

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

**January 23, 2020**

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MR. MUISE: Thank you guys.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mr. Krueger, will you please call the next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Napua Hueu testifying on agenda item EDB-65 to be followed by Kamalani Pahukoa.

MS. HUEU: Aloha, Chair, County Councilmembers. I have a few reference photos that pertain to my testimony if you wouldn't mind passing them out. I don't think I have enough for everybody but they could probably pass it down the line. Thank you. Aloha, Council, I'm here to testify today regarding agenda item EDB-65 to make sure that no monies from the \$400,000 of invasive species line item is allocated for eradicating subsistence resources. The \$400,000 allocated should be used to combat actual invasive species like little fire ants and Miconia, the real threats that can't be addressed by help from the general public. Axis deer eradication is an issue that can be more responsibly addressed using local hunters and the creation of hunting management programs. If you need an example of a successful hunting management program search Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana who has operated a hunting management program with a perfect safety record over the last 25-years. I'm here to provide an account of my observations over the last two-years of KIA LLC's operations and business motto which is dependent on the eradication of our wild food otherwise known as subsistence resources belonging to the native and non-native tenants of Hawaii. I've acquainted with the commercial hunting outfitter KIA LLC through their work over the last two-years as they have been extracting cattle from the Kahikinui Forest and I'd like to speak on my observations of this operator for you to consider. KIA LLC is utilizing Federal, State and County conservation and invasive species grants to produce corporate profits. Due to harvesting of subsistence natural resources that have been unrightfully deemed and labeled as invasive species and portrayed as ungulates. KIA LLC is profiting off of the animals being removed from Kahikinui and its other areas of work. KIA LLC is directly affiliated with Maui Nui Venison another for-profit corporation and sustainable food venture whose profits is dependent on the eradication of venison, a wild food resource and subsistence resource for our Hawaiian people. KIA LLC's right of entry for the Kahikinui Forest has caused many negative effects on the local hunters, gatherers, and cultural practitioners. Their exclusive access for the Kahikinui Forest has prevented beneficiary organization initiatives for forest care over the last two years and spurred conflict with native tenant rights. There's been no focus by KIA LLC over the last two years in trapping rats, cats and mongoose in the Kahikinui Forest which the beneficiary organizations of the area did consistently for 25-years prior as a pivotal part of forest care. KIA LLC's focus on cattle and deer have resulted in a spike of pig and goat herds in the Kahikinui region. For the last two-years KIA failed to tend to existing native

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plant enclosures by the beneficiary organizations and prevented beneficiary organization members their access to Kahikinui and said kuleana. I'm gonna wrap this up and suggest everybody search protect Kahikinui to acquaint with the operations of KIA LLC. There's been grotesque large animal mortality issues. We don't have a large animal mortality plan or a procedure here on the island of Maui and so there's been extensive cattle carcass dumping with no actual plan for responsible disposing of these cattle carcasses on a commercial scale. So, we have concerns about where all these animals, the carcasses are going to be dumped and you guys are potentially providing County funds to do so and it just lends to really grotesque sort of situations environmentally. So, please look into the commercial outfitter KIA LLC extensively before you make any decisions about this money, this County money. Mahalo.

**CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ:** Mahalo, Ms. Hueu. Are you part of Kahikinui Game and Management Program?

**MS. HUEU:** I am not part of their organization. I've just looked into their records and operations over the past 25-years as a means to understanding the situation in Kahikinui.

**CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ:** Mahalo. Member Sinenci?

**COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI:** Thank you, Chair. Just a couple questions. Thank you, Ms. Hueu, for being here. Do you know if Kahikinui homesteaders have some kind of neighborhood meat sharing program?

**MS. HUEU:** What type of sharing program?

**COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI:** Like if they did eradication on DHHL lands, do they share the meats kind of similar to Member Paltin's question about...

**MS. HUEU:** Yes. So, Kahikinui Game and Land Management organization had done community meat distributions, not promoted meat distributions but just internal community distributions for 25-years. They have a membership of 52 people and they've estimated that their axis and their program over the past 25-years had fed, you know, well over 300 families as far as these 52 members coming in and out and being able to harvest subsistence resources and share it with their networks.

**COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI:** Okay. Thank you one more question. And are you aware if DHHL allows private I guess hunters or to go onto DHHL properties to hunt? Commercial, I guess commercially.

**MS. HUEU:** Previously it was through Kahikinui Game and Land Management organization that you could gain access for the purpose of hunting and

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gathering and that was the DHHL's mechanism for utilizing the hunting community to come and to gather.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Pro Temp Kama and then Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Napua, for being here. So, you know the pictures that you gave us and we're kind of sharing passing it down.

MS. HUEU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Do you know where the pictures were taken?

MS. HUEU: They were at in the ahupuaa of Lualailua which is just previous to Kahikinui itself so up on the hill there of the Lualailua flat.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And is the game management program is it for deer only or is it for deer and cattle?

MS. HUEU: It's Kahikinui Game and Land Management ohana had, they were targeting deer, goat, pig and cattle. The majority of their members would actually target goats so because there hasn't been anybody hunting goats for the past two years specifically the goat herds have spiked. And the photos that you have, those, that cattle carcass dumping is associated with KIA LLC's operations, that was their large animal mortality composting plan is dumping 50-plus cattle at a time in a pile in the Lualailua ahupuaa which is home to some very significant sacred and cultural sites.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, do you know who's doing the dumping?

MS. HUEU: Yes. KIA LLC.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo Pro Temp Kama. Member King and then Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. So, I just wanted to find out what, so the Kahikinui game and hunting program what do they do with the carcasses?

MS. HUEU: So, they would coordinate with...there's this group of Mexican ranchers on the island who would come in and take whatever pieces that the members

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didn't take. So, I guess the Mexican culture they have use for the head, the guts, the tongue, the tails. They would literally only leave the spine and the hide behind and they would put them in the ground and dig a hole for whatever was left but they would utilize the Mexican ranching community on the island to come and get all the pieces that the members wouldn't utilize.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member King. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Hueu, for being here. My question is that I wanted to clarify was are you not for County grant funds to be using for axis deer eradication and like that or is it specifically that you don't want the grant money to go to this company and if the other entity that you were speaking of--I'm sorry I forgot the name--would apply for it then would you be for it or you just don't want any County money going to axis deer eradication and you don't believe it's a problem in that watershed area?

MS. HUEU: I would be supportive of County monies going to a community organization that had a history of responsible management as far as eradication goes and that wouldn't be serving commercial profits as far as their other arm or leg. That if the County funds were going to an organization that was, you know, just supporting eradication for, to feed the community without this commercial profiteering angle that's associated with KIA LLC I would be supportive of it. But at this point in time I believe that the little fire ants, the Miconia, the plants are, they should be given the priority at this time and that our ungulates could be more responsibly addressed via the local hunting community.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just to follow up, I was wondering what that assessment is based on, like you go into that watershed area and have knowledge based on your personal observations?

MS. HUEU: I've been monitoring this issue with KIA LLC in the scope of their operations in Kahikinui for two years. We have a 17-page investigative report that I'd be happy to e-mail everybody if you want to look into the issue. But everything that I have testified today about is based on my two-years of extensive observation and recording.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I understand that part, I was, the question I had was your statement that the Miconia and the little fire ant is more the area to be concerned with than the ungulates is based on you've been seeing Miconia and fire ants or your observation of that over a lifetime or your frequent visits into the watershed area?

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**MS. HUEU:** I'm a East Maui resident and so I'm very familiar with the Miconia issue and the little fire ants in the Nahiku area and I'd consider those to be of more priority right now given I understand that our general public and hunting community have the expertise and abilities to address axis deer. Our general public and, you know, local hunters don't have the expertise to combat Miconia and invasive fire ants.

**COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN:** And at the level of 15,000 deer eradication a year?

**MS. HUEU:** Yes, I believe that the local hunting community could be an asset in targeting the axis deer issue but they don't have the ability or the know how to combat the other invasive species that we're dealing with on Maui.

**COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN:** Thank you.

**CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ:** Mahalo, Member Paltin. So, it sounds like there's a lot of like investigative questions that the Members would like so I can ask if Ms. Hueu would be available to stay until this item comes up and then at that time, you know, if we would like to ask if you can be a resource person then we can make that determination.

**MS. HUEU:** Sure.

**VICE-CHAIR KING:** No objections.

**CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ:** Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Hueu.

**MS. HUEU:** Thank you.

**CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ:** Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

**MR. KRUEGER:** The next person signed up to testify is Kamalani Pahukoa testifying on agenda item EDB-65 to be followed by Shasta Domen.

**MS. PAHUKOA:** Good morning, Council. I'd like to echo the testifier before me Ms. Napua Hueu. I'm in strong support of everything she said and I just wanted to give my perspective in regards to the release of funds, County funds to this entity. Like mentioned, for most of Maui Upcountry resident subsistence hunting is critical to our nutrition and food security. The lifestyle is considered, you know, a part of everyone's weekly normal routine to be able to gather and feed for your family without becoming dependent on stores. All our people need is, you know, access and they need to be reminded of their rights to subsistence gathering. So, for an entity to come and ask for our County funds it's kind of like a neighbor, a new neighbor coming in and asking for a fifth of your, of all the food in your fridge. That's my perspective. I hope this Council can get

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down to the specifics when releasing funds because it kind of is a broad topic, environmental protection, but like mentioned we have so many kanaka and subsistence hunters and gatherers here that have the full capability to execute, you know, 15,000 or more deer to feed their families here on Maui without putting the deer into someone's pocket which is what I believe KIA LLC does. Mr. Muise does own Maui Nui Venison so when "removing deer" that also means, you know, removing deer to get it USDA stamped and then sell it into the stores which benefits only two partners which is himself and Mr. Kimo. So, I just wanted to bring that to light, I'm not sure if our Councilmembers knew that, if you did good job. I also want this Council to kind of be, to specify the use of the monies when it comes to the lands it benefits. To my understanding KIA Hawaii works a lot with Ulupalakua Ranch and Haleakala Ranch, to my knowledge they have enough monies to, you know, create their own and to pay for their own management operations when it comes to things like axis deer. There's no need to dip into our County funds for a profitable entity. So, in regards to, you know, the hunters that were mentioned they're well organized and they have really good formalities and I've witnessed, you know, strict rules and regulations that they follow that go beyond the scope of, you know, State of Hawaii's rules and regulations, they're stricter than that which to my knowledge is, you know, it proves why they have such a perfect safety record. To wrap it up I know that, you know, our people just need the opportunity and the reminders that, you know, we can organize ourselves, we don't need an off-island hunter especially a commercial man to come and manage what we believe to be is resources which is food for our people. Maui Nui Venison does ship I believe off island which you can ask the entity yourself just to clarify some things because there's a lot of what I like to say green washing going on which green washing is when you put, you know, some nice words on the topic to confuse consumers or people. So, there's a lot of that going on and it's really good marketing also which, you know, is a part of the, I'll just say brainwashing so there's a lot of people that we need to get involved but Maui County has the full ability to manage our resources ourselves without the help of an off-island entity because I do believe in environmental protection but I believe it needs to be done by our own people.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Pahukoa.

MS. PAHUKOA: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, Members, any questions? Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you for your testimony. So, I was just wondering when you said our hunters can do this if we had access. So, can you explain that?

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MS. PAHUKOA: Yeah. So, in regards to let's say Ulupalakua Ranch, Haleakala Ranch they don't give all people access to these lands. Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is supposed to grant access to any subsistence Hawaiians or non-Hawaiians if you are sponsored by a beneficiary or a Hawaiian, you know. So, it's if we bust out the maps below Waiohuli in between what we call Mahi Pono lands which, you know, also this Council has a fiduciary duty to specify majority of Mahi Pono lands are considered crown lands which as kanaka you have the utmost right to access these lands for subsistence purposes. So, just reminding everyone to kind of define these terms because we have protected persons that have all the right to access these lands, we're just kind of green washed or things have been forgotten. But yeah if we had, you know, just a better understanding and we put it out to the public in regards to like maps and sections of parcels that they can access and then of course arrange a schedule for certain hunters. I know at least 25 hunters that would show up if you gave them, you know, a set amount of times and they'd do it for free without, you know, they wouldn't ask for \$150,000, they'd be grateful to have access to these lands to feed their families and the community because we all know one deer can feed, you know, a family of four, five or more. And then, you know, working together, it's pretty amazing this County has such an asset when it comes to axis deer. I don't like to think of it as invasive because it was brought here, you know, during our...our king brought them here to feed our people so it's important that we use our resources to the...to our capacity which is to feed our families. Kind of rubberstamping them with the USDA and then selling them kind of goes beyond the subsistence lifestyle if that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, and I wonder if we could find out more information then on the DHHL requirements or relationship to this subject matter. Thank you.

MS. PAHUKOA: I'm a leasee, if I could just touch upon like 30-seconds about DHHL and my understanding of the process when it comes to those lands.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any objection or should we ask Ms. Pahukoa if she can stay...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah if she could...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Would you be able to stay until this agenda...

MS. PAHUKOA: I'm not that's why I kind of want to touch upon it --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay go ahead.

MS. PAHUKOA: --real quick right now if that's okay? So, I'm considered a successor actually not a leasee. I'm a successor to my uncle who is a leasee in Kahikinui

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and so what we've noticed is that KIA had access through a right of entry which is the DHHL's like permit process. So, KIA Hawaii has the right of entry to the forest which has removed the beneficiary based entity which is KGLMO, Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana so because KGLMO was pushed out of the forest through that right of entry permit process granted by DHHL, that was kind of the trigger or the button that, you know, all these other species were forgotten, the mongoose, the goats, the deer including and the focus of KIA was the wild pepe. So, that's the process it's called a right of entry, ROE, and that's granted by the DHHL Commissioners which we're actually headed to the capital in about two-hours therefore I can't stay but we're headed there to kind of bring light to this topic because I understand County doesn't really have jurisdiction on Department of Hawaii Home Lands but we can easily work together. We're going up there to oppose the nomination of Mr. William Aila who has kind of been the person and the leader that's created all this conflict within the forest. So, that's where we're headed and that's kind of the process that we oppose is that right of entry taking away the kuleana of kanaka to give it to this private business to profit.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MS. PAHUKOA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for your testimony.

MS. PAHUKOA: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call the next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Shasta Domen testifying on agenda item EDB-65 to be followed by Adam Radford.

MS. DOMEN: Aloha, my name is Shasta Haole Domen, I'm testifying on agenda EDB-65. I'd like to echo the past two testifiers Ms. Pahukoa and Ms. Hueu and I ask that you do not provide funds to Jake Muise and KIA LLC as history shows his ability to green wash his services by playing the conservation card as, and it's quite concerning in the process which KIA LLC conducts its hunting, cattle harvest and animal disposal. Jake Muise and KIA LLC launched the Kahikinui project that in my opinion was very flawed. The project set forth by Jake with consent and push from the homestead association in Kahikinui and DHHL through the right of entry started a process in which one, Hawaiian rights were non-existent, access to the non-residential portion of Kahikinui was denied. Hunting, gathering, data collecting on forest ecosystems and cultural practices in the forest were banned taking away our kuleana. This helped an organized homestead association's ego as they felt powerful in deciding who could come in and who they wanted to threaten and how they wanted the narrative of past



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rightful stewardships such as KGLMO to sound as if they failed in caring for the forest which was so far from the truth. This led many to believe that KIA LLC was the only way to manage all seven ahupuaa in the moku of Kahikinui. Hundreds of acres being managed by only a handful of lessees and a hunter. They showcased dishonorable, unethical, and gross hunting practices in meat distribution. Some cows were shot while tense and scared full of adrenaline which changes the molecular structure of the meat. Cows may have not been bled right away which causes bacteria to grow rapidly and spoil the meat. The animal is then picked up by a claw transported by helicopter and dropped into an unsheltered dirt lot where dust is churned up, the sun is blazing, where there is no clean water, just people waiting to butcher. These people here who are waiting for these cows are not butchers and they end up wasting meat in these obviously unsanitary conditions. Carcasses are gathered and disrespectfully disposed rather than disposed or rather thrown on land that has historical importance. I also have reason to believe cattle are shot a day before the cattle harvest which may intend spoiled meat being distributed, this is so offensive in all aspects. They take away Hawaiian's rightful substance resources. These ungulates are not invasive they are substance resources, whole communities can benefit from meat, funds should be used for real invasive species like insects and plants, and ungulates such as cow, pig, goat and axis deer are food. There are enough trustworthy hunters in the community that would gladly hunt and distribute meat for free. There should be no reason why kupuna in Hawaiian Home Lands Kahikinui and Waiohuli should not be provided through the kuleana of makua and moopuna, instead an outside entity, KIA LLC intends to use County money to continue their venture in profiteering.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One last sentence to wrap up please.

MS. DOMEN: Okay. KIA LLC has continued to undermine and offend the Hawaiian culture and people who identify, I'm sorry, whose identity encompasses self-sufficiency, the same people who rightfully and willingly preserve through the rightful kuleana, the same people who could benefit tremendously from this grant and make a huge conservation contribution without uncertainty and without distress.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for your testimony --

MS. DOMEN: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --Ms. Domen. Okay we have questions from Member Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good morning, Ms. Domen, thank you for your testimony. Have there been any previous meetings with KIA