we'll do the motion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry. I just wanted to clarify that the land acquisition portion of the evacuation routes was at 8 million, and it was just the land...or the evacuation route was 5 million. So, I'm sorry, I misspoke. I wanted to clarify in the Mill Camp

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

February 18, 2025

workshops that we went to, I think six possible additional evacuation routes were identified. One was like through Aki Street, Dickenson, and all these things. Was the \$8 million figure arrived at based on assessed property values in RPT, or how did we...is that six evacuation routes covered under the 8 million?

MR. NISHITA: The...thank you, Chair. No, our anticipation is that that's not all of the funding that's going to be needed for potential evacuation routes, or road widening, or things like that. Our original request to the State was actually more. I want to say it was around 15 for the...this current fiscal year. But, you know, since we didn't get the funding, we had to kind of like shift priorities, and decrease and/or increase funding in different areas to kind of meet what the County's budget could handle. And so, that's how we came with the 8 million figure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is it limited to Lāhainā, or is it Countywide?

MR. NISHITA: I...I don't recall if there's anything in the Budget that restricts it to Lāhainā, but I can tell you that when we ask for the funding, our...our anticipation or whatever was at, that was for if we were able to get any commitments from landowners to secure property for that effort in Lāhainā. But I'm not aware if there's like a Budget restriction on that to only Lāhainā. But...but that definitely was our intention with that funding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then just to try and further understand your preliminary report, when on page 2 it says Countywide Department of Public Works Baseyard Facilities, and it has \$2.3 million bond appropriation. And then it looks like in Fiscal Year '25, it says, Countywide Department of DPW Baseyard Facilities, it says 3.75. Is that cumulative amount?

MR. NISHITA: Chair. I think we'd need to go back and look at the numbers, but my guessing...but my guess, based on what you're verbally relaying, is that those are two different appropriations...you...you know, likely . . .(timer sounds). . . for like design, permitting, maybe studies, things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you for that clarification. That would make sense to me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner has something to add.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I just checked the Fiscal Year '25 Appendix C. It does not specifically state that the roadway evacuation needs to be for West Maui. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else, Members? Okay. Seeing none. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I move to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget by amending Section 18(A) of the General Budget Provisions to increase the maximum aggregate amount of

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

February 18, 2025

Unreimbursed Transfers and Loans from County Funds to the Bond Fund, or the Housing Interim Financing and Buy-Back Revolving Fund, from 100 million to \$150 million.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Point of clarification; do we have a main motion on the floor?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We got to do the main motion first.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I was making a motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Then yours would be an amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Main motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yours would be an amendment. Okay. I'm going to...I'm going to call a short recess. Two minutes. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 11:41 a.m.
RECONVENE: 11:46 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Okay, Members. Thanks for the recess. We're back. So, at this time, Chair Lee, what I would like to entertain is...for me to entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 17. And then that's your amendment --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to take it from...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Just for your information, Chair, we have changed the rules --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- and we don't follow necessarily Robert's Rules of Order anymore. So, my motion was correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But I will follow your suggestion, and make a main motion to pass Bill 17 on first reading.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How's that?

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Second by Chair...Vice-Chair Kama, motion made by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So now I would like to amend that motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Make a motion to amend what I said earlier, the Fiscal Year, which is part of Bill 17, to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget by amending Section 18(A) of the General Budget Provisions to increase the maximum aggregate amount of Unreimbursed Transfers and Loans from County Funds to the Bond Fund, or the Housing Interim Financing and Buy-Back Revolving Fund, from 100 million to \$150 million.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, motion made by Chair Lee, second by Member Kama. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, under discussion, Chair, as I said earlier, we...or I...I think this matter requires further discussion, more in-depth discussion, with...with actual projects that are being discussed, so forth. And in the meantime, I believe the 100...the 50 million additional cap will suffice because we're only talking six months. Thank you. And...and Administration can come back at any time to change that...that ceiling.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct. Managing Director, did you have something that you wanted to say, or you're just picking up the mic.

MR. NISHITA: No, just in case there was questions, I was...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. Members, any discussion regarding the amendment? Member Cook? No. Were you saying something?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, I'd just like to see it increased some more, but...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: They can come back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, I'm...I'm happy to support the motion to amend the main motion. And just to correct Chair Lee on Rosenberg, we still need to recommend an action for the full...full Council on what to do with the bill. Like you can't just amend the bill and not recommend what action to take from this Committee.

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's still necessary. So, I don't...I didn't want anyone to get confused. And we are going to have training on Rosenberg Rules on the 24th, so I'm looking forward to that. Mahalo, Staff, for doing that. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm glad you're going.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You what? What did you say?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I'm glad you're going too --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I'm not. No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- because I think you need it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You can take good notes and give it to us.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Can we vote --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You don't listen to my notes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Any --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can we vote?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody...okay. So, the amendment--oh, go ahead, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I just...you know, since Managing Director Nishita picked up the mic, I just wanted to ask him...you believe this is sufficient to last us until August? Is there a chance that we won't float a bond in August? And I heard, you know, Department of Transportation, Hawai'i Department of Transportation floated a bond this month. So, I mean, we are going to float a bond in August, or is that dependent on interest rates? And you believe that this 50 million is--I guess that's a number of questions.

MR. NISHITA: Well...Chair. The...the...let...if I just start with are we floating a bond in August? I mean, our anticipation is to float in August. There's a number of factors that could play, especially...I think the main one on why we may have to do it earlier than maybe we would want to is if there was some kind of threat on the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. Then I think we'd really want to try to get in the door before that occurred. In terms of whether we're going to bond at all? Like we have to go to bond. So, you know, if there's some unforeseen circumstance that makes us have to push it out to September, or October, or something like that that I don't foresee at this time,

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

February 18, 2025

we're still going to have to bond this year. So, we'll...we'll do an issuance this year. We're shooting for October...I mean, I'm sorry, August. It may be earlier if there's some, you know, macro forces at play, or maybe later if there's unforeseen circumstances. But yes, we will bond this year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I believe there are macro forces at play daily. But I guess for our Bond Counsel and Municipal Advisor, are we watching what the State Department of Transportation is doing? And why are we differing from them if they're floating a bond this month and we're waiting? Is there a critique of that? Like what...what makes us different?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Does...does anybody have --

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, Chair. And then they can add too, if...there's no...nobody can ever time the market, and there's no requirement that the municipalities or juris...you know, agencies in the same jurisdiction float bonds at the same time. In fact, I would think that routinely that doesn't happen. It's more on a timing basis on like when we're ready, and when--as I explained at the beginning, at the outset of the meeting, there was a lot of maybe uncertainty, so to say, in the market, and perception of risk. And so, in terms of . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . making sure we get the...the best value for the County, having a lot of that settled, which a lot of it has been settled up to this point, leaves the County in a much better position of when we do bond, that those questions have been answered for investors and bond-rating agencies. But I'll defer if there's any other thing you want to add.

MR. DE CRINIS: Yeah. I just, you know, agree with that statement that Mr. Nishita said, that the County...you know, we...we've been looking at this...we've had meetings about bond issuance starting in July. We had another meeting this fall. We had another meeting in January. So, we've been, you know, watching the market and watching the...the time tables of when the County could get into the bond market for some months now. And I think the main thing we've been doing is, you know, waiting until it was clear...more clear as to what the...what's going to...what was going to happen with the settlement and what's going to happen with, you know, some other issues surrounding the credit so that when we do move forward with the bond issue, we're going to get...it can be explained and disclosed to investors, you know, what is happening here on Maui, what's the financial position, you know, what's the best story that can be presented to investors so that the ratings, you know, are upheld, and the County gets the best interest rates. And...and so, that process, now that we have clarity on...at least on the settlement, is going to go as fast as we reasonably can...can go forward. And I think that's...so that there hasn't been a delay or not...a not paying attention to, you know, when...when it can move forward. So, I think reasonably, getting the bond sold this summer and closing in August.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, knowing all those factors, are you leaning towards negotiated or competitive?

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

February 18, 2025

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I think, you know, we have talked about this. We actually have a meeting this afternoon shortly since...you know, on this specific subject. Ultimately, that's something our investment committee will take up and, you know, help make a decision on.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, not leaning either way yet.

MR. NISHITA: Well...Chair. I mean, I have my own personal viewpoint on it, but I...I think the group will end up deciding along with, you know, good expert advice from...from our individuals experienced in this area as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, the motion on the floor is to increase the bond cap from 100 million to 150 million...right, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, all in favor...I'm going to take the vote. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I see everybody. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE amendment to increase the aggregate amount of unreimbursed transfers and loans from \$100 million to \$150 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And --

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, 15.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry. Oh, yeah. 15. We're going to defer Bill 15.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee, to defer Bill 15. Okay. All in favor say "aye." Eight...nine ayes. Motion carries. Thank you. Thanks for all that.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: DEFER Bill 15 (2025).

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we have the rest of our meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I see Ms. Johnson raised her hand, probably for Bill 8.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, she was the one that was here from the beginning waiting, so thank you very much for waiting. So, Members, then at this time, we have the second item. Thank you all very much for being here. What? Oh, okay. Thank you very much for all of the hard work that you have done to get us to this point, and you're...you can all leave --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you guys.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Bye. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- except Josiah. Okay, let me put this away.

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

February 18, 2025

ITEM 22: BILL 8 (2025), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET: APPENDIX A, PART II, OPEN SPACE, NATURAL RESOURCES, CULTURAL RESOURCES, AND SCENIC VIEWS PRESERVATION FUND; AND RESOLUTION 25-53, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 104A LOWER WAIIEHU BEACH ROAD

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're on Bill 8. So, we have Bill 8 left, and then Bill 116. I don't know if we're going to get to it in two minutes. Members, if you don't mind, would...I'm going to take up Bill 18 [sic] at another meeting because we only have two minutes left. So...I'm sorry, Bill 116. Bill 8 is Amending the Fiscal Year '25 Budget: Appendix A, Part II, Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Scenic Views Preservation Fund; and Reso 25-53, Authorizing the Acquisition of Real Property Located at 104A Lower Waiehu Beach Road. So, this is a bill that we took up, and we deferred to today because we needed to get the resolution which was sent to us, which is Resolution 25-53, which has a title report and all the documents that we needed to finalize this. So, at this time, does anybody from the Administration have any comments? Ms. Milner? I guess Mr. Nishita left.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I believe we have a representative from the Finance Department who's logged in online --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- Mr. Hironaka. Yes, this would delete the appropriation for the acquisition of a property in Lāhainā on Shaw Street for 1.3 million, and insert a new condition for up to 500,000 for a property on Lower Waiehu Beach Road in Wailuku, Maui. As we discussed a little bit previously, the Salvation Army, who owns the property on Shaw Street, is currently not interested in selling. They're more interested in doing a land swap. I believe the Department of Management sent some correspondence, which should be in Granicus, that addresses that issue a bit further, but I'll defer to Mr. Hironaka on any additional details on this property acquisition. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hironaka, are you online? I don't see him.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, Mr. Hironaka is online. We've made him a presenter. He'll need to unmute on his end.

MR. HIRONAKA: Okay. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There. I hear him.

MR. HIRONAKA: Hello. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Now, we can hear you.

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

February 18, 2025

MR. HIRONAKA: Okay. Thank you, Chair. This property is adjacent to the County property that we bought, the Ka'ehu Bay property. We had been working with the LDS Church prior because they have an access easement that goes through our property. However, their access easement wasn't where it's supposed to be. And now that they decided to sell it, they first approached the adjacent Hawaiian Church, who declined to go ahead with the purchase. So, they offered it to the County, and they also put it on the open market. And the Administration decided to try to acquire it so that it would not be developed by a private party.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Are you done?

MR. HIRONAKA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Thank you. Oh --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can he repeat that last part?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Paltin is asking you to repeat that last part, Mr. Hironaka.

MR. HIRONAKA: Okay. So, what happened was, you know, in order to keep it from being developed--because it can be developed as a private residence, you know--the Coun...the Administration decided that they would like to acquire it, and then consolidate it into the other Ka'ehu Bay property and, you know, make it basically open space.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, is that good?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Hironaka. Anybody else from the Administration? No. Do we have any other testifiers, which is online?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ITEM 22 . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. The first person signed up to testify is Henry Maio, to be followed by Lala Johnson.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Maio?

MR. MAIO: Okay. So, the County should look into this property closely because the LDS Church has no title, not even a quitclaim deed. When Wayne Nishiki was a Member of the County Council, he introduced a bill which stated that the County should not accept or acquire land without good title. I'm not against cultural program, that's great. But I will not let the LDS Church sell my property because they have no title whatsoever. It was my grandfather who let the LDS Church put the church on his property, L.C.A.3386, as well as Maluhia Church next to the LDS Church, number 104. The

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

February 18, 2025

County should not waste public money on this property. That way my family will not be injured.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is that...you're done with your testimony, Mr. Maio? Anybody have questions for him? Ms. Paltin...Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Maio. I'm okay with not acquiring the property on behalf of the County, but just wondering. If the LDS Church was to go and try and sell it to another entity, and then they build something on it, we're not involved, right? Just clarifying for...for you. Because if we buy it with Open Space Funds, then we're not...we're...we're limited on what could be used. It would be...become kind of, you know, public property. But it wouldn't be like building houses. So, just clarifying that would be your preference is, if the LDS Church goes and tries to sell it to someone else, would...would you know about it? And what if the someone else buys it and puts a house on it? Your preference is still for the County to stay out of the situation? Just wanted to clarify that. Because I recall how the MEO Kahua project went down. And somebody transferred that property to MEO, and then they proposed this development which we, the Council, kind of funded. Here, the County is proposing to purchase the land with Open Space Funds, so it wouldn't become a housing development. But if we don't purchase it, someone else could purchase it and build house on top. But, I mean, I'm...I'm open to either way. I just wanted to clarify that you don't want us to preserve it as Open Space, but it would be for not...it would for...it would be accessible to the public. So, just...in the world that we live in, trying to clarify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Maio?

MR. MAIO: Okay. All I like to say is that the property is landlocked. That there's no way that the LDS can get into that property because it's landlocked. So...so is Maluhia Church. Both properties are landlocked.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It...it seems that's not stopping them from trying to sell it, though.

MR. MAIO: The County . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Maio?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Say it one more time, please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...the property being landlocked doesn't seem to be keeping that LDS Church from trying to sell it. I mean, I hate to say, if they trying to sell it to us and we say no, I guess my...my expectation would be they try to sell it to somebody else, possibly a private party who may try to develop it. And I don't know if that's publicly available, if they try to sell it to a private party, for you to be able to intervene in. I just wanted your take on it, if that would be your preference...if the LDS tries to sell it to another private party, and they try to develop it--I mean, obviously that's not your preference because that's...you have the Land Commission Award. But we've...I guess the downside is, we've seen it happen.

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

February 18, 2025

MR. MAIO: Even...even if they try to sell it, that I...I'm pretty sure that whoever wants to buy it wouldn't buy it. He can't...there's no access to the property. So, why would any private individual want to buy that place, let alone the County?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any...any other questions, Miss...Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, but I mean, I've seen like easements to get to landlocked properties under the...this Government's laws, I guess. It's difficult when...when you have one foot in two worlds, two feet in one...you know what I mean.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Chair Lee. Do you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: When it's appropriate, can we ask Mr. Hironaka about this question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Maio, do you have any more comments regarding this?

MR. MAIO: Not...not...no. Nothing right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm going to ask...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, do you have...you have a question?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Okay. No other questions for Mr. Maio. Okay. Mr. Hironaka, he's...Mr. Maio, he works for the County, and he takes care of our land, so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Paltin wants to ask him this question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Point of order.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We got to finish the testimony first.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're in public testimony.

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. Sorry. Sorry. Okay. All right. No other questions for Mr. Maio? All right. And any more testifiers?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Lala Johnson, to be followed by the individual calling in from the phone number ending with these four digits, 4344.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Lala Johnson.

MR. KRUEGER: Lala Johnson, it's your time to testify. We've made you a presenter. You need to unmute on your end.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Lala Johnson. I guess...are they still on the call?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. Should we try and call the phone number for...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Call the phone number and then...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair. So, the individual calling in from the phone number ending with these last four digits, 4344, it is your time to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Testifier 4344.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the...the individual calling in from 4344, they're not unmuting. I think you can use star-6 to unmute, if you're having trouble unmuting.

MR. KAMAUNU: Okay. All right. This is Kaniloa Kamaunu from Waihee. So, I understand what Councilmember Paltin is saying. You know, that the...I think it's kind of a moral issue for me. Being a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, we have a practice...or we've been taught there's a practice of sacrifice, so that's why we pay tithings. With the tith...the exercise of tithings is not because God needs money, or really, the Church needs money, but it's the practice of sacrifice for the member themselves to give of their worldly possessions. But it's also for a time where it's going to get actually escalated to where you're asked to...you might be asked to sacrifice all that you have for the church. This we call the law of consecration. That means when the Church asks you to give all that you have to it for the building of the Kingdom, this is what you do. So, with this property--and a lot of these properties that the Church received at the time was a time when the Church did not have the type of funds they have today. Today, one of the riches churches in the world. And for me, it's a moral issue because of the situation here in Hawai'i, where our . . .*(inaudible)*. . . who gave this land as a member of that Church to build a Kingdom in Hawai'i is not being considered. That at this time of hardship, our native people to have our . . .*(inaudible)*. . . and then to have such actions like this to take place, where the only thing that is . . .*(inaudible)*. . . to happen is that the Church will profit. You have to realize it profited from this family for over 100 years. A lot of these lands were given in the 1800s by the natives themselves. So, a lot of these lands that they acquired, they put their buildings on. To me, because they are in financial stability as they are, to not consider, especially what

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

February 18, 2025

Hawai'i has gone through, especially what Maui . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . has gone through with the homeless --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MR. KAMAUNU: -- to not consider--okay--to return the properties back, or consideration to return the properties back to the families, I think is very disrespectful. I love my Church. I believe in it. I believe in its standings, but it's hard to see this situation. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Can you state your name again?

MR. KAMAUNU: This is Kaniloa Kamaunu.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, okay. Anybody have questions for Mr. Kamaunu? Member Paltin --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- then I have Member Sinenci. Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll yield to Member Sinenci because I've been talking a lot today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo. Mahalo, Member Paltin. And mahalo, Mr. Kamaunu, for your testimony this afternoon. Yeah. We too have the same situations back in the days where Native Hawaiians gave their land to the church for...to build the church or to put their cemeteries on it. So, I guess my question is, are there--and you're right, there was no record of that...that land exchange, but it was given it for...for church purposes. And...and I'm sure it wasn't given for...for them to sell it later on down the road. So, I was just curious if...is there any records? I know that LDS has . . . *(inaudible)* . . . give more for families, but are there any land records? And...and it sounds like Mr. Maio...Maio has his L...L.C.A. records. So, I don't know if he can present those as part...part of that evidence.

MR. KAMAUNU: Yeah. And that's the complexity of the...of the way the lands in Hawai'i were at the time. Because this is still in the time of the Kingdom. Whether or not the original title deed was alive when the transaction happened...because this is a Land Commission Award. There's really only one titleholder, which is the original awardee because it's an allodial title. So, it's always...the title's always under that person's name. Whether or not that transaction happened, we have to realize that those lands are always perpetual. Especially if they're Land Commission Awards, were perpetual for that awardee, for his descendants. So, there's still an argument as far as land title is concerned. Whether or not...and it's usually a life interest if anything because it's supposed to be perpetual. How that situation happens...and I'm sure that it was donated to the Church. And I'm...I'm sure that it's some kind of..whether it's a legal document, I'm not sure. I couldn't say to that. But my own concern is...and I...I would say to...to the families is to write to the Church Headquarters and have this discussion because they're usually

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

February 18, 2025

good about this situation. But it's kind of morally, for me, unsettling, especially when our own people--whether you be Kanaka or whether you be non-Kanaka--are homeless here in the lands. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KAMAUNU: -- I couldn't tell yes or no.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Paltin has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Kamaunu, for your testimony. I just was not sure, I wanted to clarify. Are you saying you don't want us to move forward with this acquisition? Is that the gist of your testimony besides the rest of it?

MR. KAMAUNU: Yeah. And...and... . . . *(inaudible)*. . . you know, I understand, and...and I agree with your point. But again, it...it comes down to the moral issue, that it's...if I say yes to support it, it's like...it's...it...to me, doesn't...it's not the best use of the property because there is an existing building on it. And somebody could be housed in there. And because, as Mr. Maio was saying, there's encumbrance by other properties in the front of it and in the back of it. How...as a...as the public, how would that benefit according to the outline of why it's being purchased? Because it's almost no access to it because I've been there. I know exactly where the place is. And right now, I believe the Maios have control of the entrance. So, it's kind of...yeah, kind of funny. So, yeah, I'm kind of torn between. But at this time, I would say I'm not in support of it only because of the moral issue. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Any other questions? If not, next testifier.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the last person we have signed up to testify is Lala Johnson.

MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Mahalo, mahalo for...for giving this...this...this space for me to testify. So, aloha mai kākou, Chair and County Council. You know, this situation...I had things written down, but as I listened on, this situation is kind of like a similar thing to letting someone borrow your bike, and then you try to sell the bike, but that person start...wants to sell the bike and pocket the money. Whether it's a dollar or two dollars, it's still pocketing someone...you know, pocketing money and selling it for more. So, that's what I'm here to tell you, that yes, there is a discrepancy with this. And I'm asking that you defer the time for us to put the paperwork together. Because I do research, especially on the land, and I know you guys know me about doing that. In that particular space, there is a BOC-certified copy of this transaction with the Mormon Church. Now, I have...with all respect for the Mormon Church because I am a member. That's why a lot of the...this history in...of the church being there because our families are pioneers of that happening. So...so, of course. So, like what he said, the

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

February 18, 2025

consecration. And if you think about what the people were like, and our family especially, they were very giving. And so, with that being said, you can...you can see what Kaniloa was explaining, and how that would transaction [sic]. But of course, we lived in a time where...where we lived in commerce. Paperwork needs to be seen. And so, I am saying to you that I...I saw that paperwork. Give us that time for me. Because this all came about like within a day or two, and I couldn't do my paperwork part. So, give it...give us that time to give it to Corporate Counsel to take a look at it. Because I did contact the Headquarters over at the Mormon Church, who did...did...she helped me in telling...or letting me know who I needed to contact, and that it would take about a week and a half. So, that's where the time is. And she realizes that this...this meeting is today, and she said, I'm so sorry--she apologized--but give us that time to send the paperwork. So, I'm saying there is a discrepancy. I'm saying there is paperwork. I'm saying that even my cousin, who...who continues to protect that place, and continues to try his best to...he doesn't keep out everybody. The community comes. They fish. They surf. They do cultural practices there. So, that space is still being used for those things. Even if you decide to purchase it, the families is doing...is...what I'm trying to say without...with zero dollars, pretty much with zero dollars, they're preserving that place. They're doing what kuleana families have been doing for many years, which is us, the kuleana families. So, they live down there...some of that . . .(timer sounds) . . . live down there. It would be kind of awkward too, if --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MS. JOHNSON: -- if who...if who...if Ka'ehu is there, and...and the family lives there, and they're...you know--I don't know. That's what I'm...I'm saying. But thank you for this space is what I'm saying, for giving space to...to explain all of this, that there is a discrepancy. So, mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have any questions for Lala Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Johnson, for your testimony. I was just going to clarify. I'm...full support of what you ask. In that time, would you also be contacting the Mormon Church as a member to try and work it out from that angle as well? Like --

MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that it was given to the Church not to made a profit of, but that it should...

MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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

February 18, 2025

MS. JOHNSON: And that is...that is the kuleana I have too, as being a member of the Church, and also with this issue that is going on. My sister that lives in Utah also, she's finding out about it too, even if she has to go in herself and...and...and do these things. Even if...like the Catholic Church, they have...they have...they have not Prophets, but they have a Pope. We have a Prophet. I mean, it's as...it's as much as that, that if we have to go to our Prophet and to explain what has been done, and what our people is about, what we are, what that family was about during that period. And to see where they're coming from too is, I think that's the due diligence in all of this as well for us. And as the...as the Church as well, to see our story as well, and what had happened in that history.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Best of luck. Hopefully, I...I hope that works out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. JOHNSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more testifiers...or any more questions for Lala Johnson? Oh. Member --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha, Ms. Johnson. Mahalo for your testimony. So, I...I think I understand what the testifiers are saying. What you said is that your 'ohana allowed the Church to use that 'āina for the purpose of the Church, and not to...they did not have interest or title to turn around and...and sell it. And so, what you and your 'ohana are doing now is asserting your property rights to this 'āina before it...it...the damage is done, and it...title is then transferred illegally, and an entity is being unjustly enriched by property they don't legally own.

MS. JOHNSON: I...yes. Exactly. So, like we try...maybe we late in some times or areas, but this time around because my cousin has been there for many years--all of my cousins--they still live there, and they have been protecting that area, preserving it, practicing cultural things such as water testing, limu restoration, hihiwai, 'iwe...even doing burials for 'iwe. So, there is a practice. There's that space that already kuleana family has been doing. So, even if you bring in another entity or another nonprofit, it's like saying...it's kind of a slap in the face, honestly--sorry--because here we are as the 'ohana that been living there, fishing, diving, doing those things, living there, having parties. Even your Mayor came there. He knows our family. He's been there. He's

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

February 18, 2025

participated in these events. So, even with that, he knows how we function as a family in that place. And this is the reason why, yes, you're right. We are doing whatever we can possibly right now, before, to...to rectify this...this discrepancy.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Johnson.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. JOHNSON: Mahalo.

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

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we currently don't have any other individuals signed up to testify on this item, so we'll do a last call at this time. If there is anybody who would like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise hand function. We'll do a countdown...three, two, one. Oh, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Oh no, apologies. Henry Maio has raised --

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

MR. KRUEGER: -- their hand, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But he's testified.

MR. KRUEGER: -- but they've already testified.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, Henry. It...you're only allowed one opportunity to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could we just check if somebody else --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is using the same computer as him?

MR. KRUEGER: Sure. So, we'll make Mr. Maio a presenter, in case there is another individual with him that wants to testify. Henry Maio, I've made you a presenter. You'll have to unmute. If there is someone else who is with you to testify, they...they can provide testimony.

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Maio, is anybody with you that wants to testify? That is the question.

MR. MAIO: Okay. Can I have another person testify?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. That's what we're asking you. Is there somebody sitting with you? Can you put on your video? ...Mr. Maio, is there somebody with you that wants to testify? Oh.

MR. HOPFE: All right. So, this is his nephew, Kainoa Hopfe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Please proceed. You have three minutes.

MR. HOPFE: Okay. So, this question...so, will there be another opportunity for this...this Bill 8 to come around for more conversation around it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you...are you --

MR. HOPFE: And also...and also, another question is, who do we contact to get in touch with the LDS? What is that, the management group or the...what...what was it called, the recommendation?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: BOC is what was shared with us.

MR. HOPFE: Okay. So, what is that, Board of Commerce? ...Tell him hang up.

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

MR. HOPFE: Sorry. Trying...just trying to help out with the...the whole thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. HOPFE: So, I understand...yeah, I understand. I've been here, you know, married to his niece for--actually, it's his sister--for the last 20 years. So, I've been down here perpetuating the place as well. So, I do understand the cultural and preservation parts. I think the biggest thing is for any LLCs or anybody else that tries to...if they want to come in to, you know, use the place is what...I think that what Henry Maio is kind of looking at as far as like being able for regulate, you know. Like he said, this land locked. So, he just doesn't want, you know, anybody to just come in and like...you know, for profit, for...you know. He understands the existing thing that his...his grandpa gave. So, just wanted to make sure like...like how Ms. Johnson said, you know, just clarify the discrepancy. But yeah, we just...do you know when the next convening for this bill may be?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, are you done with your testimony?

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

February 18, 2025

MR. HOPFE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members--stay on the line. I can hear what you want to do, but I would like to request then that we defer this and take it up again. It is well past the 12:00 meeting time, and sounds like there's more information. So, you know, your organ...your group said that you're going to get in touch with the BOC of the Latter-Day Saints organization. I don't know who that is, and it's somebody that your organiza...or your group said that you're in touch with them. So, maybe you can ask your relatives, I guess, for who that is.

MR. HOPFE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I'm going to defer this item, Members --

MR. KRUEGER: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and...yes?

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, but before deferral, should we close public testimony, or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Is there anybody else for public testimony?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the...no one else identified themselves as wishing to testify, but we'll do one last countdown just to be safe. If you do want to testify, please identify yourself now. The countdown is three, two, one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You got to go.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, no one else wants to testify.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ITEM 22 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Oh, no. Okay. So, we are right now in the last testifier. So, just for your information, I'm going to recommend...just from listening to the Members' questions that I'm...we're going to defer this for another day. And if Mr. Maio and your relatives, you can get your paperwork together--I guess is what you're saying you have--please do talk to the LDS Church, and present that. I will...I don't have a date that I'm going to have to reschedule this, but I will. And if I do, it's going to be sometime in March, sometime. Yeah. I...I don't have a date, but we can...I have Mister...I don't have his email address, by the way. The email address that he gave me was incorrect. So, if your...you or your grandchildren, I guess, can give us the correct email address, then we can tell you when this meeting...this item will get rescheduled. So, I'm going to defer this item, Members --

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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

February 18, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- with your permission. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: TC)

ACTION: DEFER Item 22.

ITEM 17: BILL 116 (2024), AMENDING CHAPTER 3.36, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO THE MAUI COUNTY GRANTS PROGRAM, AND CHAPTER 3.40, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO CONCESSION AWARDS AND RENTAL OR LEASE OF COUNTY PROPERTY

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm also going to defer Bill 116, which is the last item on this agenda. We've run out of time. Thank you very much for extending beyond the time that we normally end. And at this time, which is 12:34, this meeting is adjourned.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do we need to take testimony on Bill 116?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, do we have to take --

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, perhaps to be safe --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: -- if we're going to defer, it'd be best to just open it and close it real quick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ITEM 17 . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no one signed up to testify on Bill 116, so we'll do a last call. If there was anyone who was intending to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. The countdown is three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. With your permission, I'd like to close public testimony for Bill 116.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No objections. We'll take written testimony.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ITEM 17 . . .

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

February 18, 2025

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: TC)

ACTION: DEFER Item 17.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And thank you very much everybody. This meeting is now adjourned.
It's 12:35. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 12:35 p.m.

bfed:min:250218:clh

Transcribed by: Charlotte Louise Hunter

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

February 18, 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Charlotte Louise Hunter, hereby certify that pages 1 through 65 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 20th day of March 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Charlotte Louise Hunter