

# **BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 10, 2025**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE: 9:06 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (Out 12:44 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (In 10:55 a.m.)  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (In at 9:14 a.m.)

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member

**STAFF:** Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney  
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director  
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Jean Pokipala, 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

**ADMIN.:** Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor  
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Lori Ann Y. Tsuhako, Director, Department of Human Concerns  
Jessica Crouse, Deputy Director, Department of Human Concerns  
Georgette Tyau, Administrative Officer, Department of Human Concerns  
Jolie Jenkins, CDBG Program Manager, Office of the Mayor  
Curtis Jamison, Grants Management Program Manager, Department of Management

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Roland Prieto, Assistant Administrator, Senior Services Division, Department of Human Concerns  
Ruth Griffith, Administrator, Senior Services Division, Department of Human Concerns  
Vanessa Joy Domingo, Secretary to Boards/Commissions, Department of Human Concerns  
Priya Landgraf, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor  
Richard "Remi" Mitchell, Director, Department of Housing  
Saumalu Mata'afa, Deputy Director, Department of Housing  
Jolie Jenkins, CDBG Program Manager, Department of Management  
Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff, Department of Management  
Kekai Robinson, Deputy Director, Department of 'Ōiwi Resources  
Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, County Executive, Office on Aging, Department of Human Concerns  
Wendy Stebbins, Volunteer Center Coordinator, Department of Human Concerns

**OTHERS:**

Mike Moran, President, Kihei Community Association  
Matt Bachman, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Maui  
Paige DePonte, Director, Spirit Horse Ranch  
Kathleen Couch, Program Coordinator, Maui Adult Day Care Centers  
Margie Dela Cruz, Executive Director, Maui Adult Day Care Centers  
Andy Justus, Director of Personal Care, Hale Mahaolu  
Maya Marquez, Maui Grassroots Response; Maui Rapid Response  
Jason Medina, Maui Rapid Response  
Nicole Huguenin, Executive Director, Maui Rapid Response  
Debbie Cabebe, CEO, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Autumn Ness, Executive Director, Lāhainā Community Land Trust  
Claude Moreau  
Keolamau Tengan, Executive Director, Ka'ehu  
Courtney Ikawa, Regional Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui  
Mo'i Kawaakoa, Holomua Outreach  
Linda Puppolo, Executive Director, Maui AIDS Foundation  
Jordan Hocker, Community Outreach & Education Coordinator, Maui Housing Hui  
Douglas Bigley  
Howard Kihune Jr.  
Nara Boone, Maui Grassroots Collective  
Trinette Furtado, Program Director, Ice Cream Aunties' Missions of Aloha  
Jack Dowling, Kehalani Affordable, LLC  
Chris Flaherty, Hale O Pi'ikea  
Jade Moreno, Principal Researcher, Maui Housing Hui  
Testifier 1  
Nicole Kealoha, Immigrant Resource Center Manager/Representative; Pacific Gateway Center  
Jasee Law

Others (19)

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development...Development Committee. It is now 9:06 a.m., and today is April the 10th. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of this Committee. I'd like to welcome everybody to the meeting, and let you know that this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. So, as a reminder, any Member who is not here, please identify who is with you in the room, vehicle, or work...workspace, and that minors do not need to be identified. Member Kama will be joining us. I don't see her. She's not online yet, yeah? I don't see her. Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we...we do see Member Kama online, she just hasn't turned on her camera. So, we're not sure if she's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Oh. Oh, there she is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there. Okay. Member Kama, good morning.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Members. Good to see you all again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good to see you. Next, I'm going to go to Member Cook. Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha and good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Member Johnson, good morning.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right, good. Member Paltin, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, good morning to you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, mai Molokai nui a Hina. I am at my private residence alone here, and there are currently no testifiers at the Molokai

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District Office. And I believe my flight today is at 12:00, so around 11:00, I might have my...my video off. Okay. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Then we'll see you in West Maui later on. Member Sinenci --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha and good morning, Chair. There are no testifiers in Hāna.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Joining us shortly and--is Member U'u-Hodgins. And Chair Lee is excused? Is she excused? She's not feeling well, huh? Okay. From the Office of the Mayor, Lesley Milner, Budget Director; Department of Human Concerns, Lori Tsuhako, Director, as well as Deputy Director Jessica Crouse; Department of Housing is--I don't see them here yet--is Richard Mitchell, Director; Deputy Director Saumalu Mata'afa; and Jolie Jenkins, which--who is the CDBG Program Manager. Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo, as well as Kristie Wrigglesworth. From Committee Staff, from Office of Council Services, Pauline Martin [sic], Senior Committee Secretary; Yvette Bouthillier, Legislative Analyst; Kirsten Szabo; and...as well as James...James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; Jarret Pascual and Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analysts; Peter Hanano, Legal [sic] Attorney; Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director of Office of Council Services, and she's also an attorney; Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Please see the last page of...for information on meeting connectivity.

**ITEM 1:                    PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
                                 OF MAUI**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting. We have one item on the agenda, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the County of Maui. And Members, I will begin by taking comments from the departments first, and then testimony to follow. So, at this time, I would like to ask if we can have opening comments from Human Concerns, which is Lori Tsuhako, the Director, and you can introduce the--who else that you would like to introduce from your department. And Members, for your information, on Granicus, number 17 is Human Concerns, and the Department letter is 98 in Granicus, HC-2, and follow-up questions for [sic] our April 7th meeting is 125 in Granicus, labelled HC-3. Good morning, Director Tsuhako.

MS. TSUHAKO: Good morning, Madam Chair. Good morning, Members, and OCS colleagues. Thank you for this opportunity to come before you to answer your questions today in

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defense of the Department of Human Concerns Fiscal Year '26 budget request. Joining Deputy Director Jessica Crouse and me via video conferencing are five of our division leaders: Wendy Stebbins of the Volunteer Center; Curtis Jamison, our Grants Management Administrator; Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, our Executive on Aging; Ruth Griffith, Senior Service Administrator; Hauanu Bernades, Immigrant Services Coordinator. Kaina Bonacorsi, our Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, and Christopher Kish, our Homeless Programs Administrator, are unable to join us today. And also joining us by video is our Department's Administrative Officer, Georgette Tyau. In keeping with the body's request for an overview of the Department's budget proposal, we offer the following information. The Department's Fiscal Year '26 request represents a reduction of 3.2 percent from the current fiscal year. As you are aware, Fiscal Year '26 is the second year of operation following our bifurcation with the Department of Housing. We have been able to focus more deeply on social service needs in our community, and will continue to do so by fulfilling our roles as direct service providers and as administrators or indirect providers of needed services. The Department has proposed a 1.0 reduction on FTE for Fiscal Year '26 due to our inability to hire a Prevention Program Specialist III for our Strategic Prevention Framework Partnership for Success funds. Federal funds for this program are passed through the State, and due to a lack of timeliness in contracting with the State, and staff shortages at the Department of Health, the Department felt that there was not enough stability and continuity to hire staff. Our Grants Management Administrator has continued to oversee this program. There are currently 36 vacant positions in our department, however, five of these will be filled by May 16th. Out of the 36 vacancies, 13 positions are grant-funded. The Department has no expansion position requested in the upcoming year. Instead, we will continue to work with the Department of Personnel Services on recruitment, training opportunities, and retention. We take this opportunity to thank our DPS colleagues for their support, and for being responsive in helping us to improve our internal processes to expedite recruitment and hiring. We remain committed to this improvement. So, just to give you an example, our administrative officer reviews all position descriptions prior to recruiting, and works with division heads to update duties and responsibilities to ensure that needs and compliance standards are met. We ask that all funding for all positions be maintained so that our continuous recruitment efforts can proceed without delay. One of the primary features of our Fiscal Year '26 budget is the excising of the Animal Management Program. As you heard from the Mayor's Office last week, the transition of Animal Management to the Department of Agriculture has been contemplated for the past year. Our department is committed to working with the Department of Agriculture's staff and with the Animal Management grantee, Maui Humane Society, to achieve as smooth and effective a transition as possible. Another significant aspect of our fiscal year request is the \$250,000 capital improvement project expansion for planning and design of a new West Maui senior center. Our center was destroyed in the August 2023 wildfire, and while our Senior Services staff have made valiant efforts to restore and maintain services to the West Maui kūpuna, a replacement facility is clearly necessary. Our department's experience with capital projects is somewhat limited, so funding to hire a consultant to lead us through the planning, the community engagement, and design of a replacement facility will be a tremendous resource for us. We also believe that hiring a consultant will effectively enable the Department to achieve a higher level of timeliness in this rebuild

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effort. A significant expansion of \$850,000 has been added to the County grant subsidy for Mayor Bissen's priority, Safe Parking Lot Pilot Program. The Department issued a request for a proposal at the end of March, and conducted an introductory meeting with interested individuals and entities on Tuesday, April the 8th. The procurement will close in mid-May. And as noted in the questions raised in your recent correspondence labeled HC-02, the Department has also absorbed a total of seven new program grants--three from the Office of Economic Development, three from the Department of Management, and one new grant altogether. The Department has responded to HC-02 with a 19-page response, and we're hopeful that the Committee and Staff have had an opportunity to review the information contained therein. To conclude, the budget request before you reflects our focused effort to address the mission of the Department of Human Concerns to support and enhance the social well-being in Maui County, while also being cognizant of our responsibility to be accountable stewards of taxpayer funding. The Department's request for operational funding and resources is, we believe, a realistic and accurate portrayal of our needs, and we sincerely ask for your continued support. Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I had a clarification question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I didn't catch what you said, the number of grant-funded positions that you had said?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Councilmember. It's 13.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thirteen. And those were vacant?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Those were the vacant positions that are grant-funded.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And it's funded--who is the grant from?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Most of those grants come from Title III, which is the Older Americans Act funding, and some of them come from the State through Kūpuna Care and ADRC funding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Thank you very much for your presentation. And next, we're going to have opening comments from the Housing Department. Welcome, Director Mitchell and Memb...Deputy Director Mata'afa. Is he there? Oh, yeah, you are there. I just can't see you past my computer. And then we also have Jolie Jenkins, who's...CDBG, who has that...has now joined the Housing Department. So, Housing first, and then CD...CDBG second. Thank you.

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MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Chair Sugimura. Good morning, Members. Let me open up by thanking staff for their--and particularly Deputy Saumalu Mata'afa for their incredible work in putting together our budget, and for implementing the budget. As you all know, we have spent the last ten months standing up the Department of Housing, and making a number of changes to make sure we can work more efficiently and effectively. We've responded to BFED-1, H-01, and the second letter, H-02, is due today...that will be submitted today. Our major changes in our budget is that we've increased from 39 to 49 E/Ps, equivalent personnel. Our new grant subsidies include Hale 'O Lā'ie, 5.2 million; the Lāna'i Affordable Housing Project at 10 million; the Lāhainā Community Land Trust at 3 million for these grant subsidies; and the Women's Reintegration Program at 175,000; Kilohana Makai Workforce Housing Project at 1 million. With respect to major changes with our Revolving Funds, our Affordable Housing Fund is at \$42,024,992 to fund the Department's Fiscal Year '26 projects; the Homeowner Programs Revolving Fund is at 2 million for the 'Ohana Assistance Program; and with respect to operations, our Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, program has 2.6 or \$2,006,803 to fund the program, positions, and operations. The CDBG program has not yet become part of the Housing Department. It will become part of the Housing Department in the beginning of the next fiscal year. We'll be bringing over three people, maybe a fourth, but I'll leave that to Jolie to discuss. And my anticipation is that they will all be fully-staffed, so we will not be addressing the issue of having to fill positions when CDBG comes over. And then lastly, I'd like to respond to one question in particular in the last BFED letter concerning how the Department's priorities align with the Mayor's budget...budget priorities. Number 1 in the Mayor's budget was housing, housing, and housing. Come on, housing. And everything that we've proposed in our budget is in advance of promoting and developing housing in the department. And with that, I thank you, Member Sugimura...Chair Sugimura, for the opening, and turn it back over to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you very much. Jolie Jenkins from CDBG, would you like to give some opening comments?

MS. JENKINS: Is it--oh, that's working. Hi, good morning. Thank you, BFED Chair Sugimura and County Councilmembers. Mahalo for allowing me to present today on Resolution 25-80, entitled, "AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FOR A GRANT UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM." The Resolution pertains to the funding of CDBG Program Year 2025, and contains a ranked order listing of projects recommended for full funding, as well as partial funding. Please allow me to provide a brief overview of the CDBG program, its project evaluation and rating system, and projects recommended for funding. The CDBG program was created by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and is one of the oldest programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The primary objective of the CDBG program is the development of viable communities by promoting integrated approaches that provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities. CDBG funds are allocated annually on a formula basis established by HUD, and is based on the County's population, poverty, and housing overcrowding. In anticipation of funding and a

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predetermined calendar of deadlines, an open application period from October 17th to November 18th was announced, and application packets were made available at the CDBG Program Office. This year, a total of six grant application proposals were received. One of the six proposed...proposals failed to meet minimum threshold screening, and was rejected without exception. The remaining five satisfied minimum threshold require--screening, and proceeded to project evaluation and rating. The system is utilized by a panel of five members and one alternate, all of whom are tasked with conducting independent reviews of each proposal, completing application rating sheets, and attending a mandatory meeting for the purposes of final project selections that cumulatively will not exceed the estimated CDBG annual allocation amount. Panel members met on February 25th, 2025, to receive compiled scores through extensive deliberation, a final selection of projects recommended for funding was determined, and are as follows. First ranked is Hāna Health Specialty Clinic for 500,000. It's going to go towards the expansion of its existing health center, to include a dedicated facility that will...will provide more medical and dental services for East Maui. The project will advance equity for Hāna's medically-underserved population, the majority of whom are Native Hawaiian or part Hawaiian, as well as persistently underserved residents. The entire district of Hāna is expected to benefit from this project. Second ranked is Arc of Maui for an emergency shelter and building access for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities for 306,000, and this will complete necessary improvements to the shelter, and create access to their day program in Wailuku. Improvements include the installation of new photovoltaic panels, convert building access from a step to a ramp, and replace old double doors to include automation. Third rank is Hale Makua for a Wailuku rehabilitation project for \$500,000. It will provide funding for the first phase of a three-phase capital improvement plan. The first phase will include roof coating, installation, and electrical panel replacement. The direct benefit of this project is to address deferred maintenance at the Hale Makua Wailuku facility. Fourth rank is CDBG's Nā Hale Kūpuna Program for \$100,000. It's to support the continued operation of units acquired for kūpuna age 62 and older of low- and moderate-income, and who were displaced by the Maui wildfires. Fourth ranked--oh sorry. Last and not least, but is fifth ranked, Mental Health Kōkua, which is being partially funded for \$92,691 for the renovation of community housing for adults with serious mental illness. The renovation will include repair and maintenance for two existing group homes. An executive and...executive summaries have been included in the resolution, and they go into the projects with more detail. CDBG is a vital program, especially during these times where financial resources are scarce and needs are great, so we must consider all sources of ren...revenue besides County-generated revenue [sic]. Thankfully, these are funds coming in, and so we're very grateful that...for that, and we hope that you support CDBG's recommended projects for funding. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mayor--very much, Ms. Jenkins. Members, for your information, this...we placed on the Council agenda, and we will hear it for passage or not on the April 17th Council meeting. But today's discussion, you can answer [sic] any questions you may have regarding that, and I look forward to passing it so that we can support CDBG and these projects that have been rated as presented. All right. So, do we have any--it looks like we have a lot of testifiers, yeah? Yes, okay. Thank you very much, departments. And now that we're done with the opening comments, we're going



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to take testimony on BFED-1. And as you know, anything in the BFED agenda, you are able to testify for three minutes. And anyone who wants to testify can sign up outdoor in the lobby, or online meeting via the Team links, or call in to the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the departments scheduled for today. Written testimony is encouraged, and can be submitted via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas) as well. For individuals wishing...wishing to testify via link, 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 testifiers list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you've logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it's your time to testify. At this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please encourage...please ensure your name appears on the Microsoft Teams as your...as a name you prefer to be referred to or anonymous. And if you wish to testify anonymously or if...in person, please notify Staff...Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and if you're not done, I'll give you another 30 seconds to finalize your testimony. And once you are done testifying, if you do not wish...if...or if you do not wish to testify, you can also visit the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. Staff, please call the first testifier.

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The first testifier is Mike Moran, to be followed by Matt Bachman on Teams.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hi, Mr. Moran. Hi.

MR. MORAN: Good morning Chair Sug...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. MORAN: -- Sugimura and Committee Members. I'm Mike Moran for the Kihei Community Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we look forward to your meeting in our district next week. But for today, we...we wanted to speak in support of a grant in the Mayor's budget for the Hale O Pi'ikea housing project in Central Kihei. As...as you're certainly aware, we have...in our district, we have thousands and thousands and thousands of housing units in various stages of...of approval. The vast, vast majority of those are not for our community, they are being constructed and marketed to people who do not live here on the high end. And when we have a project like this, and if you're not aware, it's a three-phase project, and the first two phases are already under construction, and it's 100 percent affordable rental projects. And this is a type of the project when--if you're listening to...to our Planning Director, says this...this is exactly what we should have. We should have a building...housing that's

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near facilities--near shopping, near schools, near parks, near recreation, near entertainment--and that's exactly what this is. It's--when complete, it will allow residents there to...to walk or...or bicycle or, today, a scooter--or whatever new device there is--without getting in cars and reach most of the facilities that they need. So, all this is less traffic. We can't get new roads built immediately, but when we build facilities like this for our residents of our island, for the affordable rentals that we need, and make...make it in a nice, habitable area where it has all these advantages. So, we ask you for--to support the Mayor's grant in...in the budget on this project today. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Moran. We will be in South Maui on April the 14th. Thank you for--and we'll look forward to seeing you there. Members, do any...any of you have questions for Mr. Moran? Seeing none. All right. I think I didn't introduce...or welcome you, right, Member U'u-Hodgins? I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good morning, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, and I think I got everybody else. So, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, as well as Member Kama, will be leaving at some point. I think Member Kama, about 11:00, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez will be travelling also, so thank you for letting us know. All right, next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Matt Bachman on Teams, to be followed by Paige DePonte in the Chamber.

MR. BACHMAN: Aloha, good morning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. BACHMAN: -- Chair and Members. My name is Matt Bachman. I'm the Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Maui. I'm here today to testify in support of the Department of Human Concerns, specifically the Maui County Office of Aging, a \$250,000 grant directed towards our program called A Brush with Kindness. A Brush with Kindness allows us...this--we'll be entering our fifth year of partnership. It allows us to help our kūpuna and our disabled to age in place, and to stay safe in our home...in their homes. As we all know, not only do we need affordable housing, which Habitat tries to bring, but we need to maintain the inventory of housing that we already have. And so by using these...this money, we are able to help our community. I'd like to note that we are, of course, Countywide. We have two part-time employees on Mau...on Moloka'i. We are doing projects over there. We do 30 projects a year. We're about ready to hit, I think, 25 for this year, and we are able, with these funds, to not only help our...our kūpuna, as I mentioned, but we're also able to stack those funds with other funds from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and from generous donors, so that we're able to help quite a few people in the...survivors in the...in the burn zone that maybe didn't lose their home, but need a new roof because of the wind damage, and we've been able to use these monies to stack those funds. It's because of MCOA that we have been able to find other grantors. We've been able to bring on three new grants.

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No one wants to be the first money in, MCOA is. And by showing them that we have those funds already, we're able to bring more money to Maui and more to...to the community. We are a small but mighty bunch here at Habitat Maui, and so we also rely on some of our subcontractors to do some of the work. And so, the Maui...the money does not necessarily just come to us, it comes to...through us also to some of our other subcontractors and other community members, so we're supporting the community that way. We are very excited to continue this partnership. We hope that we will be...continue to be granted this money. And just...on a different subject, just to let you know, in case any of you guys are ready to swing some hammers, we're rebuilding in Lāhainā right now. So, we are...got...we got foundations poured, we got walls up, and we are...we're doing the work. So, I want to say mahalo for letting me testify, and I'd be happy to take any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, I see in the budget there's \$250,000 for Habitat. Is that what you're testifying on?

MR. BACHMAN: Yes. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, any questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Bachman. I wanted to clarify if any of the money would need to go to permitting, and if you would be assisting your clients with that process, or does it not need to be permitted stuff?

MR. BACHMAN: Thank you for the question, Member Paltin. So, in general, it does not need to be permitted. However, if it does, yes, those funds can go. However, we also are partnered with...with CNHA and with Hawai'i Community Lending, and both of them have grants specifically to help with permitting. And so, what we do is...like I said, with the stacking, we use them generally to help us fund the...the permits. So, we try to use the funding specifically for building and construction.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And your partner, as you said, was CNHA and HCL...Mr. Gilbreath?

MR. BACHMAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. BACHMAN: Yes. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah, Mis...Mr. Gilbreath is a good friend of mine. . . .*(laughing)*. . . We go a long ways.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you. Thank you for answering --

MR. BACHMAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- my questions. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have any questions? Seeing none. Oh, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, thank you for being here, Mr. Bachman. So, can you go into detail a little bit about your Brush of [sic] Kindness program?

MR. BACHMAN: Sure. So, specifically, what we do is, the initial referrals come from both the community and from Maui County Office of Aging. Once the...the family is referred, we do an eligibility check. And so, the eligibility criteria for the program that we've established is that the person is either 60 years of age or older, or disabled. Then they have to be at 80 percent of the area median income or below. They have to be a homeowner and homeowner-occupied, and they...yes, homeowner-occupied. Those are the...like the three main criteria. We do that by checking water bills. You know, generally, when it's 60 and older, sometimes we just get Soc...Social Security income, and then once we do that, we send...once we verify their eligibility, we send our construction team out to do an assessment to assess what the needs are. We work with needs, not wants, and that could be anything from our favorite, a bathroom blowout, where we take out the...the tub and put in a shower, we've done cabinets, we've done windows, we've done doors...any of that kind of thing. And then once we do the assessment, I provide it to our Board of Directors, 99 percent of the time they approve it, and then we put them on the schedule. I'll tell you that as I'm talking to you today, our team is out building a ramp for a young lady . . .*(laughing)*. . . in her 60s that can't...her house actually has two steps down and two steps up, and she can't make it out with her wheelchair, so we're making a flat ramp for her today.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Wonderful, and it's good to know that. So...but 250,000, when you do these kind of repairs, or the...the Brush of...I mean...I mean, pulling out a tub and putting in a shower is not cheap, you know, and you--I look at your funding. But your funding isn't just for the Brush of Kindness, right? It's to do other kinds of things too, right?

MR. BACHMAN: Well, the 250,000 is specifically for the Brush with Kindness.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay.

MR. BACHMAN: We have other grants that handle the construction of new --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MR. BACHMAN: -- homes and --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. BACHMAN: -- subsidize those. But this 250,000 is restricted and specifically goes only to the Brush with Kindness.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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MR. BACHMAN: And again, we...we service all of Maui County --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BACHMAN: -- including, you know, Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

MR. BACHMAN: Mahalo.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Paige DePonte, to be followed by Kathleen Couch.

MS. DEPONTE: Good morning. Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. Nice to see everybody again. This is a beautiful room. Sorry for my voice, it's vog-inhibited. My name is Paige DePonte, I'm the Director of the Spirit Horse Ranch, and I'm here to support Housing and Human Concerns because they are where we fit in as part of the community granting system. As a Maui-based nonprofit, we have been on the front lines, especially since the Maui wildfires. And in the past few, I think, 20 months, we've done over 2,300 sessions. Those are one-hour sessions with either an individual or groups, and including keiki, youth in crisis, foster families, and our wildfire survivors. We've also worked with first responders, our medical teams, our counselors, and I stand before you again today just...just a reminder of the possibilities that are open to Maui County. We also recently stepped into Molokaʻi, which is awesome. I love it. . . .*(laughing)*. . . It's been an amazing experience. We did a little pilot trial through our Federal funding for our youth program, and we are now booked out through the end of the year for Molokaʻi. We only go once a month. We would really like to go twice because they really need it. And we'd love to get to Lānaʻi. We've been trying for a while because the benefit of the work that we're doing is...is incredible. The transformations that we see working in bottom-up therapy is...is science-based, and I've talked about this many times in front of you. We're deeply grateful to Housing and Human Concerns for our recent first County grant, which was a mental health grant. We were very excited about that, and also, at the same time, a little sad because we were asked to cut 100,000 from our request, which is much-needed. We have raised our budget every year, but as we go into Federal cuts, we are now looking back towards Maui County to step up and support us for next year. We will make it work, we always do. We are resilient. I think living out in Kanaio and raising horses in...in the badlands makes you a very resilient and strong individual. So, we have consistently stepped up where gaps have existed. We have built out our situation with temporary classrooms, temporary offices, Starlinks. We have raised funds Federally, locally, foundations. And we are going to ask that, you know, along with Governor Green, who recently wrote a letter in support of us for Federal funding, that the Maui County continue to support us. Our youth programs are a real alternative to suicide, addiction, and incarceration, which is also something we're

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looking into maybe working in the prisons, and being able to support those to prevent suicide in our Maui County prisons, especially. Our program is 100 percent effective, and we're very grateful, again, for the new support that we have. Spirit Horse Ranch is not just a program . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . it is a lifeline, and we can't do it alone. So, we are looking to you to continue our support and help put us as a yearly budget --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. DEPONTE: -- line item. Thank you, guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I looked in the budget, I don't see you as a line item.

MS. DEPONTE: We're not a line item, we were in the mental health grant. But we have asked for three years in a row to hopefully be a line item with Maui County. We provide a substantial service.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, how much did you do...did you receive, I guess, and...with County as well as Federal?

MS. DEPONTE: So, Federal, we were 541,000. County, we asked for 250, and we were given 150,000, split between '25 and '26 for the mental health grant. We were declined our actual grant last year that we had requested. We were told that they were not funding new nonprofits, which we're not really a new nonprofit, but I'm not sure how long you have to be a nonprofit to be recognized as one that is deserving of funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Any questions, Members? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MS. DEPONTE: Thank you, guys. Have a great day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Kathleen Couth, to be followed by Marie *[sic]* Dela Cruz.

MS. COUCH: Good morning, and thank you so much for your time. We appreciate it. I am with--the Program Coordinator for Maui Adult Day Care Centers, and so we provide care for our older population. There are number of them that can be isolated in their home, and families don't look at that as an isolation to leave them there, but they typically can't get out and drive anymore to connect with friends, or cook their food because a fire could start. There are changes that make it unsafe for them. And so, we work to get them out of their home and into a setting in our center where we can bring life and enjoyment to them again. Things like playing bingo with prizes so that we make it reminiscent. We put on the old-time music, and we dance the foxtrot with them. When I do talks at high schools and say that, they always go, what's the foxtrot? . . . *(laughing)*. . . But...but we do karaoke, sing-alongs...we do arts and crafts, large and fine motor activity...pretty reminiscent of what we do with our...our preschoolers and

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our children because that's pretty much what they're capable of. So, we help them to live and enjoy life at whatever level they function. And the other thing that we do is support of caregivers. So, we do support groups in...in six areas of Maui every month. We provide one-on-one counseling in-person or right over the phone for as long as someone needs, and we actually get calls from off-island residents, from the mainland, because families will refer them because they can't find support. We do workshops and presentations to help educate them because understanding of dementia and the...the aging changes is so important. And I think one way to really convey that is to share a story because it shows the connection of how even on the spot in our center, we can work with a caregiver. We had a very proud Asian son come into the office one day and say, Kathy--in a very angry way--I want to see you on the floor right now. So, I followed him out, thinking, oh, my God, something's happened to his dad. And as we went out there, he pointed across the room and says, look at my dad sitting over there, holding a doll. He says, boys...girls played with dolls, not boys, he said, so don't ever let my dad play with a doll again, and you make sure you tell the staff that, you understand? I said, I do, but let's go across and talk to dad. And so, we walked across the room, and when we got there, he nudged his dad's shoulder kind of rough and say, hey, why are you playing with that doll? And dad kept rocking this doll, kept rocking this baby, and humming, and patting it's back. And the son again nudged him and said, why are you playing with this doll? And dad felt that. He turned and he says, hey, hi, howzit? This is my baby, my boy. He says, I love this boy. I'm so proud of him. He said, do you know that this buggah's not fussy, he eats good.

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

MS. COUCH: He says, I love this boy. He says, when this boy grows up, he says, my son--and he gave him his name. This was no longer the son, this was. And he says, when he grows up, I want him to do this, and he started talking about his...his dreams for him. And as I looked, the son start--and I will too because I see it-- . . .*(laughing)*. . . this son started to cry. And I didn't want to embarrass him. I walked back across the room, and I stood there for 20 minutes . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and watched him talk all...talk to his dad. I saw him gently after that take the doll, and lay it on the table, and take his dad out. He's not understand--this is a son who didn't understand dementia, and what can happen, and how to work with dad in that. Two months later, in December, he comes back in the office and says, Kathy, can I talk with you? Very humbled this time. It's December. What kind of doll do you think I should buy my dad for Christmas?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. COUCH: I want to experience more of this, and I want my family to. I said, one that fits comfortably in his arms, and don't forget the blanket because he'll want to keep you warm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. COUCH: So, to kind...to...to support the caregivers, and bring understanding and support, this person with dementia is so meaningful, and so important because aging

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population is growing, and we're seeing more and more and more. But we're so honored to be able to do that, and your support makes you a part of our team in that effort. So, thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. COUCH: I'm going to call up Margie Dela Cruz --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wait.

MS. COUCH: -- who is our Executive Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wait, wait, wait, wait. We...we may have questions for you.

MS. COUCH: Oh, so sorry. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, yeah, as we all were dropping tears, I guess then --

MS. COUCH: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- you spoke over 30...over 30 seconds for the extra, but thank you for sharing. Anybody have any questions for Maui Adult Day Care Center? They're in our budget for 536,503. All right, Members. No questions? Thank you.

MS. COUCH: Mahalo. Have a blessed day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Margie Dela Cruz, to be followed by Andy Justus.

MS. DELA CRUZ: Sorry for keeping you cry. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Good morning, Chair Sugimura and all the Councilmembers. My name is Margie Dela Cruz, I'm the Executive Director of Maui Adult Day Care Centers. On behalf of Maui Adult Day Care Centers, I humbly thank you and them--County of Maui for the support you have provided our organization throughout the years. It's probably--well, last year, we celebrate our 50th anniversary, so it's been that long since you've been supporting our daycare. Adult daycare services are an invaluable alternative to traditional long-term care placement, provide needed support to family caregivers, and way, way less expense for families. Maui Adult Day Care Center helps to keep Maui's challenged elderly individuals at home for a longer period of time, preventing premature admission to a nursing home or foster homes. Not only do we serve and challenge elderly individuals, we also serve adults with cognitive and/or physical challenges, 18 years and older, and we've had client--like 20s...21 years old right now. So, we provide safe, compassionate care for our clients at three centers--Kahului, Kihei, and Ocean View, the one in Wailuku. We lost our Lāhainā centers...center due to the wildfire, but we've continued to serve our Lāhainā clients. They are attending the other three centers, and we thank the MEO Transportation for



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doing the transporting of our clients to and from the other centers. But also, I...I want to ask for your support also because we found a temporary location for our Lāhainā daycare center at 60 Kenui Street. So, we're here to ask for your approval for the sublease agreement so we can have the caregivers back to work, and also to meet the needs of our clients. So, we're asking for your support if you come across the sublease agreement. So, as what Chair Sugimura mentioned, in our line item, it's 536,503...402...402,370 is for Maui Adult Day Care Centers, and the 134,125 is for the Hāna Senior Center. With the help of the County, we are able to keep the cost to Maui families and their adult loved ones low and affordable. We are the lowest in the State. Just to give you an idea, we open almost 12 hours a day, and this is seven days a week, from 6:30 to 6:00...so that's 11.5 hours. Our charge, depending on the level of care, is from 65 to 78 a day. That's equivalent to 6 to \$7 an...an hour. Imagine how much you have to pay for a CNA or NA to come to your home to take care . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . of your loved one. That's probably 50 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 30 seconds.

MS. DELA CRUZ: -- \$50 an hour. So, you are saving the community, the caregivers, a lot. So, thank you for your support. I would also like to ask for your support for the MEO Transportation. Thank you very much because they are providing at least 30 percent of our clients transportation to and from daycare. So, we humbly ask for your support. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. I have a question for you before the Members. What is the lease that you're looking for?

MS. DELA CRUZ: What is that, ma'am?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a lease you're looking for approval?

MS. DELA CRUZ: A sublease for this...well, this...this place, the 60 Kenui Street, for a temporary location for our Lāhainā.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, you're look...you're looking for that lease approval from who?

MS. DELA CRUZ: From the Council.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 60 --

MS. DELA CRUZ: 60 Kenui Street.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have information? Okay, you can --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We just entered a contract. I was going to take about one-third of the building for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your office?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My office burned down, and then two-thirds for Maui Adult Day Care Center.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, we can talk about it. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But the...their lease would be through the Administration, not the Council, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I asked --

MS. DELA CRUZ: But I--yeah, but I think that would be a sublease approval by the Council because it's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. DELA CRUZ: -- it's way--yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Approval by the Council --

MS. DELA CRUZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but with the Administration.

MS. DELA CRUZ: Yes, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, we can get more --

MS. DELA CRUZ: Department of Management, they think.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, we can get --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, people are having hard time to drive to Kihei and other areas, and the debris transport starting June is going to add to it...so if we could get it done before June, right?

MS. DELA CRUZ: Yes, yes. That would be good. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much --

MS. DELA CRUZ: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for sharing. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Andy Justus, to be followed by Maya Marquez.

MS. JUSTUS: Good morning. My name is Andy Justus, and I am new to this position. I am the Director of Personal Care at Hale Mahaolu. This is my first time testifying, and I do realize that I have two things to testify for, so I'm going to talk really fast. I am testifying for Kūpuna Care, Personal Care, as well as the subsidy program as well, the Personal Care subsidy. Hale Mahaolu recognizes the growing needs of Maui County's older adult population by providing home and community-based services that include personal care and home respite, homemaker, chore, and attendant care services. Our programs are partner--or participant-centered and family-supportive to help the older adult remain in their home and community for as long as possible, while maintaining and improving their quality of life, independence, and dignity. As a provider of quality home and community-based services for over 40 years, we have witnessed that these programs are successful in safely maintaining our participants in their homes for years. As an example of this, providing services...assisted their personal care needs for over 12 years at ages 101 and 81, respectively. We've got several participants that have been in our program for multiple years. Participants receive assistance with activities and daily living, such as bathing, grooming, dressing, oral hygiene, toileting, positioning, turning, transfers, ambulation, and other related services, such as homemaker, chores, attendant care, so that they can remain in their home in a clean and safe environment. If you want to live in the comfort of your own home and need a little bit of help, maybe getting in and out of the shower so that you don't fall, or need a bath be...if you can't stretch your arms up all the way to put your shirt on, this program might be exactly what you or someone in your family needs. I also administer the subsidy program that's budgeted in...in our budget as well, and--that we're asking for your support. The program provides the clients with a subsidy, which is used to help pay their caregiver. That's what the subsidy one is. The cost of the caregiver can be too high for many because they might be--make just a little bit more for Medicaid to be able to cover it, those kinds of things. So, they slip in the crack, they're like gap...they're in the gap. I have a couple of testimonies as well. I've only been in this job for two months, and in that two months, I've been writing the RFP . . . *(laughing)*. . . for it. So, I'm going to read some testimonies because I think they'll say more than me sitting up here reading information. My name is Andrea--this is a testimony. My name is Andrea--even though my name is Andrea too so I didn't want it to be confusing. . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . My name is Andrea. My mother is Susan. My mother is quadriplegic --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 30 seconds.

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MS. JUSTUS: -- confined to her wheelchair with only the use of her right arm due to a stroke many years ago that paralyzed her. My mother started requiring further assistance with getting in and out of bed, showers, and dressing. We applied for Medicaid assistance although she did not qualify, and she was slightly above the income threshold. I was helping my mother as much as I could. I started searching for help, and that is when I found Hale Mahaolu. This program was--definitely saved us. My mother can live independently with assistance. We found two loving caregivers, and thanks to Hale Mahaolu, my mother is able to pay and--with the money she receives. Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Am I done?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. JUSTUS: I have one more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You know what? You can submit it to us in writing.

MS. JUSTUS: Okay, I will.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you.

MS. JUSTUS: I'll submit it in writing. Thank you. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you can...you can just pass it onto our Staff.

MS. JUSTUS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members...Hale Mahaolu, right?

MS. JUSTUS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Personal Care is in the budget for 170,000, and Home Care is 190,000. Are those...are those...are those the two items you were speaking about?

MS. JUSTUS: 170 is for the subsidy program, and then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You call it subsidy?

MS. JUSTUS: -- the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The 190? Or tell me what --

MS. JUSTUS: I'm not sure. I...I'm not absolutely positive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What...okay, what are the numbers? What...what amount are you --

MS. JUSTUS: 170 is the subsidy program, I know that absolutely.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. JUSTUS: That's...that's the number, for sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that's it? Is that it?

MS. JUSTUS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. JUSTUS: Please don't ask me that. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Ms. Andrea, I had a question.

MS. JUSTUS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Home Care program that you were speaking about --

MS. JUSTUS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- do they offer that assistance outside of the Central District?

MS. JUSTUS: Yes. We have caregivers that go Upcountry and to Lāhainā. Yes. We haven't gone as far as Hāna, but we could, it just depends on who we get as employees. So, we have people that come that--if we can find people to work with us, then we would have people in those areas as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And to date, you're limited to Maui Island?

MS. JUSTUS: We have Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi as well. We serve all of Maui...Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And do you know what you requested for that Home Care program?

MS. JUSTUS: I just did the RFP for the next two fiscal years, '26 and '27, so I know what I requested for that, and so I was trying desperately to remember what the one is for this year. I believe it was between 550 and 570.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And how many people would you be able to serve in a fiscal year with that amount of money, and --

MS. JUSTUS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- would I divide it by the number of people to get how much people per dollar?

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MS. JUSTUS: Oh, yes. 14,000 hours of service is...is what...is our units, is what we're...is what we serve, and we have hundreds...hundreds of people that...that we serve. We have 28 attendants, and they go into homes, and--let's see. I just wrote all of this, so I should know it, shouldn't I? It should be embedded in my retina.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You can follow-up --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Submit --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- with email. But do you have other funders?

MS. JUSTUS: Yes. Yes, we write grants. Like she was saying, the...some of the other presenters were saying that MCOA is our...is our big...is our big supporter, and with that then we have...we write other grants and...and we're supported in other areas as well, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah, maybe you can follow-up with the details on what your ask was, and how many people and units of hours you intend to serve with that, and --

MS. JUSTUS: Absolutely. Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- then we can break it down if it's not 550,000 like, you know, how many people.

MS. JUSTUS: Absolutely.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. JUSTUS: Yeah, sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MS. JUSTUS: Yes. Any...anything?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And you'll submit the--your testimony in writing.

MS. JUSTUS: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. JUSTUS: Yes. . . .(laughing). . .

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, I think they have line items, and they're not with that other grant that we just talked about, but...all right. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, I apologize, I believe Member Kama had her hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Member Kama --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I didn't see you. So, Andy--is that her name? Andy, would you like to come back?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Is Andy still here? Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have a question for you from Member Kama. Apologies, Member Kama.

MS. JUSTUS: Oh, no worries.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, thank you. Thank you, Andy, for your testimony, and it sounded really interesting. I'm sorry you didn't have time to complete it in your three minutes, but if you send it all, we'll read it, you know, for sure. But my question is, how many clients are you currently serving?

MS. JUSTUS: I know, I wish I had the exact number on the top of my head.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. JUSTUS: I --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That you can send to us if you don't have it.

MS. JUSTUS: Yes. Yes, I...I definitely have it, I just don't have it on the top of my head. I just sent --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. JUSTUS: -- in that...all that --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And that's okay.

MS. JUSTUS: -- information last night, and got this ready to do this morning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. JUSTUS: -- so I apologize.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Appreciate it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, don't worries. We're like that too, we got numbers all running in our head, that's why we don't keep it straight either.

MS. JUSTUS: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But--and so, my second question is, do you have a waiting list for...for clients?

MS. JUSTUS: Yes, we absolutely do because we have many more clients that would like services than we have workers that...that can provide it. So, that's --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Correct.

MS. JUSTUS: -- one of the things we're definitely working on budget-wise, is trying to be able to --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. JUSTUS: -- keep up with starting wages and--so that we can pay people to have enough workers to provide the service that we need.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, how long is your waiting list?

MS. JUSTUS: I'd say--well, Maui County Office on Aging has the...has a waiting list, and we have a waiting list for the subsidy program. And then we've also started a new program for--with Alzheimer's Association for dementia, and Alzheimer's and caregivers as well, so we've got three different waiting lists going. It just...it all depends on the type of service and how many services. Because some people need multiple services--they need both personal care and attendant care, and they need cleaning and chore services as well. So, it...it totally depends on how many services they need, but it...it can be up to--a dozen or so can be on a waiting list at a time. The Alzheimer's/dementia wait list is a little bit longer because that program right now is a grant-funded program, and it's--can be temporary. We're going for a second year of funding for that too, here in the next month.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Well, thank you so much, Chair. And thank you, Andy, for being here. Appreciate your testimony.

MS. JUSTUS: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

MS. JUSTUS: Yes. Okay.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Maya Marquez, to be followed by Jason Medina.

MS. MARQUEZ: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. I'm going to go easy today. My name is Maya Marquez, and I am here with Maui Grassroots Collective and Maui Rapid Response. And I'm here today to respectfully raise a concern and offer a solution regarding the harm reduction training highlighted in the Homeless Solutions report. This training is referenced multiple times as a key strategy, and is currently included in the Department of Human Concerns' budget. We would like to know where in the budget this is. I want to emphasize the importance of having these trainings facilitated by local Maui professionals. By doing so, we not only support our economy, but we also ensure that the training reflects the cultural context and spec...specific needs of our community. Maui Grassroots Collective and MRR has formed a diverse and highly-qualified hui of local providers who are ready and equipped to lead this initiative. Our team includes Dr. Kahala Johnson with Maui Medics [sic]; Alohi, a provider from Hale Makua; Cailin, a certified therapist; Nicole Huguenin, Executive Director and master teacher; and myself, bringing both extensive field experience and lived experience to this work. Together, we are prepared to offer culturally-competent, trauma-informed, and effective harm reduction training tailored specifically for our island. Mahalo for your time, and for your continued commitment to community-centered solutions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MARQUEZ: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you are in the budget? I don't...I didn't find you. It's Maui Grassroots Collective?

MS. MARQUEZ: Yes, and Maui Rapid Response. No, we're wondering where the harm reduction trainings are in the budget, and encouraging to hire locally.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see. So, you want to be part of the program, is what you're asking?

MS. MARQUEZ: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For Maui Rapid Response, as well as Maui Grassroot Collective?

MS. MARQUEZ: Yes, it's the umbre...MRR is under that umbrella.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any questions, Members? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo, Maya, for your testimony. So, just to clarify, you and Rapid Response does the training, and it does --

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MS. MARQUEZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- sound like the Director said that they have training within the department, but where do you guys give the training to, to County officials?

MS. MARQUEZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MS. MARQUEZ: Anyone who is in need. We're all--I'm currently working with MPD as well --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: MPD?

MS. MARQUEZ: -- to do a harm--yes, a harm reduction --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, so you're doing --

MS. MARQUEZ: -- training.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You're doing those --

MS. MARQUEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- with...with some of the MPD officers --

MS. MARQUEZ: Correct. With the Chief.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- that are going and...and out and doing outreach?

MS. MARQUEZ: Yeah. Yeah, I did a class --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Nice.

MS. MARQUEZ: -- for the new recruits --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great.

MS. MARQUEZ: -- so--yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. MARQUEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Marquez, for your training [sic]. So, I just wanted to clarify that I heard correctly. The ECONorthwest study identified harm reduction training as important to the process?

MS. MARQUEZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's what you were saying?

MS. MARQUEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you don't see in the budget that that's been budgeted for?

MS. MARQUEZ: Correct. Even though it was recommended several times through that homeless report.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And --

MS. MARQUEZ: I'm just bringing it up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for bringing it up. And did you respond to an RFP for MPD, or is it a voluntary thing that --

MS. MARQUEZ: I am on the MMAC board, the Maui Multicultural Advisory Committee, and through that, I'm working with the Chief to provide this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it's in a volunteer capacity?

MS. MARQUEZ: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you have any paying clients for the training?

MS. MARQUEZ: Yes. Chaplain Ministries, I'm currently doing a harm reduction training for.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if you were to be awarded for the harm reduction training, it would be through MRR as a nonprofit?

MS. MARQUEZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Have MRR received County monies before and gone through the process, the application and like that process?

MS. MARQUEZ: I'm not quite...I...I believe MRR has received some County funding, but I cannot confirm that. Nicole would have to.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And what amount do you think would be appropriate for the level of harm reduction training that the County needs?

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MS. MARQUEZ: I would say 50 to 60,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. MARQUEZ: Yeah. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, any other questions, Members? Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What would be provided for the 50 to 60,000?

MS. MARQUEZ: The trainings in a specific area with all the paperwork that would be included in a training, also being able to do it on Zoom for others that can't make it in person, snacks...you know, all the things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like how many trainings, and how many people? Like how many hour...training hours and how many people?

MS. MARQUEZ: Ideally, we would have 25 people at a training to make it, you know, not too overwhelming. And I'd ideally like to do a training a quarter for County specifically, and then have other contracted jobs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. MARQUEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Jason Medina, to be followed by Nicole from Maui Rapid Response.

MR. MEDINA: Up here, right there. Aloha, Councilmember Lee, aloha, Councilmembers. Hello, everybody. My name is Jason Medina, and I'm here today to testify in support of Holoholo I Ka Wai project. Alongside my partner, Maya Marquez, we have been providing a critical service to our community by delivering clean, safe drinking water to over 200 houseless individuals each week. That amounts to approximately 2,400 gallons of water distributed every month across multiple encampments on the Island of Maui. We carry out this work under the banner of compassion, and we've built trust within these communities through consistency, care, and respect. Our efforts are currently supported with equipment provided by Noah's Arc Foundation, another nonprofit, and the Stable Road Foundation, but no funds have been allocated yet for the actual water distribution itself. In terms of water, I'd like to also document the timeline for you all. The water project started in July of 2022, and ended when I left in 2024 at Project Vision Hawai'i. As of November 2024, the project...the program was picked back up with Maui Rapid Response because we were lent a water machine by Noah's Arc, and MRR fronted a sufficient truck. So, we're requesting Department of Human Concerns release this last year's funds to Project Vision Hawai'i, and requesting a budget amendment that the Maui Grassroots Collective be--the fiscal sponsor for MRR be allotted the program going

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forward in the next year's budget. Today, I'm asking the Council to consider a budget amendment in the upcoming fiscal plan, specifically that MGC--which is Maui Grassroots Collective--and MRR be designated as recipients of the water funds. We're already doing the work on the ground, and with this support, we can expand our reach, improve our operations, and continue to serve with dignity and efficacy. And yeah, water is life. . . .*(laughing)*. . . And for our houseless community, this service is not just about hydration, it's about health, stability, and human rights. Mahalo for your time and consideration. That's all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, are you in the budget now, or you're asking to be? I'm...I'm confused.

MR. MEDINA: We'd like to be a part of this year's budget, but speak with Department of Human Concerns to get PVH paid for last year's budget. But we'd like to take over that allotment for this year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: P...PVH. What is the acronym?

MR. MEDINA: Project Vision Hawai'i.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, they're --

MR. MEDINA: Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- they're the ones taking care of that Safeway housing.

MR. MEDINA: They do the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tent City, right?

MR. MEDINA: -- Pu'uhonua o Nēnē, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They are?

MR. MEDINA: That's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're not working with them?

MR. MEDINA: As of May 2024, I am not.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Jason, and thank you for all the work that you do for our community. It's really appreciated.

MR. MEDINA: Mahalo.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The...I'm curious about the...the mach...the truck, or is it a trailer, the actual delivery thing?

MR. MEDINA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can you--I...I didn't...I didn't really understand, what--is it a water buffalo, is it a trailer? Can you explain that?

MR. MEDINA: It's a Ford F-250, and it has an IBC tote, 300 gallons strapped onto the back. It can be taken off, put back on, but we acquired that this year through Maui Rapid Response.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, the houseless folk come up and they just get like a jug, and they--or...

MR. MEDINA: Yeah. We provide some jugs if we can, and we tell all of the individuals, please, get a jug, and 1 gallon, 5 gallon, up to 15 gallon if they want, and we just drive up. After consistency, we have our meeting spots, and we can just honk a horn at a certain point and they come, and we dispense from the...the IBC tote.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for your outreach. Thank you, Chair. No further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. MEDINA: Thank you for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I guess I'll ask the Department because I don't see--Maui Rapid Response doesn't come up as an item in our budget right now. So, thank you very much.

MR. MEDINA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next item...next...next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Nicole from Maui Rapid Response on Teams, to be followed by Debbie Cabebe. Nicole, we do see you online. I think you just have to unmute on your end. It's in the --

MS. HUGUENIN: There we go.

MR. PASCUAL: -- top-right corner.

MS. HUGUENIN: I got it. *(echoing)* Aloha, all. My name is Nicole Huguenin, I am the Executive Director of Maui Rapid Response, and we are part of the Maui Grassroots Collective, which I am part of the steering committee for that, and they are our fiscal sponsor. Specifically today, I have some major concerns with the budget for the homeless outreach portion of Human Concerns, specifically, for some reason, we are the only

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island that only all...in our contracts with Human...with Human Concerns and Family Life Center, as well as the State DHS Department and Family Life Center, they have written in a clause that only allows Family Life Center to verify homelessness. And that is of great concern--again, we are the only county that does that. That is of great concern. People like Officer Jan Pontanilla, people like Na...Naomi Crazie...Crozier of the Mayor's Office, organizations like ourselves, additionally, Mālama Recovery, which is also in the budget for outreach services for homelessness, are not allowed to verify homeless, and as such, they cannot get into the shelter if the bed is open. All of the people that I've mentioned are...are verified by the State as homeless-verifying providers. And...and so, with that, I have three possible solutions. One is that before funds are delivered for next year or approved for out...homeless outreach, that the contract is reviewed, and that the line item stating Family Life Center is the only possible organization allowed to verify homelessness for sheltering, that...that that line item is taken off. The second option would be to audit and put out for a review the RFP...a new RFP for outreach...the outreach portion of the Human Concerns budget to develop a more comprehensive and holistic approach by the...by all of the people that are verified by the State to verify homelessness. And then three, this is kind of separate and...and I think part of this is Maui Rapid Response is days away from being in contract from purchasing a home so that we don't have to rely on the shelter and this very...this process, that is not working for our homeless to purchase a home, so that we have a transitional house for emergency situations, so we have...we don't have people that have died...die on the streets waiting an average of a month or more. It's--we...we've been collecting data, and on average, it takes two months...two weeks to...two weeks to two months to even get Family Life Center to show up to verify homelessness before . . .(timer sounds). . . people can enter the shelter. That's what I have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MS. HUGUENIN: And I will send a follow-up detailed report for both Maya, Jason, and Maya's testimony with data for you via email.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody have questions? Member Paltin has a question for you, followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'll yield to Member Sinenci.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Member Paltin. Just for a clarification, Ms. Huguenin, you mentioned the homeless verification made by the State, and also Family Life Center. Who does that verification?

MS. HUGUENIN: So, the...so, Family Life Center has contracts with DHS and with the Count...with Human Concerns to do outreach for the homeless. They can...they are verified by DHS to verify homelessness. However, there are more people on Maui that are also verified by the State to...to verify homelessness. For some reason though, in the contracts that Family Life Center has, of which we--to be very honest, we have not

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been able to see those contracts, it's just been through hearsay--we...we've . . .*(inaudible)*. . . those contracts and...and we have yet to see them, even months and months after requesting. But we've been told that --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MS. HUGUENIN: -- there are line items that say that Family Life Center is the only one that KHAKO can --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So --

MS. HUGUENIN: -- receive verified homelessness.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. And so --

MS. HUGUENIN: I hope that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And so, no other agencies, including the Police Department, can offer that verification, and you need this verification to participate in any of our County programs?

MS. HUGUENIN: You need this verifi...no. You...you need this verification to receive your driver's license, you need this verification to get into the shelter, you need it for a variety of things. But the...the biggest one that is impacting our system the most is that KHAKO won't...is only allowed to accept it from Family Life Center.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

MS. HUGUENIN: And...and I want to be really clear to --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I'll yield to Member --

MS. HUGUENIN: Yeah, we...we don't --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. HUGUENIN: It's not --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

MS. HUGUENIN: Sorry, I --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I wanted to clarify that you said DHS has a list of folks that can verify homelessness. Can you send us documentation --

MS. HUGUENIN: Yes.



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- on that? And --

MS. HUGUENIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is there...it was previously in Maui County that the Police, the hospital, these other agencies could verify homeless. And do you know when that change occurred, and is it due to the State or the County?

MS. HUGUENIN: It...it has been off and on who has been allowed, it kind of has depended on the intake manager. But recently, in the last two months, all of us--and...and Officer Pontanilla couldn't make it today, she's on O'ahu. I think Naomi is out on...is in the field today. They all wanted to be here, and they said they would send in something in well. But in the last two months, all of us have been told, no, only Family Life Center can...can...can verify for entering into KHAKE. But it's been at least three years where it's been off and on and inconsistent for all of us besides at Family Life Center.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you were told this by Ka Hale A Ke Ola?

MS. HUGUENIN: Yes. And...and in the conversations we've been having with the Governor's Office, and...and Homela...and DHS.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Governor's Office, Tia Hartsock?

MS. HUGUENIN: We've been...we've been talking...so, yeah, I've had...I...I'll...I will email you all the--and then I will have them email you...Erin (*phonetic*), the Administrative Assistant, email you the list of people that are all verifiers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And if you can also include the name of who you've been dealing with in the Governor's Office with DHS --

MS. HUGUENIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and with Ka Hale A Ke Ola...the names of the people you deal with, whoever it is in the Governor's Office, whoever it is with Ka Hale A Ke Ola, and whoever it is with DHS, that'd be great. Thank you.

MS. HUGUENIN: Do--can I ask a clarifying question? Do--can--for this--it's more of a point of clarification, is--do I...do I email this to you guys, or do I have to put it through Granicus?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You can email it to me directly at tamara.paltin --

MS. HUGUENIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- @mauicounty.us, but they may want you to also--or I can forward it to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us. But I'm the one asking for it --

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MS. HUGUENIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- so you can email it directly --

MS. HUGUENIN: Got it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- to me and I'll forward it on, or you can CC --

MS. HUGUENIN: Wonderful. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- them something.

MS. HUGUENIN: I'll do both. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I'll do both. I was already planning on...on sending it to everybody anyway.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. No other questions.

MS. HUGUENIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Debbie Cabebe, to be followed by Autumn Ness.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How many more testifiers do we have? Then I might take a break after this. Nine more? Okay, thank you. Good morning.

MS. CABEBE: Hi, good morning, Budget Chair Sugimura and Members. MEO--I'm Debbie Cabebe, I'm the Chief Executive Officer for Maui Economic Opportunity. MEO is 60 years old this year, and our mission is to strengthen the community and helping people in need, and we help all people in need. Our primary focus is low-income individuals, but we help anybody that is in need. And in the last fiscal year, we assisted 30,500 individuals and families throughout Maui County, touching more than 55,000 lives. And what I'm here today is really to say thank you to the Administration, and thank you to the Council, for supporting social services in general. There are so many needs, and you're stretched in so many directions, and I just want to specifically thank you for supporting MEO programs. And I'm going to list them because a lot of times people don't realize how many there are. So, we have BEST Reintegration Program; Women's Reentry; Rental Assistance Program; Head Start After School and Summer; Planning and Coordinating Council; Youth Services Underage Drinking Prevention; Moloka'i Suicide Prevention; MEO Business Development Corporation; funding microenterprise; transportation, which is Human Services; and paratransit. And for a fact, 26 percent of our ridership on our Human Service program is on the Island of Moloka'i. And then also, for ag grants. Ag grants have been essential and very well-received, and I want to thank the Department of Ag for coming to our office and reviewing the process. I wanted to thank also Councilmember Keani Fernandez-Rena...Rawlins-Fernandez for reviewing the process as well. And lastly, I want to talk a little bit about the National Dislocated Workers Grant, and there was a

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lot of press about that. And unfortunately, with a lot of miscommunication between the Federal Government and the State, and we were a subgrantee and we were sort of caught in the middle. We got that all straightened out. We've been audited and audited and reaudited, and I think we're . . . *(laughing)*. . . we're fine. Unfortunately, the program did shut down, but thanks to a Maui displaced workers grant, we were able to stand up some of those sites and reemploy some of the people that were displaced. And we followed up with the 27 sites that were in existence on February 24th when the program shut down. About 24 of the 27 accepted to stand up the program with the County funding, but many of the sites had hired the people that were placed there, so we see that that's a success. So, when the...when the Federal program ended, they were able to subsidize that and...and employ those people, and that was the whole purpose in the first place. So, again, I just wanted to say thank you so much, and keep up the good work. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin, then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I...I did send the request to the Department of Ag, but last year, in their answers, they continually pointed us in your direction. And so, I was wondering, if they haven't already asked you, if you could provide us, you know, before we make decisions about who the ag grants went to, how much...if it's a repeat grant, and, you know, how long the...the business has been going...or the agricultural thing has been going?

MS. CABEBE: Thank you for the question. We did receive an email from the Department yesterday or the day before with those specific questions. The way we reported the grant was not initially required to report it in that way, so we have to physically go through every file to extract that information. It can be done, but our Director just went on a week-and-a-half vacation. So, we're going to work on that when he comes back, but I'm not going to have it probably for maybe the next...maybe another two weeks, and then we can respond to those. But it is manually going through every file to pull out the information in that format.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I guess my next question is, for next year, would the suggestion be to capture the data in that format so we wouldn't have to do this continually?

MS. CABEBE: Well, that's a great question, and yes. . . . *(laughing)*. . . Every time somebody asks us for something, we go, oh, well, maybe we should capture it that way. So, that will be a standard that we will use going forward. Hindsight is everything, but you...you know, if you're not required to report it that way, you just don't pull that data out when you're physically touching files. So, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then about the youth underage drinking, is this including the money from the Liquor Department, what is listed in this...our answers for that because they have to set aside a percentage?

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MS. CABEBE: That line item, I believe, is just funding from the Housing, Human Conce...or from the Hous...Human Concerns Office, sorry, and the Liquor Commission is in addition to that. I...I don't remember what the total is on top of it, but we put that together, and actually, most of that money from the Liquor Commission has been used for expansion in Lāhainā, and also on the Island of Molokaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, you are the entity that's designated as the Liquor...I guess Liquor Department percentage money, there's no...you...do you still have to apply for that?

MS. CABEBE: We originally, I guess, were asked to apply, and then our Youth Services Director did a presentation, along with some other groups. I think the first year, there were a couple of groups funded, and then I believe this last year, it was only MEO-funded, and then I...I believe he just went and spoke with the Commission again. I think they're pleased with the work that he's done, and it is an evidence-based program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, this Human Concerns amount is separate, and Human Concerns is not administering the Liquor Department's money?

MS. CABEBE: I believe it does end up going through the Department of Human Concerns, but I'm not 100 percent clear on that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But it's a separate...separate amount from this that's listed in our book?

MS. CABEBE: I'm...you know, I'm not clear on that. At one time, it was separate, and it may be combined now, and I'd have to verify that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, cool. Thank you.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, thank you. I...I--your list of all the things you help us with, truly, besides transportation, is huge, is the Women's Integration Program; Head Start, which is huge; En...Englesio [sic], that --

MS. CABEBE: Enlace Hispano, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Senior Planning.

MS. CABEBE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right? The BEST Program.

MS. CABEBE: Um-hum.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: The underage drinking program, which is what Member Paltin just spoke about; youth services; and...oh...oh, maintenance?

MS. CABEBE: Pardon me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did I get this wrong? Oh, I'm sorry. For the youth services. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I for...you reminded me of one thing I forgot. The paratransit program --

MS. CABEBE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is there an aspect of that, that you're working with MEMA, Fire, and Police? When I went with, I think, one of your workers--oh, or maybe Department of Transportation when the Okinawan folks came to visit Lāhainā, we stopped at the Memorial and the County employee, I believe, recognized a lot of the names from the paratransit program. And so, I was wondering if...if there's been any work to coordinate with MEMA, Fire, and Police about evacuation needs for paratransit clients during a disaster. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. CABEBE: No, thank you for that question. Actually, we've always been a part of emergency response, even before we had paratransit under our Human Service program. I think what we've identified is, there was never a formal agreement between MEO and the...and the County. So, I know our Transportation Director submitted information to Emergency Management to explain things that we do on all islands--Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, Hāna, everywhere--and I think we're going to work on a more formal plan with them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and have you been included in the Genasys Protect and the Ladris AI [*sic*]? Like you're going to--when the thing goes live, you guys are going to sign up and...and get involved with that?

MS. CABEBE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. CABEBE: That's our plan. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook...oh, I'm sorry. Member Sinenci first, then Member Cook, right?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, yeah. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: In order.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director. Thank you, Chair. Mahalo, Director Cabebe. You mentioned rental assistance.

MS. CABEBE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Have you expended all of those funds, and do they include applicants with the anticipated FEMA and...and some of the eviction moratorium tenants --

MS. CABEBE: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- as part of your criteria for applicants?

MS. CABEBE: The...the County Rental Assistance, the RAP program, that I think your...is in the line item, that is for individuals who are experiencing potential houselessness for a variety of reasons. And so, we can help them for up to six months' of rent...subsidizing the rent, but they have to show that at the end of the six months, that they can sustain that rental unit. So, that includes us doing financial literacy training with them, doing a monthly budget check-in. So, those people, that's one pocket of money, and yes, we ran out of money. The...the Housing Department has been very gracious and found two sub...subsequent allocations. So, we started out with 150,000, and I think we're at about 1.2 million, possibly maybe 1.1 million as of this second--or third allocation, the original allocation and two subsequent. Those funds are obligated. Because it's six months, you obligate it, knowing that, you know, you're going to help them through that period. We do still have TANF, which is not County-funded, it's Federally-funded through the State, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. The challenge with that is, it has to be specifically related to fire, direct...directly related to fire recovery, and it's for people that have children. So, if they don't have a dependent child in their house, then they wouldn't qualify.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Is it --

MS. CABEBE: I did just some get some information from a private funder who's looking at giving us another grant to subsidize some of those individuals that were earlier funded by other private foundations.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And is it for a specific AMI?

MS. CABEBE: I don't believe an AMI is attached to that, but I'm not the expert. So, may I confirm that with you later? . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, yeah. Thank you.

MS. CABEBE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And...and I'm happy to hear about the six months to --

MS. CABEBE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- to give our residents more housing security --

MS. CABEBE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- at least for six months. We are hearing that...that some of the landlords are going...are...are moving to just month-to-month, which doesn't provide that long-term security.

MS. CABEBE: And that...that does cause a problem when you're trying to--you do have to have a long-term lease, and so that is a challenge sometimes. And also, the six months is not a full subsidy, the point is, is that you wean them off. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MS. CABEBE: -- and you get full deposit, full subsidy, and by the end of the six months, you might be down to, you know, 25 percent, I...I don't know what the number is, but so that they're gradually able to sustain that rent. But in all honesty, with the cost of rentals right now, even people that have very good-paying jobs, two wage-earners in the house, it's tough. And so, if we don't figure out a way, as a community, to...to address that, no matter how much money we put in rental assistance, that's not going to solve the problem.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Director.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director Cabebe. How much...with the Department of Agriculture --

MS. CABEBE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- how much bandwidth do you have to be able to assist them with additional funding?

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MS. CABEBE: Well, we have the capacity to assist them. I mean, I have to say, David Daly, he's the Director of MEO Business Development Center, and he also had the ag grant under him. And one of the ladies that's assisting him was helping us with our bridge grants, that was a Federal funding through the State to help small businesses impacted by the fires. And when that stood down, she transferred over, and she's really fast. I think the devil's in the...you know, the details. Where it gets bogged down is at the back end, when we have to get receipts for everything before we can pay out. But the qualifying and processing, that is a pretty good system, and our...our Chief Operating Officer, whose family is longtime farmers, she helps with the approval process as well.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. For...for clarity in my question, I did meet with the Department of Ag --

MS. CABEBE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and that was one of the challenges of them being able to accept funds for different programs, was their in-house ability to be able to process it. They said they were working well with you.

MS. CABEBE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, thank you for that answer.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you, sir. And we're...we're not a line item in that, our name was taken out, but we...we are the ones that competed for that grant and were awarded it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No other questions. Thank you very much for all that you do for the community. Appreciate it.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you, all, very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Autumn Ness, to be followed by Claude Moreau.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: As she's coming up, how many more testifiers? And Members, do you want to take a short break after Autumn Ness? You do, yeah? Okay, we will. Thank you very much.

MS. NESS: Hello, everybody. Wishing you guys lots of luck through this process. My name is Autumn Ness, the Executive Director of the Lāhainā Community Land Trust. I'm here to first of all, give you a huge thank you for the \$15 million funding package in this current fiscal year. We leveraged the crap out of it . . .*(laughing)*. . . and the impact we make is huge. The confidence you had in our ability to do this work and your understanding of the urgent need also gave private donors the confidence enough to step up and contribute in the millions. In one year, we secured five parcels. We're



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under contract for a sixth. The mixture of Affordable Housing Funds and private funds allowed us to make really sound decisions as we acquired the properties. For example, we did not use Affordable Housing Funds to purchase the Lokia property because it's zoned for three units, and will be perfect for a large family. Not likely to meet the 140 AMI rule. So, we use Affordable Housing Funds to purchase smaller properties zoned for one unit, more likely to be 140 AMI and below. The six properties we now steward are zoned for 14 units of forever-affordable homes, and we're getting close to a path to construction, including in-house zero percent interest construction financing, and we've done all that in a year. We are also signed...about to sign paperwork for the first four of about ten families who are part of our insurance gap program, giving grants to families to fill the gap they need to rebuild, and in exchange, they are putting kama'āina easements on their land, and agreeing to an appreciation cap that will keep their home affordable forever. I have incredible news about how we've leveraged the 3.5 million that you folks gave us for that program in ways that are now making national headlines, in case you'd like to hear later. Where...we also leveraged the fact that community funds are reimbursable, meaning that we have to spend money up front to get reimbursed from the County. And coming up with \$15 million up front to access County money was a hurdle that we turned into an opportunity. A line of credit with the bank was not ideal because every dollar of interest we pay to the bank is \$1 less that we pay to--for Lāhainā, so we established a \$5 million internal line of credit, which is a fund made up of recoverable grants. Foundations paid into it at about a million dollars each. It's a fund that we borrow against. We spend the money out. When we make a purchase, we get it back from the County, spend it out again, get it back, roll it around a couple times, and in a couple of years, the funder can choose to recover the grant, which means we pay it back with zero percent interest. Or, since we've had those two years to prove ourselves, they can decide to let us keep it at the end, or they can put it into our endowment, ensuring longevity. I'm really grateful that Mayor Bissen has seen the continued need and included us in the Affordable Housing Fund this budget for 3 million. We will also leverage the crap out of that, I promise you. I am now at a slightly uncomfortable but hugely necessary part of my talk where I ask for more. It's uncomfortable because there is so much need in this County, and I do not want to be greedy. But we are requesting another \$3-1/2 million for insurance gap money, but this time out of the General Fund, and not the Affordable Housing Fund because there are no programs anywhere . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . that are helping folks over 140 AMI stay, and those are our firefighters and our business owners. And if we don't help them stay, they will have to sell, and that's what we're trying to prevent.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Oh, Member Ka...Member Kama. Sorry about that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So...so, Autumn, thank you for your report, and thank you for your testimony. So, you know, the...the money that you're asking for the insurance, how many families can you actually cover, or how many policies are you able to write with that?

MS. NESS: Well, currently, we--with the 3.5 we have, there's a cap of \$300,000 grant per family. That's this current year.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay.

MS. NESS: So, that's about three--I mean, 11 or 12 people.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MS. NESS: We're trying to spend very little of that on admin costs, so most of it ends up in the hands of homeowners. We're working really closely with Hawai'i Community Lending and the Long Term Recovery Group, and so the data we all have is pretty sound. But the gap --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. NESS: -- is like 200 to \$400,000 per family to get them to stay. So, in some cases, with the current County 3.5 million that we're using, because the cap of that fund is 300, we may end up --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MS. NESS: -- throwing in some private money to fill the rest of their gap, if we have to.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Great. Okay. Okay. Well, thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. So, that was a pilot program that we started last year, and I just chose 300,000. Do you think that it should be increased to 400,000, or --

MS. NESS: You know, that's a --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or changed in any way?

MS. NESS: That's a great question. I do understand the need for a cap, right? And it sounds--when I first saw it, \$400,000 to fill someone's insurance gap and keep them home? Like that's a lot of money. But then when you think about what happens if you don't do that, that property ends up on the market, and...and to save it on that end is really expensive. We're paying 5 to \$600,000 for a burnt residential lot, and the construction cost for a home is like 6 to 800,000, sometimes more. So, like I'm not...I don't know if I'm answering your question, but those are the numbers. So, if we have to go to fi...that's why we're throwing private money in, to go over that gap to keep people home, because it just makes sense. What's another 50 grand if we're going to not have to spend a million bucks on the other end, you know what I mean?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I was wondering if you could clarify what you meant by leveraging.

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MS. NESS: Oh, that program? Okay, you guys, this is...this is rea...I just want you to know that when you took a chance for this \$3-1/2 million for this pilot program, none of us could have understood how this was going to take off. So, when we started the land trust, we thought we were going to have to buy every piece of land that we were going to protect, right? We just went over the numbers. That's a lot of numbers. So, protecting a large amount of Lāhainā was like a large price tag. But you guys did this pilot, we got this money to start doing this insurance gap money. Other post-disaster communities have filled insurance gaps to keep people home, but they have not done so with the kind of protections that a land trust can do. Which means that every home that we invest in, like I said, comes with a kama'āina easement and a perpetual appreciation cap. So, not only...so, we started doing that with your 3.5 million, right? Then we started working with the Long Term Recovery Group, Habitat, the Mennonite Disaster Service...all these people that are helping people rebuild in Lāhainā. They were like, oh, we like those protections, we don't want to have all our volunteers come in from all over the nation and rebuild a house that they're going to see on Zillow in five years, right? Like that's not the goal. So, by doing this pilot, we have ag...all of these partners now have agreed that every time any organization spends more than \$100,000 in cash or in kind to rebuild someone's home, they are also asked to agree to those same restrictions. So, even though we're not spending the money down, they end up with a kama'āina easement on their property that says if they ever sell, it's got to be affordable, and it's--the Land Trust gets first rights to offer it down the line, right? So, that's expanded. Then the community got behind it, and they're like, well, we want the same protections for the CDBG money. If we're going to spend a billion dollars in our community, let's make sure that that's for our community, and not investors. So, now, we're on calls with Altadena and L.A. I'm going all the way to Washington, D.C. to talk about policies that we can attach to Federal money post-disaster to make our communities more resilient long-term. And that's all because of the \$3.5 million you guys put in this pilot.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then my last clarification is, when you said that there's nobody assisting the 140 percent and above, yesterday, the Department of Management broke out their Office of Recovery about a 7.5 match program, which I believe is for the 140 and above. Just clarifying, you believe that's not sufficient?

MS. NESS: Well, I'm still working on this, but I just heard about this literally when I was waiting for my turn to testify. So, I called Jeff from HCL and asked him for some clarification. That 7.5 million--I think you guys have the paperwork--is supposed to go to Hawai'i Community Lending, and it's maybe going to be matched by another funder. They are thinking that that's going to be used for two things--one is for deferred payment mortgages for home buyers; and another portion of that is going to be for helping folks rebuild their current homes. He said it was for 80 percent and above, and I said to him--we work together so closely on these insurance gap families. They are the ones that qualify, our insurance gap people, right? So, I was like, okay, Jeff, if you're going to ask for this money, then I'm going to back off and not do it because if the need's being filled, I don't care who's writing the checks. And he said, no, it's for 80 percent and above, and we have all of the data, and that money would cover the...the owner-occupants that are currently in HCF...HCL's system. However, there are a bunch

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that aren't yet. And so, I was like, so should I ask for Lāhainā Land Trust insurance gap money, or should I leave you guys to it? And he said, no, please ask. Because we don't have enough to help everybody, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the 3.5 ask is...you want it restricted to 140 and above?

MS. NESS: I mean, yeah, if that makes you guys feel good. If it's in the General Fund, we can...then we can use it for whoever needs it at the time --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So --

MS. NESS: -- you know?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 3.5 for like 140 and below, and 3.5 for 140 and above?

MS. NESS: Well, what we have right now is 3 million in the...in the Housing Department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. NESS: And we have talked about leaving that open because by the time we get to spending that money, I can't tell whether acquisitions or insurance gap is going to be the most urgent. So, I think we've agreed with the Housing Department to discuss it at the time. So, in addition to that, we're requesting 3.5 million in the General Fund specifically for insurance gap at any AMI.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. NESS: That doesn't...that's not--because...because CDBG's not going to help them, there's...there's no programs for them right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, maybe minimum 80 percent and above because CDBG helps 80 percent and below?

MS. NESS: Yes, that's a great idea.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. NESS: . . . *(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. NESS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, any other questions? Seeing none. I'm going to --

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MS. NESS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Autumn. I'm --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- going to take a--oh, who...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Or...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Before Ms. Ness runs away.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry about that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Aloha, Ms. Ness.

MS. NESS: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Sorry, such an...such an inspiring update from the Lāhainā Community Land Trust.

MS. NESS: Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for all the work that you folks are doing. In the conversation with the--you and Member Paltin, clarification, the 3 million currently in the budget, is that what the Lāhainā Community Land Trust requested, or what was the request?

MS. NESS: We didn't actually request anything, we've just been working with Mayor on what we're doing, and he said, okay, we're going to support you. But there was no like formal request made. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: With the 3 million, was there like a...like a goal, or a deliverable associated with that amount in...in determining the 3 million, do you know?

MS. NESS: No. I mean, I can only ext...I mean, I might leave that to the Department actually . . . *(laughing)* . . . but all I know is we've been working really closely with them. Like we just...we had two applications that went through the Housing Department for this fiscal year. One was specifically for acquisitions, that was 1.5 million, and the other one was 3.5 of insurance gap money. And so, they're really clear on what we're doing right now, and then they decided to put 3 million, and then we were asked, would you prefer this 3 million be in insurance gap or acquisitions, and we asked to be able to hold off on that so that we know the need of Lāhainā at the time when that funding is available. Does that make sense?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. NESS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then I...I think to...to clarify, the insurance gap program, is it almost kind of like a voluntary deed-restriction program?

MS. NESS: Yeah, totally.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: With the kama'āina --

MS. NESS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- easement, yeah?

MS. NESS: The kama'āina easement is basically a deed restriction that says Lāhainā Community Land Trust gets first offer, or it has to be sold to a long-term Lāhainā resident--and we have all that in the paperwork--1.5 percent annual appreciation cap, and owner-occupancy. And for the record, every single family we've talked to sees no issue, like zero, with these restrictions. They're like, that sounds fair, let's do this. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Incredible.

MS. NESS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And HHFDC at the State level and the Legislature are super on board with like putting funds toward a voluntary deed-restriction program, and I wonder if we could also try to weave all of this in together. Anyway --

MS. NESS: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that--now I'm going beyond --

MS. NESS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- not clarifying --

MS. NESS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- so, mahalo.

MS. NESS: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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MS. NESS: Thanks, you guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Autumn. And...and so, at this time, we're going to take a ten-minute break, okay? So, we'll come back at 11:05. Thanks. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 10:55 a.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 11:14 a.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It's now 11:14, and I would like to take the rest of the testimony and then recess for lunch. So, how many testifiers do we have who are waiting...waiting patiently? Oh, do you know? Thirteen testifiers.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we have about 12 testifiers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Twelve testifiers? Okay, very good. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Claude Moreau, to be followed by Keolamau Tengan.

MR. MOREAU: Aloha, everybody. Thank you for allowing me to testify. I no think I can do this in three minutes, so I might have to provide some testimony. So far, the common theme is being housing. Everybody knows there's a crisis, everybody's on the same page with that. Well, I want to talk to you from the other end of the...of the spectrum. I'm one of the guys trying to take advantage of the programs, and that's the--I'm one of the 112 people that's applied for the 'Ohana Assistance pilot program, and I would like to encourage you folks to keep that program and expand that program. But having said that, the program has some very serious problems. I was hoping Mr. Mitchell would be here because that's one of the biggest problems, is the Housing Department. There's some problems that need to be addressed, so...but I'd like to tell you--just to put a face on it who I am, I've lived here for 45 years. I married a local girl from Maui 56 years ago. We're still married. We have four children, all raised on Maui, all graduated from Maui High. I have six grandchildren, all born and raised on Maui. I'm about as local kama'āina as you can get, I would say. So, right now--well, up until very recently, we've had 11 people living in my house. And my children, I call them the boomerangers because they keep coming back.

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

MR. MOREAU: But just recently, my son and his...his family of four, they lost their house in the Lāhainā fire, and when they got kicked out of the hotels, they stayed with us, and they just finally found a place of their own. In addition, I have my daughter, who's a schoolteacher at Maui High, her husband, a schoolteacher at King K, and they have a teenage son. They're living with us too. And they're trying to save money because they can't afford a house. And when we heard about this 'Ohana pilot system program, we...we were all excited. And so, we try to line up all our ducks, get everything all figured out. We went through the grueling process of getting a building permit, and that's a whole separate subject we could spend a lot of time on, but I...I made it through that,

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and then you folks passed it, and you allocated \$2.7 million. And it's like, great. And what I heard was that 200,000 was going to go to Lokahi Pacific to administer the program and pick out the people who are most qualified, and that would leave 2-1/2 million dollars and the amount...maximum amount was \$100,00, and I believe everybody applied for \$100,000. So, that meant 25 people could get it. So, we were excited because we were ready to go. And they said you had to be--they're giving priority to people who are shovel-ready, and that was us. And so, they told us to submit all your paperwork to Lokahi Pacific in July of last year, and we did that, and then I talked to them. I said, okay, so when...when is the money going to come in? And the lady that was running the program says, oh, the County is going to start administering it in August. I'll say, that's cool. So, we start a line--I'm...I can't afford to pay a contractor . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . so, well...anyway, we're going owner-builder, and you...you have to tell contractors or subcontractors when you want them to come, and you got to be able to pay them. And the...the program was just--they were going to give you four installments when you start, and...and the different stages so we could do that. And we had--my daughter saved some money, and we thought we could do this with the grant, but it never happened. We never got the money, and we've been trying for months and months to find out what's going on. What's the story, where's the money?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. MOREAU: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions?

MR. MOREAU: Oh, I've got --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

MR. MOREAU: I'll have to--I got a lot more to say, so I'll just have to submit it in testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Could you submit it in writing?

MR. MOREAU: Yeah. Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did want to clarify, so were you...you were not able to build the house, but it's still in the plans and --

MR. MOREAU: No, we're--we started building. We're almost done.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. MOREAU: But the way we did it was, we used my daughter--she saved 30,000, and me and my wife, we drained our retirement fund just to keep it going. We kept thinking the money's going to come, and it's going to come, and it hasn't come in. I can't get any answers from the Housing Department. I--it's like dealing with the brick wall. I call them up, the Director's never there. There's one lady's in charge--in charge--she has



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no useful information. She never knows--I ask everybody, is there some kind of timeline? Can you give us a hint? Nobody can--able to do that. It's just, like how do you deal with that? You're lining up subcontractors--you know how it is. Right now, they're all busy. If you're not ready, they'll just go to the next job.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MOREAU: So, sorry. I'll just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...we understand your frustration.

MR. MOREAU: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MOREAU: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Thank you very much. Please submit your testimony in writing.

MR. MOREAU: I will, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I just want to thank you for coming with your testimony. My clarifying request --

MR. MOREAU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- is that you do submit that in writing.

MR. MOREAU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We do need to hear it, we do want to hear it. It's a program that we're very supportive of, and --

MR. MOREAU: It's a great program.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and so, thank you very much for taking the time, and waiting, and coming, and doing that, and getting this information to us. You will help us help you. Thank you.

MR. MOREAU: Okay, thank you. I appreciate that.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Oh, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you so much for coming today. I remember when you testified in support of this project, and we have met a few times afterwards.

MR. MOREAU: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Did you say that you're supposed to receive it in four different increments --

MR. MOREAU: Well, they said you're --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- when you're ready?

MR. MOREAU: -- you're going to get one-quarter--they didn't say you would get 100,000 --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOREAU: -- they say up to 100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. MOREAU: So, if...if that was the case, you--before you started building, you would get \$25,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOREAU: And then after you pass a certain inspection, you'll get 50,000, and so on until the final inspection, and you would get the last 25,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOREAU: So, so far, we've...we don't even know when we're going to get anything, or even if the program's going to actually happen before the money lapses. Because the fiscal year is until July; is that correct? And this is already April, and this has been going on since last July. So, is this...is it actually going to happen, or are we just, you know, blowing smoke, or is this a real thing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. MOREAU: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: No, that's okay. That's what I wanted to know, and then when then Housing Department comes up, I will ensure to follow-up that they can receive it after they're built as well.

MR. MOREAU: Thank you. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kind of along those same lines, I was wondering if you can include in your follow-up letter if--so, you did get the notification that you qualified --

MR. MOREAU: I went down and talked to the Director of Lokahi Pacific, and I just said, well, did we qualify? She said, you got a 100 out of 100.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then so, from my understanding, it's...it's not reimbursement, but because you qualified, and the money never went out, the request is that you do get reimbursed because they didn't pay in a timely fashion?

MR. MOREAU: Well, we have got no money yet at all.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. MOREAU: So, we were lucky that we actually had enough money to do this, but imagine all the other people that can't. And also --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, that was your savings, it wasn't for that purpose.

MR. MOREAU: No, no. But now, we have no retirement. But that's okay, it's for my daughter. We're not doing this to make money, this was for my daughter and her family. We're not going to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But --

MR. MOREAU: -- rent this out to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you might need retirement.

MR. MOREAU: -- Joe Blow...yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MOREAU: All right. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Okay, Members, I'm going to do all the testifiers, and then break for lunch, and hopefully we can come back at 1:30. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think we got to do --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- you're in control.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- discussion before you break for lunch though, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we will do what we need to do for Sile...I mean Sunshine. But I just want you to know, we're going to take all testifiers who have been waiting, and then they'll receive your questions, then I'm going to break for lunch and come back at 1:30, so that's my plan. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Keolamau Tengan, to be followed by Courtney Ikawa.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. TENGAN: Good morning. Aloha, Chair, aloha, Councilmembers. Last time I was here was about a year ago. I had just come into Ka'ehu, and we've been on quite the journey since then. Things in the nonprofit sector aren't great right now. I think that's obvious. When I think about it, I kind of think of my tūtū. And she used to have this old Datsun...white, raggedy thing, full-on Maui cruiser. The thing would rust everywhere, and her fix was always duct tape.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. TENGAN: Duct tape on the roof, duct tape on the bumper. You know, sometimes duct tape on the wheel, which didn't work out so well. But we rolled with it, and I say that because I feel like that's where we, in the nonprofit sector, are right now. We're duct taping areas of erosion, areas of vulnerability. And we are stretched so thinly that all of those who have testified here today, those who have not been able to attend, we are looking for support in all the different ways that we can find it. Mind...mind me, we are still going to do the work in all the ways that we can do it, but I think what we're all hoping to see is more support in the efforts that we're out there doing. Oh, my name is Keolamau Tengan. I'm the Executive Director of Ka'ehu, which is about seven minutes from here. We do mālama 'āina work on 64 acres of coastal wetlands out there. In fact, today, we have 90 students from Lāhainā Intermediate who are out there on a huaka'i. And so, we've been very active on a lot of things, growing our program in a time where that was contrary to popular belief. And in doing so though, we are asking--and I've been working with Chair Lee's office on a request as a line item for \$250,000. Mind you, this is enough to cover our core team of three who is doing the work of ten, and as long as we have at least that piece in place, that will allow us to continue to do the work that we're doing...everything from land restoration, to cultural education, to growing new programs. Since last June, we pop...propagated about 2,000 native plant species, half of which went out to the West Side. We've also been able to grow with a local small-scale farmers market that is--actually we have our second one coming up, so if you're free April 19th, come down to the Mahi'ai Farmers Market, it's a night market, and we're looking at supporting in being both the access point for locally-produced food for our community, but then also the sharing of cultural education and experiences. And so, I come here just to...want to acknowledge the situation that Maui is in, all of the work that has and continues to happen, and then also, place my intention and working with

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Alice Lee's office on the \$250,000 that we are requesting from Maui County to be placed as a regular line item on the budget. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, sound--this--it's--you're not in the budget, so you...it sounds like you were probably Chair Lee's--one of her priorities. And I have no questions. Anybody have questions? Okay. Thank you.

MR. TENGAN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks for your hard work.

MR. TENGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Courtney Ikawa in the Chamber, to be followed by Mo'i Kawaakoa on Teams.

MS. IKAWA: Aloha Chair...excuse me, Budget Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers. My name is Courtney Ikawa, and I am the Regional Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui. A few years ago, a shy fourth-grade boy joined our afterschool program at our mentor center. He cried at nearly every session, sometimes for reasons he couldn't even explain. Today, he's a confident sixth grader who's grown into himself, especially around his friends. The biggest reason? His mentor, a high school student who's met with him weekly for the past three school years. Now, she's preparing to graduate and head to college to study Pediatrics, inspired by her time spent with him. She told us recently, he used to be so scared to even think about middle school, now he's confident. Oh, and he doesn't cry anymore. That's the quiet power of mentoring. It doesn't always happen in big, dramatic ways...it's in the consistency, the safety, and the trust built over time. It changes two lives, not just one. At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui, we served nearly 100 local youth and families last year. Over half are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 80 percent come from single parent or nonparental household...parent households, and most face socioeconomic hardship. But with mentorship, 86 percent improved or maintained academic performance, 82 percent reported lower depression, and 95 percent are planning for a brighter future through education. A recent Big Brothers Big Sisters national study shows mentored youth earn more, attend college at higher rates, and close economic gaps over time. This is not just youth development, it's about building a stronger, more resilient Maui. Funding from the County of Maui covers three full-time case manager salary positions, as well as essential operating expenses. We also receive support through Federal grants, private foundations, Maui United Way, and our own fundraising efforts. We humbly ask for your support of our line item in the Mayor's budget of \$245,068. Your continued investment would allow us to support these transformational relationships and meet the growing needs of Maui's youth. So mahalo for your support, standing with us, and believing in the potential of every keiki on our island. Thank you for your time.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Director. Anybody have questions? Seeing none. That's exactly what you're in the Mayor's budget for. Thank you very much.

MS. IKAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Mo'i Kawaakoa, to be followed by Valerie Janikowski on Teams. Mo'i, we see your camera on, but I believe you have to unmute yourself. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It should be the microphone in the upper-right corner.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you find it? Okay. We --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It shows you're muted, and if you press the microphone possibly in the upper-right corner...if you click on it, it should unmute you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, we can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could Staff give her the call-in number?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. Mo'i, we'll post the call-in information in the meeting chat. Perhaps you can use that and call in via phone instead and you'll be able to testify that way.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, we'll go to the next testifier and come back to you. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Linda Puppolo, to be followed by Jordan Hocker.

MS. PUPPOLO: I guess it's still good morning. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Good morning, everybody. I'm Linda Puppolo, I'm the Executive Director of the Maui AIDS Foundation. It's been a we...a year. It's been a year, let me tell you. At this very moment, we don't know if we'll have all our funding from the Federal Government. We did manage to get our HUD contract, which is big because we thought maybe that would be the one they would take away from us, but, you know...this is our hook. This is our hook...housing, food assistance, and hygiene equal dignity. This is how we keep people from at-risk behaviors, this is how we keep our viral...viral loads down for HIV clients. We bring in--probably every two days, we go through our food pantry. We're lucky to have lots of--we had an \$81,000 grant from Americares, which helped us to do food subsidies, food cards, emergency fuel cards, being able to take...being able to give people money to just pay their safety check, so we were very lucky to land that grant. We have a wide

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range of funding. We have Federal, State, and County funding, and we have a lot of private nonprofit funding from foundations. So, this year, it was a rough year. We...we didn't see a lot of our funding. There was gaps in our State...State and Federal funding didn't pass on time. There was--at a time, we had several different grants that were nine months behind in payment. County paid us on time. Thank you. . . .*(laughing)*. . . This year--so, and...and then to get our expanded funding, we didn't get our expanded funding contracts in place. The prevention and harm reduction contract didn't get put in place until December, and the expansion for the free clinic didn't get put into place until March. So, we don't really know how to tell you that, you know, if we worked...if it worked because we never got it yet. So, we're very...we did have a lot of discussions with Director Tusako [sic], so thank you, Director Tusako [sic], for helping us get...finally get the contracts in place that we can hire the extra nurse, that we can start vaccination programs. And you know, right now, vaccination programs are so needed, and everybody is backed up. So, what we're...we're grateful that the 291,000 in the core grant and the free clinic expansion, and 70,000 in the prevention and harm reduction grant, Director Tusako [sic] did put it in the budget, and we're looking forward to being able to really implement and be able to show you how well this program works. Just to give you some idea, the other day . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . how we work--real quick--how we work is, we have people in the field every day finding people that need help. They come back. We had a guy come in, and he ended up having neurosyphilis, which is very, very unusual. We--and very dangerous. And he could have been...you know, it could have been a death sentence very easily for him. But he came to us, and we got him enrolled in insurance, in the hospital, treated for it, and in a program in a day. That couldn't happen anywhere without a nonprofit. That's the kind of value nonprofits add to the community, that we have a direct association with the clients. So, I just want to thank you for supporting us. You folks are just the best. You really are. You really make our grants be able to do the work that we really want to do for the community. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Director, the 291 and the 70,000, they--you're not line item in the budget. I don't find you...or were you --

MS. PUPPOLO: Dir...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- were you given from pots of money?

MS. PUPPOLO: It's in the food safety, I believe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. PUPPOLO: Director Tusako [sic] sent us letters, so we know that we have it. I don't know where. I couldn't find it in the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. PUPPOLO: So, I had to call her to figure out where it was, and she sent me a letter to show me, yeah.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, it's in the Fiscal '26, the next budget?

MS. PUPPOLO: Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, they have line--well, they're going to be appropriating so much funds for you from different pots.

MS. PUPPOLO: That's what I think, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We can ask her when she comes.

MS. PUPPOLO: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's on page 1 of 12B, Maui AIDS Foundation, 291K, 70K, food shelter safety. But that wasn't my question, I just was answering your question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My question was, so that additional funding that I put in as a priority of me, you've got it, but not until December and March. But this year, that funding that I put in as additional funding last fiscal year is in there --

MS. PUPPOLO: For this --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- already?

MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah, for FY '26, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the other clarifying question I had was, when you talk about harm reduction, we had a previous testifier talk about harm reduction training. Is it the same, or is it different?

MS. PUPPOLO: I don't know what they do, I can't tell you, but what we do is we work with CORE bus, we work with Aloha House, we work with the...we go into MCCC, we work with the CHAMPS [sic] program. We go to all the real vulnerable ho...houseless camps, and we do outreach. And in the outreach, because we can offer this to them, dignity, what--when they come to us, and they feel like it's a safe space, and we're able to go with the harm reduction techniques. We also do Narcan training for Maui Police Department, and we go--we've gone to Hāna, as...as Councilmember Sinenci knows.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you don't give harm reduction training, you utilize hard-reduction techniques?

MS. PUPPOLO: Yes.



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. PUPPOLO: But we do train organizations, like Aloha House and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But not the County?

MS. PUPPOLO: Well, as far as the Cou...if the County asked us, we'd come out like that, you know?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For free?

MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah. Anytime you want harm reduction training, we'd be happy to come and do any department in the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But you haven't done it for the County yet?

MS. PUPPOLO: We've done it for...we've done it for some State legislators, and we have invited Councilmembers to do it, they just haven't done it yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm not talking about the Councilmembers because we're not the ones all the time --

MS. PUPPOLO: In the field.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah. No, we would definitely work with them, and do harm reduction training. And...and we do it all the time, but we do it like with the Maui Police Department, and we do it--we go with the Maui Police Department with the CORE bus, you know, but it...it's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And CORE bus is like the actual bus that does the CORE services?

MS. PUPPOLO: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I --

MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I wasn't sure if that was something else, a CORE bus.

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MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah, no, that's what it is. It's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. PUPPOLO: They're in Kihei right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you.

MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll yield if anyone else has questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No further questions. Nice seeing you.

MS. PUPPOLO: You too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Jordan Hocker, and then we'll return to Mo'i Kawaakoa.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. HOCKER: Aloha, Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers. My name is Jordan Hocker, I am the Community Outreach and Education Coordinator with the Maui Housing Hui. We are a grassroots organization founded by renters working for equity through advocacy, education, and research, and I'm testifying today to urge this body to include more monies for rental assistance to the Department of Housing. As we've come to know the following realities in our community, which I don't feel are debatable, and we can all agree. Number one is that the August 8th wildfires destabilized our entire rental market through a steep reduction of inventory. Two, FEMA inflated rents through a lack of vetting actual short-term rentals, and making exorbitant offers that many landlords did not refuse, driving the displacement of our long-term renters. Three, our rents have not been stabilized. To address a prior testimony point, yes, rents will not go down until we make more housing available or find the political will to stabilize them. And our bottom line is, that leaves people with the choice to either leave Maui if they're able or become unhoused if they cannot find housing. And through working with our national partners, like the National Income Housing Coalition, we know that year three is going to be our most difficult for recovery in our community. That's what the data shows across the board. We've advocated for rental assistance through the CDBG-DR funds, but were told that it's...if it's made available, it's to stabilize buyer survivors who need rental monies in the extended time of their rebuild. I'll acknowledge that we currently have rental assistance, but if you don't have a history of chronic homelessness, domestic violence, or incarceration, the stipulations of many of those programs provide a barrier for families without those challenges, and they still need help. Our bottom line here is that the rents are too high...50 percent of our renters are rent-burdened, and half of those are paying more than 50 percent of their income

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to housing. Rental assistance is a stop gap. It's a value statement that provides stability to families, allowing our children to get more out of school and build community in the process; it's mental healthcare, by removing immense stress that leads to triggering of old or new issues; it's domestic violence prevention; and it stimulates the economy by allowing families to focus on other expenses, say, like supporting small businesses. As a former worker under the National Dislocated Workers Grant, I have been steeped in the realities of our rental market post-fires. Myself and other members of the hui do not take this ask lightly. We've been in front of you Members before. We need diversity of assistance with fewer barriers. This will increase our resiliency. I know that we don't like redundancy in a budget, but in terms of protecting our community, it's needed. We need those monies for stabilization, and if you cannot or will not stabilize our rental market, we're asking that you stabilize our people. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Ms. Hocker? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier --

MS. HOCKER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we'll return to Mo'i Kawaakoa, and I believe she's signed in under the last four digits 2719. So, I believe she'll just have to hit star-6 to unmute. And then to be followed by Douglas Bigley.

MS. KAWAAKOA: Ai kala mai. Wasn't letting me unmute. It was saying only for select participants, so thank you for this...for getting me on the phone. Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to share. My name is Mo'i Kawaakoa, and I represent Holomua Outreach, a peer-led team supporting the houseless and vulnerable communities in the Pā'ia to Maliko areas, specifically Holomua Road in Pā'ia. Since November 2023, with only two small grants and community support, we've shown up daily with respect, consistency, and kuleana. We provide hot meals, water and hygiene, ID and SNAP support with DHS and Project Vision Hawai'i, trash removal, fire prevention and bimonthly cleanups, shower and laundry access with Maui Rescue Mission every other week, a donation hub and daily clean-a-building with 30-plus people, donations provided by many organizations, mainly Maui Rapid Response. Despite our consistent efforts, County-funded programs haven't shown up for our area in the way that we thought, but we hold hope. We--I recently visited Hawai'i Island, where over a decade, local organizations and county agencies have worked together to care for their vulnerable residents. We believe the same cooperation is possible on Maui, and we're ready. We are seeking funding...six months' of funding to expand our outreach across Upcountry Maui, launch peer-led B Corp. ventures, a food truck to serve meals, trash and...and cabin cleanup services, towing and junk car removal. B Corps are mission-driven businesses that generate income to sustain our outreach. These services will create jobs, reduce stigma, and serve both the houseless and vulnerable health communities while helping us become less dependent on grants. With a six-month budget of \$267,650, we can grow our team, provide vital services, and begin generating revenue that supports dignity, healing, and restoration. Holomua means to

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move forward. Mahalo for walking with us as we build something lasting by the people and for the people.

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

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Douglas Bigley on Teams, to be followed by Howard Kihune, Jr. in the Chamber.

MR. BIGLEY: Yes, this is Doug Bigley, and I'm here today as a resource. I...there's a couple of projects we're working on in...in Maui County. One is Lānaʻi, and the other item is Nāpili, and this subject will come up later. I...I want to say I support these projects, it--but that might be obvious, you know? I mean... . . .*(laughing)*. . . and--but I'll...I'll be available for questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Bigley. Anybody have questions for him? Seeing none. Oh, here we have Mister...Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Bigley, my understanding is...is that the Lānaʻi Affordable Housing did not get its congressional spending money. There's been some talk about --

MR. BIGLEY: It's --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- others, maybe, but for this project, we did not get it. So, how does that affect your...your funding for this project right now?

MR. BIGLEY: That--I mean, it leaves...it's a gap that we'll have to fill.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you have--do --

MR. BIGLEY: That's --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- you have a number up for the gap?

MR. BIGLEY: Well, the gap--originally, the...the...the funding that was supposed to come from the Federal Government was \$5 million.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 5 million.

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And then as the funds stand now, is...is the scope wide enough to include all the things that you intend to do for the Lānaʻi Affordable Housing project?

MR. BIGLEY: The...the current scope of what we've...what we've envisioned? The scope is...the answer is yes to the question about whether our scope is sufficient, the...but the funding...that additional funding gap is...is...is the issue to get to the scope that we

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need. And I think we talk about the idea that we're working with all the stakeholders to try to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: -- work through it, but it's a problem.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So --

MR. BIGLEY: And...and the...last thing, it's for the infrastructure --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Let's --

MR. BIGLEY: -- just so you know.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Let me focus on that infrastructure. So, water, wastewater, infrastructure is included in the funds. But what about roads, is that included in the funds?

MR. BIGLEY: The roads...not in the...not in the initial Federal funding. It was not included, the roads.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: That was for the wastewater and other things, yeah. But the 10 million we're hoping is for general infrastructure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The 10 million from the County is --

MR. BIGLEY: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- you...you want to make sure it --

MR. BIGLEY: Would include roads.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. You want it to include roads as well. Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right.

MR. BIGLEY: Yep. Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Those are my questions for the Lānaʻi project, and I...I don't have any for the Nāpili one. I think for right now, it just says that it's...it's water, so--and I want to kind of include more than just water and wastewater, right? So, the roads --

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MR. BIGLEY: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- should be under that type of funding because you're going to need it. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks...thanks, Mr. Bigley.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Bigley.

MR. BIGLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Howard Kihune, Jr., to be followed by Nara Boone on Teams.

MR. KIHUNE: Aloha and good morning, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. KIHUNE: Thank you, Chair Sugimura and fellow Councilmembers. I'm here...I'm Howard Kihune, Jr., and I'm here to testify for some additional funding that we've asked for, for Kilohana Makai. I can tell you, about a little over a year ago, I sat here with Sandra Duvauchelle, and Councilmember Paltin said, you sure you don't want any more money? And I said no, I think we're good, I think we're good. And she said, you sure now? And I said, yeah, I think we're within our budgets. Well, unfortunately, we--there's been a bunch of changes to the project from the engineering this side...side from the County, so it's had added additional cost to the project as we got started. Those costs are on both Wela Street and also on the project itself, totaling almost \$1 million. Let me get my glasses, sorry...so, I can give you a quick breakdown. Water line looping, about \$90,000; hydrant installation...additional hydrant installations, 70,000; storm drain extension, 200,000; modified...let's see...connection between Kilohana Drive and Wela Street, about 32,000; sidewalk extension from four feet to five feet, about 40,000; and there's some additional walls on Wela Street, about 260,000; and then in the subdivision itself, storm drain...separate storm drains, about 60,000; and some additional funds for finishing the wall on Ala Koa Street. So, I humbly ask...I don't like to come and ask, but we got...we had to make change--the plans were changed by the Engineering Department, which put us in...in a situation where we're short about a million dollars. So, again, I hate to ask, but we...we really need that money to finish the project as far as the civil works concerned. We're in the process right now of securing all of our funding for our vertical, which we want to start in the end of...end of June, early July, have our first homes delivered by the end of the year. So, that's our schedule right now. Our civil works should be completed far enough along by June and July so

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that we can start our vertical construction. They should be co...totally complete by September. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Kihune. Can you submit that to us, whatever you--or when you're ready in writing?

MR. KIHUNE: Oh, sure. I think Housing Department has that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KIHUNE: -- but I can definitely submit it to you, no problem.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KIHUNE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we can also --

MR. KIHUNE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- ask them.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody--Member Paltin has a question for you.

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

MR. KIHUNE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. KIHUNE: Don't ask me that again. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was going to ask the same as her, but I did have additional questions.

MR. KIHUNE: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To clarify, have you been following Bill 103 and Act 39? Because I think that when we initially approved the change in zoning, it's for 28 lots, but there was a condition about no ADUs or something like that and...you know, each 5 million, 1 million. One way to possibly get more bang for our buck would be...I mean, we're talking about it Countywide, increased density. So, I just was wondering...clarifying if you've been following Bill 103 (2024) and Act 39, whatever year, which requires two ADUs on residential lots by December 2026, and if you had any clarifications in that regard?

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MR. KIHUNE: Our change in zoning strictly prohibits any 'ohanas or any ADUs on this actual property...or on these lots. We actually intended to do--from the beginning was 29 lots, but we ended up with 28. The lots are--the way they're configured, and the size of the homes, I don't know if a detached 'ohana--just off the top of my head--would actually...would work, but possibly...an attached 'ohana possibly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I just was wondering if...if you could...I don't know if Act 39 would supersede the change in zoning conditions, or it...the change in zoning conditions could be altered...but maybe I guess that would be a question for the South Maui rep to ask Corp. Counsel--unless you knew off the top of your head.

MR. KIHUNE: I don't know, sorry. That's a good question. I can reach out to Council --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll let you guys follow up there.

MR. KIHUNE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. KIHUNE: And then I'll check with my legal counsel too, to double check too, yeah? So, no problem.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KIHUNE: But thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just so that we can get more bang for that millions, you know?

MR. KIHUNE: Yeah. Yeah. I agree it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, were you going to--you have a question? Okay. So, the \$1 million is additional funds in the Affordable Housing Fund for you?

MR. KIHUNE: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KIHUNE: For a combination of Wela Street and on-site. Yeah, that Wela Street extension.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The Wela Street was a request of the mem...the community, the surround commu...it wasn't part of your initial plan.

MR. KIHUNE: Correct, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're...you're adjusting based upon the cry of the community actually?



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MR. KIHUNE: And the requirement from Engineering from the County --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

MR. KIHUNE: -- yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

MR. KIHUNE: They've added a bunch of stuff, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Water, everything, you're all set?

MR. KIHUNE: We're water, everything all set. We're--well, we're...water, we're working with DWS right now with regards to the source fee. So, we haven't got a determination from them yet, so we're still working with them. That source fee is about 400,000. I tried to plead my case and say, well, say, we used to own that, I think they brought all the water to Kihei back in the day. Can you give us an exception? But that didn't work, so they're still trying to figure out, mull over how they can assist us with...with that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, are you saying there may be an additional 400,000 because of this source fee?

MR. KIHUNE: I don't know, but I can say possibly. So, I'm just waiting for their determination, to be honest, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: From the Water Department?

MR. KIHUNE: From the Water Department, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, do you need to add the 400--you don't know if you need to add the 400,000 now?

MR. KIHUNE: Until I get their...their response, I don't know. So, our legal counsel is working with...with the Director right now, but we haven't got a response from them yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We will have --

MR. KIHUNE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Cook find out.

MR. KIHUNE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KIHUNE: Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Kihune.

MR. KIHUNE: No problem. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next --

MR. KIHUNE: Have a great --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KIHUNE: Oh, go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Here's another question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We heard from a previous testifier that Affordable Housing Funds are reimbursement-based. So, you can move forward with what you're doing, or you have to wait until the next fiscal year? And how soon do you need this money?

MR. KIHUNE: No, it can be for the next fiscal year. This is the budget. We're fine. We're moving forward, we're just back-ended at the end of the day if we get the--when we get the funds. So, we're fine. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it...it would be like a reimbursement?

MR. KIHUNE: Correct, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. KIHUNE: To some degree. We won't finish all the work by then. A majority of it will be done, but I would say, yeah, partially will be reimbursed. Some of it will be when it does happen, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. KIHUNE: I...I don't want to stop progress, yeah? So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KIHUNE: -- we're getting close.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, for clarification --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- if you don't get these funds until the new fiscal year, which is '27, you're fine?

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MR. KIHUNE: For '27? Wasn't it--I thought it was for '26, '27, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It...it is for --

MR. KIHUNE: '25, '26?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, we are looking at '26 fiscal year budget.

MR. KIHUNE: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I guess I'm...I just want clarification, you don't need the million dollars now, you need it --

MR. KIHUNE: I'd like to have it soon, but yes. Yeah. At some point, if we...we get approved, and then we get amended, then yeah, we--it'll be a reimbursement to us at some point down the road, correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you need it now?

MR. KIHUNE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KIHUNE: I hate to beg, but yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Seeing none. Okay, thank you.

MR. KIHUNE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KIHUNE: Have a great weekend.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Nara Boone, to be followed by Trinette on Teams.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nara Boone? Oh, there you are. You can't get sound?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you can unmute, it's a microphone button in the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can't get in?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- upper right, or Staff could --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- go to the next testifier and provide you with the call number?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We'll ask the members to give you the...okay. Can you contact her? Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Trinette, to be followed by Jack Dowling. And give me one second to enable Trinette's microphone and camera. Trinette, you're unmuted on our end. You would just need to unmute on your end.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Furtado, we can't hear you. We don't see you either.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, would you like me to return to Trinette as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yes, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Okay. Chair, the next testifier is Jack Dowling, to be followed by Chris Flaherty in the Chamber.

MR. DOWLING: Good morning and aloha, Chair Sugimura --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. DOWLING: -- Councilmembers. Thank you for the time and the patience here. I--my name's Jack Dowling. I just want to testify on behalf of Kehalani Affordable, LLC and in support of a \$3-1/2 million loan provided for via the Mayor's '20...proposed Fiscal Year '26 budget. So, Wailuku has roughly 60 percent of their renters are cost-burdened, and a third of those are severely cost-burdened. This project contemplates 35 units, 100 percent affordable via [sic] a three-story walk-up product in Kehalani Village Center. The project sits on a one-acre site. Unit mix is comprised of one- to three-bedrooms that will be priced at rents between 30 to 60 percent of AMI. Included in our unit mix is a set-aside for Women Helping Women. We have a memorandum of understanding with, and will be providing accommodations for, and they will be providing social services to help women and family displaced by domestic violence. This project is a LIHTC project. We submitted for both 4 percent and 9 percent LIHTC in February. This \$3.5 million loan is being used to leverage those LIHTC funds and address the funding gap that exist for this project. In terms of project readiness, grading and building plans have been submitted for permits in November. All off-site infrastructure is ready to service the site. It is zoned for multifamily, and has all discretionary permits in place--our discretionary approvals, excuse me, in place--and HHFDC recently posted a EA exemption notice last month. So, anyways, just here to serve as a resource, answer any questions, and again, thank you for the time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Any questions for the testifier? Gabe Johnson.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm trying to find out where the map...where it is on the map.  
It's in the Safeway cen...

MR. DOWLING: So, it's immediately adjacent to the Maui County Federal Credit Union.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, when you pull in there, it's on the right-hand side  
because--the Credit Union's on the right-hand side, right?

MR. DOWLING: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If you're coming in from the McDonald's sec...

MR. DOWLING: Correct. Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DOWLING: So, it sits on one-acre narrow site. We'll have to put in fill to level out --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. DOWLING: -- the site, but yeah, that's the...the plan. And so, one...one...three...excuse  
me. One building, three stories high.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Got it. Thank you so much.

MR. DOWLING: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I...I really like that you have Women Helping Women involved  
in your project.

MR. DOWLING: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: A wonderful organization.

MR. DOWLING: We think so too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more questions? Seeing none. Thank you.

MR. DOWLING: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you had a question? Oh.

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MR. PASCUAL: -- Chris Flaherty, to be followed by Nara Boone.

MR. FLAHERTY: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, fellow Councilmembers. I'm Chris Flaherty with Ikenakea Development. I'm the co-managing general partner of the Hale O Pi'ikea, Phases I, II, and III. We applied for additional funds through the last funding round, and I'm here to answer any questions, and just wanted to thank you for having us here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Okay, seeing none.

MR. FLAHERTY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, you waited all day for that.

MR. FLAHERTY: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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

MR. FLAHERTY: Always love it. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we'll return to Nara Boone, and I believe she's signed in under the last four digits 6235. So, I believe to unmute, she just has to hit star-6. Thank you.

MS. FURTADO: Aloha mai, 6235, this is for Trinette Furtado. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am calling in because I could not unmute nor take my camera off of the block one. It was supposedly free. Anyway, I'm testifying on the funding for the Department of...of Human Concerns. I want to bring to mind again the...the homeless report, just the last bit of it, because it's very important in my testimony. We understand that Native Hawaiians are uniquely and disproportionately affected by the issue of homelessness, as well as other economic, environmental, health, and social challenges in Maui County. We understand that to address homelessness in Maui County, we must also strive to right and balance our relations with Native Hawaiians. And in that, for me, as the Program Director basically for Ice Cream Aunties' Missions of Aloha under Maui Rapid Response, it is about centering the individual, not the organization, or the caseworker, or any bias or perception about homelessness and about the people who experience that. They are our community members, they are 'ohana, and the lack of resources and services available to them where they are at is not their fault. We...we need to do more and have more than one organization on this island that can verify homelessness. You know, in order to effectively and efficiently address homelessness and reintegration of our community members into society, we must address the efficacy of our current system, our current service organizations and their outreach, and examine the...the ways and the organizations that have been consistent, and have been giving and growing as more and more people experience homelessness, or are very close to it. Organizations like Maui Rapid Response, Maui Medic Healers Hui, programs like Holoholo I Ka Wai--these are organizations and programs that are addressing this issue

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of homelessness right now, consistently, on a daily and even weekly basis, such that relationships with folks who want to be out of those situations have come about. For myself, I know of two individuals in two different encampments, both Kānaka--and this is why I...I prefaced that housing report, that...that homelessness reports. These are two Kānaka over the age of 60, women who have both since last year--and one even since right after the fires--have been diligently trying to work with and connect with their caseworker from Family Life Center, and have been unable to leave this situation of homelessness. One of them has consistently asked to leave the stay she is in at Olowalu . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . and has been told that she has to get into a dorm space. She is 60 years old and has grandchildren that she would like to see and visit, things that we do, who are housed. And...and so, that brings me to--and I'm...I'm going to wrap up here--that brings me to coming back to looking at those organizations that are providing services now with the funding that you give, and seeing how they are righting and balancing the relations with our Kānaka that still remain houseless in their homeland.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. FURTADO: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for Ms. Furtado? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Furtado. I just wanted to clarify, what you're saying is that they verified her, and they offered her congregate shelter, but she would like...or she needs like a studio, and they wouldn't qualify --

MS. FURTADO: One woman, yes --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- her for that?

MS. FURTADO: -- was...one woman was offered dormitory bedspace. She has family that, at the moment, she is able to see freely that are able to come and visit her. She hasn't been offered any space other than that dormitory space, where they cannot come and visit her and be with her. And that part--as she has shared with me and with others--that's part of her healing, and...and looking at...at...at next steps, at getting into her own place, at more...more established, more stable, you know, things going on in her life for herself. And she has been frustrated and upset at the lack of assistance that she's been getting so far.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. No other questions?

MS. FURTADO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

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MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we'll return to Nara Boone, and then we'll move on to Jade Moreno.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nara Boone? Can you go to the next testifier if she's still having trouble getting on?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is --

MS. BOONE: Hello?

MR. PASCUAL: -- Jade Moreno--oh.

MS. BOONE: I'm sorry, this is Nara Boone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, hey. We don't see you.

MS. BOONE: Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you, but we don't see you. Thank you.

MS. BOONE: Okay, I'll bring my camera on at least. Hi, everyone. I had the same issues that it seems Mo'i and Trinette had. The...my computer would not allow me to unmute. I'm not sure if you can see me now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can see you --

MS. BOONE: Oh, there we are.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and hear you.

MS. BOONE: Okay, aloha. Great. My name is Nara Boone. I am with Maui Housing Hui. I am also on the steering committee for Maui Grassroots Collective, which is the fiscal sponsor for Maui Housing Hui, Maui Medic Healers Hui, Maui Rapid Response, and Holomua Outreach. I'm testifying today to request that rental assistance be added to the budget. I have been in lots of meetings, including with Tia Hartsock in the Office of Wellness and Resilience, every week trying to advocate for renters and to get rental assistance, also in the CDBG-DR meeting that happens, taking community input. What I was told in those meetings is that usually FEMA or the State offers rental assistance. However, our partner--we are partnered with the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, and they have informed us that those disaster funds have been used in Louisiana, New Jersey, and Oregon in 2023 with a HUD waiver, but now, if you look at page 121 of the universal notice, it says that funds can be used for up to 24 months without a waiver. What seems to be happening in the different spaces that I am in is that the buck keeps getting passed, and everybody says it's someone else's responsibility. Our community can't deal with that for much longer, there--far too many people are hurting. And while the focus has been where it has needed to be, with fire survivors, we need to broaden the view, and see that it is the larger community that is suffering right now. There is a little bit of rental assistance out there, but what is offered



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is inadequate, and the parameters are very narrow as to what it takes to qualify. We need to broaden the focus and need to encompass the larger community as a whole. I do know, after speaking with Councilmember Sinenci's office, that Catholic Charities is willing to distribute rental assistance, but our Housing Department needs more support in administering funds. So, it's up to all of you, of course, to set money aside, and then the Housing Department needs to distribute to Catholic Charities. But Catholic Charities is waiting to fill the hands of all these people that need help. Obviously, we heard Debbie Cabebe say that even with the rental assistance program that is offered, people need to be weaned off of it. That's not going to solve the issue. The issue is that our rents are too high. I am in communication with someone today who is asking for help because his rent went from 1,900 a month to 3,500 a month, and he's on disability, waiting for funds to come in. And his story is a very, very common story. . . .(timer sounds). . . Things are not going to get better unless we can stabilize the rent, preferably to pre-COVID levels, but even pre-fire levels. They cannot get capped where they are now. That is absolutely insufficient for--and un...unimaginable, almost, for our community. We need to do more, more must --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 30 seconds --

MS. BOONE: -- be done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- is over.

MS. BOONE: And also...thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have anything in writing? Can you submit --

MS. BOONE: I would also like --

MS. BOONE: -- that to us in writing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have anything --

MS. BOONE: I can do that as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you.

MS. BOONE: Do I have 30 seconds?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, you're past. You're past the 30 seconds. We have a question from --

MS. BOONE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Johnson.

MS. BOONE: Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Boone, for all your advocacy. You know, I really appreciate your...your finger on the pulse. I'm curious of what you would say to...let's say if the County worked with Maui United Way to not only just do the rents, but the dental insurance, the gas--you know, like a gas card, and the utility support--all of the other things in addition to the rents. Is that something that you would support?

MS. BOONE: I would absolutely support that. I know that in the Office of Wellness and Resilience, they were inspired when you brought that up at the meeting a month or two ago, whenever that was. And they said that they were going to present that to the Housing Department, which I think has limited capabilities right now. But I would absolutely support something like that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I...I think, like you say --

MS. BOONE: The...the...the reality is the cost of living is too high in general, and people are struggling with every capacity of what it takes to live here.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, and we're working with Maui United Way to create that...create a priority for that. You know, we could be...it's--these types of things that you're mentioning, such as rent...rental assistance, these are not small pots of money for our community, especially the number that you mentioned for that specific example. So, we might be looking at a \$15 million budget for something like that, which is significant when we talk about these types of programs. So, just wanted to see if you...you know, what --

MS. BOONE: It is significant. It's significant, but it's also necessary. We have got to do more. The--you know, it's...it's triage, it's...it's putting pressure on the wound, and the wound was the fire. But there's infection, and it's spreading, . . . *(laughing)*. . . you know? And we need to tend to that. We need to take care of the rest of the community.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Thank you so much, Ms. Boone, for...for your response.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MS. BOONE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I see 3 million in there for the Affordable Rental Housing program. I wanted to clarify if you had other parameters than the current parameter--you can respond in writing if you want, or if you know--if you had other parameters that you are advocating for that is different than what the current par...you said narrow parameters

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were. And if it's at 3 million, and you don't think that's sufficient, if you could tell us what you think would be sufficient.

MS. BOONE: You know, I don't have that answer as to what would be sufficient. I can look into it. I did also ask in the Office of Wellness and Resilience meeting the other day whether there was any COVID money left over from the State that could be used before it gets yanked back by the Administration, so I know that they're looking into that. But also, perhaps if we compare with COVID numbers and how much rental assistance was given out then. But I don't...don't really feel that 3 million is sufficient. I can, along with other members of the Housing Hui, come up with an idea of what parameters would be better, but right now, through the Housing Department, you have to have a job. We know that a lot of people are struggling with not having jobs. Even the fire survivors in the direct-lease program where they're starting to have to pay rent starting March 1st...98 percent of the people in that program applied to have their rents adjusted because it was...what they were being asked to pay was more than they could afford. And while 88 percent were given a decrease, 10 percent were not. And those 10 percent also need help. So, it's a lot of different things to take into account--whether people are fire survivors, or lost their jobs, or because of tourism, or because the--so many other people are struggling financially that they're not shopping as much. Everyone is affected. So, we need to look at the larger picture and put that amount into the budget. 15 million may be what needs to happen.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, just to say, our deadline to turn in our priorities is April 17th, and if you are currently working with Member Johnson, that's the deadline to...for him to turn in his priority. So, if...if you could get any answers to whomever it is you're working with before April 17th.

MS. BOONE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. BOONE: Will do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. BOONE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Seeing none. Next...next testifier. How many more testifiers after this? We're after 12:00.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's currently three more testifiers signed up. And the next testifier is Jade Moreno, to be followed by Zhantell Lindo.

MS. MORENO: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. My name is Jade Moreno. I'm the principal researcher for Maui Housing Hui, and I'm here today to speak to the urgent need for rental assistance in Maui County as well. Right now, too many of our friends and neighbors are still facing extreme housing insecurity. We're no longer in a housing

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crisis, we're in a housing emergency, and we have been for some time now. Rental assistance is one of the most immediate and effective ways our government can respond. It keeps families in their homes, children in their schools, and kūpuna aging in place. It lets parents keep showing up for work without the looming fear of...of eviction. That kind of stability ripples out, and it strengthens the entire community. We know the impact of the wildfires and our housing cost was not fenced in to the burn zone. The increase in rental costs reached every corner of our island. Many families hit hard by the COVID-era challenges have not completely recovered financially from those unique situations, and...only to be forced to face continued rising rents. To combat the compounding effects of such extreme hardship, rental assistance gives them breathing room. It shifts people from survival mode into recovery mode. We also have to be honest. FEMA hasn't been a lifeline for everyone. While some families have been helped, many others found FEMA's support inconsistent, delayed, or simply out of reach. And many families who aren't fire survivors have lost jobs, income, housing, as a secondary impact of the fires. We can't keep ignoring that. So many people are not meant for FEMA services, and what will we do to help them? What will you do to help them? Rental assistance is one piece to a multifaceted set of solutions needed to restore stability in housing, especially in the absence of other proven solutions, such as rent stabilization. As a robust line item proportion...proportional to the size of the problem, we could stabilize our community by keeping renters in their homes, and providing landlords continued ability to pay their mortgages. And it's cost-effective. When people lose their homes, they're far more likely to rely on emergency services, ER visits, and other overstretched safety net programs, as well as local organizations not funded nearly well enough to solve this type of problem. Rental assistance is preventative care. It helps stabilize people before things become even less predictable. Right now, with the Federal aid shrinking and layoffs mounting, we need to strengthen our safety net locally, and put a stop to the rampant gentrification that results when we only consider economic cost, rather than the cultural and community costs. Even before the fires, Maui was already losing longtime residents because they couldn't afford to stay. Our housing issues are systemic, and expecting individuals to find solutions to systemic problems is irresponsible. This is precisely the type of solution government is designed to address, and I ask you to do so quickly. Now more than ever, we need local solutions, and this is one we can act on right now. Please continue funding and expanding adequate rental assistance in Mau...Maui County. It's one of the smartest, most compassionate investments we can make for our community. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please. Oh, you have a question? Member Paltin has a question --

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for you. Just a moment, Jarret.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Moreno, for your testimony. I just was wondering if you had a ballpark number that you were thinking?

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MS. MORENO: As gracious as Nara was in offering our services, I would say that if the Department of Housing had the resources they need, they would easily be able to identify a number. We are a small local organization, and we do what we can. You guys do have some tools you can utilize to find a more precise number to solve the problem.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MORENO: Thank you for your question though.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, yeah. Their number that they found was 3 million. Thank you.

MS. MORENO: UH Maui also had some resources that...with their fact book, talking about the rising rent-burden situation. So, we'll look into it and get back to you in writing, for sure. But I think that that number might be inadequate based on our...our community-based experime...experiences.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you're...okay. Member U'u-Hodgins has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, I have a question for you and Staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It looks like we're down to bare quorum, and I probably have to leave in about seven-ish minutes to go pick up my kid from Kihei Charter, then Pā'ia School, then Kalama School --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- and finish this meeting at home. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- I'm going to have to leave in a few.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I don't know where that leaves everybody, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I have --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- the school bell does not wait for anybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, you have to go. Member Rawlins-Fernandez just came. So, I am trying to finish the last three maybe testifiers, and then I'm going to do what we need to do, and then break for lunch, and I'm going to ask you what time shall we come back.

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I was going to recommend 1:30, but we're going a little bit over for this portion. Thank you very...very much, Member U'u-Hodgins. We'll see you back here.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, I'll see you at home online.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Home online, okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez has just joined us. All right, so we have quorum. Next testifier. Thank you.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Zhantell Lindo, to be followed by Anonymous Hawaiian.

MS. LINDO: Aloha, Chair Sugimura, and mahalo for this opportunity, Councilmembers, Committee Members, to testify. I just wanted to jump on so I could address a couple of things outside of our Moloka'i stuff so I can center on Moloka'i when you guys come here tomorrow. First and foremost, I would like to totally support, and I agree with Nicole from Maui Rapid Response, that we need to review the homeless outreach program, and allow for more inclusion of more organizations that may have different kinds of approaches and things to address our situation with the unsheltered in Maui County. I also believe that the language for the RFP needs to be updated and relooked at to not just qualify people so that we can be official resources to qualify for homeless, but also to realign requirements of the housing that do not negatively affect the ability to get people in housing. And one of those examples is like criteria that you need to be unsheltered for more than 90 days in order to enter into the program. I also think that we need to figure out how our program outreach doesn't contribute to the extractive program of Section 8 that drives rental prices up so much, and that we should design, within the context of unsheltered--maybe design a small pilot project that commits to lower rent prices so that our government is not paying into an extractive system that doesn't benefit our people. I'd like to also advocate for additional funding and monies to help the commissions staffed by the Housing...Human Concerns Department to be able to travel--Moloka'i and Lanai commissioners to be able to travel to in-person meetings, and also for these commissions to be afforded the opportunity to attend some of the training and workshops offered to commission members in other commissions. And then I also, in general, would just like--well, I'd like to support the Lāhainā Land Trust. I think they're doing amazing work, Autumn and the gang over there, and--so unbelievable. But I also would like to just talk about line-item funding that has been given over...over the course, especially in this department, and ask that we take a good look at some of the high-ticket items and ensure that the objectives are clearly stated and that they are meeting the beneficial...and...and being beneficial to our community. I...I'm not going to pick out any one or the other, and...and this includes even programs for Moloka'i. But I just feel like sometimes things are left there, and everybody just assumes it's a great thing because a few people say, oh, so good, and stuff...but I'd like to see that there is documented data that shows how significant the project is and that they are doing their due diligence to help us serve a good purpose, or at least open up the RFPs so that other ideas and updated purposes can be fulfilled. Yep, and that would be my testimony for today, so thank you so much.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I know we'll see you tomorrow. I...any...any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, can you tell us who's in the room with you...or it looks like airplane with you? Is it?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm still in the plane.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you are, yeah? Okay. All right. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the last testifier signed up is Anonymous Hawaiian.

TESTIFIER 1: Hey, howzit. Yeah, okay. Today, we...we heard about plenty rental projects happening all over Maui. We hearing other projects needing to get some more money and all the stuff. That is awesome, totally awesome, yeah? But, hey, if you going do plenty...choke rental projects, yeah, over here with the 30 percent to 60 percent AMI where families over-qualify, got to make adjustments, I get--I agree with the rental assistance guys that are asking for some more money. Because how...my daughter couldn't qualify for one of the projects, and if she went quit her job, how she going pay...how she going pay her rent? Maybe the rental assistance going help 'em, I don't know. Kind of jam up, all this system. The thing is jamming up everybody, okay? So, I don't know da kine, but rental assistance is needed all over. What happened to like the 30 percent of your income supposed to be the highest, you know, you're supposed to be paying rent? What about all that kine stuff? And the housing, and housing, and housing, okay? Again, I going...I going bring this up every time. Plenty of the County guys, all the...the top guys, yeah, the top...top-top guys. The top guys, they all got one raise, yeah? Over 20 percent one time. Just got...just got notice UPW, the--a lot of them is from the County...they work for the County, yeah? They get 15 percent --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

TESTIFIER 1: -- spread out in four years, gang. Four years. So, it's kind of funny, yeah, how the--and then you guys wonder why people get hard time come apply how...you guys get hard time fill up the positions like that, you know? Jeez. And then getting back to the housing, yeah? Make sure that these...all these housing projects that coming up, make...hey, make all the County workers be the first guys, the fireman guys being the first guys. Every time--I've been doing this affordable housing thing for how many years?--over 20 years. And all the years, oh, the...the firemen can get 'em, the police can get 'em, teachers can go get 'em, but why we just no can make 'em where our project is for them, the essential guys that took care of us during the fire, yeah? I mean, come on, man. You guys just...you--sometimes--I don't know. Common sense, I don't know. But yeah, and then you guys get the da kine, you guys get one all-star team over there in the Housing Department, Saumalu and then da kine, you know, the Director. They...they...they...they bad okoles, yeah? You know, they...they doing...they're doing awesome. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, use these buggahs, use their mind, use their stuff to help us out. Because right now, they're wiping the okole of the ex...of the prior Housing Director. Good job, braddahs, way to smash. Yessah, good job. Shoot.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Okay, seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, it looks like we have a Nicole, who is signed up to testify. Nicole, you're unmuted on our end, you would just have to unmute on your end.

MS. KEALOHA: Hi, can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. KEALOHA: Hi. Aloha, Chair Sugimura and Members of the Committee. My name is Nicole Kealoha. I am the Immigrant Resource Center Manager and Department of Justice accredited representative on Maui for Pacific Gateway Center, an immigrant, migrant, and refugee servant organization. Our Maui-based Immigrant Resource Center offers free or low-cost legal immigration services to residents across Maui County, including Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi. Pacific Gateway Center has been around for over 50 years, helping our immigrant, migrant, and refugee communities. We aim to ensure all residents can access trusted, culturally-competent support for their immigration needs. On behalf of the Pacific Gateway Center, we represent...we request continued funding for the Immigrant and Migrant Services Grant for the Fiscal Year 2026. Since the County of Maui no longer provides direct immigration legal services, Pacific Gateway Center has stepped in through our program called Access to Legal Immigration Services to fill that critical gap. Over the past year, Pacific Gateway Center's work has expanded in both scope and impact. From March 28th, 2024 to March 31st, 2025, we have assisted 59 of our community members with naturalization, where 14 successfully passed our test, and we helped with 20 more with replacing their green cards. We also supported COFA residents in replacing or correcting their I-94 forms. We replaced immigration documents for 58 fire-impacted residents whose paperwork was destroyed by the fire. We provided important immigration legal services to 2...212 Maui County residents, 123 were directly impacted by the 2023 Lāhainā fires just this past year, last--2023. And in this role, I've had the privilege of reconnecting with individuals and families I first helped with their immigration process while working at the Maui County Immigrant Services Division. Many have returned to me, seeking help for their loved ones or new matters. Our ongoing work has continuous grown, as...as...as has our trust within the community. Over 600 individuals have reached out in the past year via phone, email, walk-ins, and outreach events. The demand from the community for accessible, culturally-competent immigration legal services is both high and growing. Pacific Gateway Center is increasingly becoming an organization where the community we serve knows they can come to receive immigration, legal, and social services. The continued funding of ALICE is important to maintain and expand its critical safety net for the community. We respectfully ask for your support in keeping ALICE funded [*sic*] and available to all those who rely on our services. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Nicole. Anybody have questions for her? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.



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MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that's currently all the individuals signed up to testify. I do see an individual walking down to the podium.

MR. LAW: Jasee Law, Kula Uka, Waiakoa Ahupua'a. I'm not advertising for the department stores, I'm just showing you guys what it's like to be as County...County...Kalama O Maui (*phonetic*) calls homeless. This has to do with across the street, the way the library and the head librarian--she doesn't talk to me much, she just calls the police on me, but I think she views me as a dangerous, threatening homeless person. And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have to talk about our County budget.

MR. LAW: Please don't interrupt me, Chair Yuki Lei. This is just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please stick to the --

MR. LAW: -- going to take longer for the whole --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- subject.

MR. LAW: -- Staff and the--everybody watching on TV. You can leave, just please leave the cameras on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please --

MR. LAW: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please excuse him. Please don't be rude.

MR. LAW: Can I restart my minutes then--

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, you cannot.

MR. LAW: -- Madam Chair? Well, then please don't interrupt me. See what I'm talking about with the homeless thing? See how they treat us? Thank you, guys, for witnessing this. And thank you, Chair, because this morning, the Chair had a problem with my...my...my baggage over here in the lobby, and I already wrote a letter to Blake. We'll get that straightened out later. But last Friday, the head librarian was in the audience, and it was for the I Love my Librarian year of the award [*sic*], Jessica Crou...Crouse? And so, what happened was, I was carrying my bags on a Thursday over there in the--back behind where the bookmobile goes, and this guy was getting into a gray Jeep. And I was like...I was kind of frustrated because the library is not open until later on Thursday, so I just kind of was trying to like communicate with him and ask him. I was trying to formulate a question in my mind, and he turned around and looked at me, and maybe he felt a little pressured or something, and that was when I was shaven up and stuff, but he said, can I help you? And I felt like he kind of lured me in with that question. So, now, whenever somebody asked me a question, I'm like, what do you mean by that? I'm...I'm just kind of like still trying to formulate a que...an answer in

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my mind to his question of can I help you. And I said, yeah, and I took a step forward, and he said, stop, I'm going to call the police on you for trespassing. And I was like...and so, advice to anybody out there watching with a situation like that, you don't say I'm going to report you, because what he did was he reported me to his boss.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please stop this testimony. This is not regarding the budget. You're telling us a personal experience.

MR. LAW: I'm going to have to file a complaint on you with the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And you can also file that with the police or whoever, but this is --

MR. LAW: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this is not the time for it.

MR. LAW: I mean, I'm going to keep on talking until they cut me off, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, please stop the testimony. Please turn him off.

MR. LAW: Thank you, James. Thank you, Jarret.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right, Members. We are at the end of our meeting...we are not at the end of our meeting, we're end of testimony. Do we have any more testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's no further individuals signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, with your permission, I'm going to end public testimony for today's meeting, and we will continue receiving written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thanks. So, we need to start off with...just starting with the main part of our agenda, the other part of our agenda, and I guess we only have Ms. Milner here. So, anybody wants to ask Ms. Milner a question? . . .*(laughing)*. . . One question. Go ahead, and then I'm going to break for lunch.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Milner. My question is in the Human Concerns program. As we were looking at the Carryover/Savings--I think it was listed at like 3.6 for operations of the Human Concerns program--but if you look at the Fiscal Year '24 adopted budget and the Fiscal Year actual budget, it's a difference of like close to \$8 million--or \$7 million. So, I was wondering, where did that other \$5 million--that's not Carryover/Savings, but it wasn't the actual operations--where...where is that \$5 million?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah, any unexpended funding from our general-funded departments should become a part of the Carryover/Savings unless it's grant funding or something like that. So, I don't know if you're looking at the overall departmental that also includes grant funding and things like that. So, that could be part of the discrepancy, but I'm happy to take a closer look.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then to clarify, when you said unless it's grant funding...so, suppose it's \$5 million in grant funding that wasn't actually spent in the operations category for Fiscal Year '24 Human Concerns, still yet, where is that \$5 million in grant funding?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. So, just to clarify, I'm speaking about grants that we're receiving from outside entities, not grants that we give out --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. MILNER: -- to nonprofits. So, any funds that weren't encumbered for the nonprofits would become Carryover/Savings for a future fiscal year. Any grant funds that we received that perhaps weren't expended, it would depend on the life of the grant...but in all likelihood, they would be able to spend that in a future fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did we...were we budgeted to receive \$5 million in grant funding in Fiscal Year '24?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I don't remember the exact amount. I know that in Fiscal Year '24, DHHC was still one entity. So, there are several grants that fall under --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, but I was looking at the Human Concerns program operational line. So, it wouldn't have been from Housing, that 5 million. And so, I would...I guess I would like it if we could follow up in writing--like where's that \$5 million in operations for the Human Concerns program for Fiscal Year '24?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, I would be happy to do that. I am looking at the ACFR right now, and I see --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MS. MILNER: -- that Human Concerns general has 1.5, and administration has 75,000. But yeah, if you can send that in writing, I'd be happy to kind of provide a breakdown of what we have for the lapsed appropriations.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right, Members. Thank you very much. So, we will ask you that question in writing. I don't know if you heard that, James, since you were talking to me. So, Members, at this time, I'm going to take a recess break. It is now 12:45...12:42, 12:45. What time do you want to come back? I had said 1:30 earlier, but is that too soon? 12...1...1:45? Okay, 1:45. This meeting is now in recess.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What...what time...what time are we--do you plan to adjourn today to get to Lāhainā?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I was planning on actually adjourning...is...4:00 enough? I was going to say 3:00.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, 4:00 is plenty because dinner won't be ready until 5:00.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And we're going in the opposite direction of traffic. So, it should be okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You don't really want to go earlier because of the cones --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that the State will still be working on the...the guardrail project. And so, 4:00 is...is a good time --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- to leave.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. So, I'm going to--is that...does that answer your question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez? You're fine? And...okay, good. Okay. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I think James had --

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, James has a question? No, no, no. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I am...I am...I'm alone in my vehicle.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For Sunshine Law.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we will be back at 1:45. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 12:44 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 1:55 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:55 p.m. We have bare quorum and--but we are going to proceed with the Human Concerns Department. Members, we're going to do two rounds of three minutes and one round of two, with your permission. If we do not get to Housing... *(echoing)* Oh, what happened? Wasn't you?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not me.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. If we don't...if we do not finish today, I'm going to ask if we can have a recess meeting and come back tomorrow at 10:00, with your permission. I...I'm sorry, what? Yeah, it's...it depends on how many questions we have, and how many rounds, if we can finish the departments.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. The question is, is Housing and CDBG --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- available at 10:00?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I already told them. I already told them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, unless you couldn't clear your calendar for tomorrow in case? It's cleared? Okay. How about you, Jolie? Just in case. Okay, thanks. So, our goal is to try to finish today. We got word from the West...West Maui master that if we leave at 4:00, we'll...we'll be okay to get there. And of course, it's 6:00 tonight at the Lāhainā

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Civic Center. And I know you guys are working super hard, but I'm going to try to finish today, but if not, 10:00 tomorrow. Is that all right for a recess meeting? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No objections, great. So, we're going to do rounds of questions, three minutes...two rounds of three, and then the last one of two minutes--or one minute. Well, we'll try one minute? Okay. So, we'll start with Member Sinenci, then we go Member Cook, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Johnson, Paltin, and me. No...no Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Mahalo, Director Tsuhako and staff, for answering all of our questions --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- ahead of time. I know we tried to get as many questions in during the WASSP Committees, but as you know, the last couple meetings we just kind of took testimony most of the time. So, mahalo for those answers. The--my first question was about the ECONorthwest. Does the Department--since they did not produce a comprehensive strategic plan for...for homelessness, does the Department intend to, or have any plans to, develop one to address homelessness? I know you...you addressed a couple things in the...in the report already.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. The Department right now wants to focus on doing those tasks that are identified by our consultant, ECONorthwest, in order to get to a point where, as the author of the study said, we are able to do a strategic plan. I think we need to take those building-block steps first, and then make an assessment of whether everyone in general is ready for the investment...you know, strategic plan, which is going to include a lot of people and with--from a lot of different perspectives.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. And then one of the...the report's recommendations was to have more collaboration with the different agencies that involve themselves in homelessness. The Mayor has...has his own kind of branch in his department. Have you guys established some kind of working relationship with those guys...with Naomi and them?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. I think Naomi is the only person who's working in the Mayor's Office as a Homeless Solutions Liaison to the Mayor, and I met with her as recently as yesterday. We have ongoing collaboration. What we're trying to do is, we're trying to--as you heard from the Mayor's Office last week, Naomi will hold some of the funding for storage when encampments are intervened with. And so, we have to work together with Public Works, with DEM, with the Police, with Fire, and all those other entities. So, yes, there already have been efforts to work more collaboratively. And I think if we...we can kind of convene larger meetings to address certain--you know, those larger issues, we'll be situated in a much better place, and our roles can be more distinct, and I think we...we can identify those overlap places and those places where

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there's gaps, and then proceed to fill that so that . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . the gaps are reduced.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Director and everybody. So, my question is pretty--it's sort of a high level. The process for applying for--getting approved for grants, and doing the payment processing, and being held accountable is a huge task with all the different grants and everything you have. From what I hear from people who are trying to get grants, who--that it's a difficult process. Are--do you have something in play to work with, kind of like a training, a workshop, where some of the....the nonprofits--who are not that sophisticated, but are providing a service to the community. And once they get through the system once or twice and they know how to do it, then it'll be easier for you to work with them. So, my question is, how does that...what's your feedback on that, and...and advice or comment?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. The Department tries very hard to provide training for grantees, to help them prepare for any potential grant funding that might be allocated to them. Our funding cycle goes in two-year periods. So, Fiscal Year '26 is the second year of our funding. Even though our budget is annual, we do two years of grant funding so that an agency who got funded in Fiscal Year '25 can expect the same amount of funding for '26. So, our process for applying for grants will be open again in August. So, we'll...we'll issue what's called an invitation to bid, and all of the nonprofits that you heard from today and in the recent past are free, at that point, to submit their proposals. So, they can propose a service, they create a budget and say how much it'll cost to do that service, and they have to identi...be able to identify a performance measure that's related to social service provision.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is there an example document of that for people who haven't done it before?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes. So, the Department's website, the grants management in particular, has a copy of the application that would need to be submitted as part of a response to the invitation to bid. So, they can look at it right now and see what it looks like, what kind of documentation they would need. And it may not exactly be the same document because we might have to tweak it depending, but it'll substantially...substantively be the same process.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, similarly, as the...the documents, as far as like for monthly submittals, quarterly submittals--whatever they need to do to provide you for the performance measurement?

MS. TSUHAKE: So, yes. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . That's true. So, our grantees are allowed--as soon as their grants are executed, they're allowed to submit their first quarter payment, which is a forward payment, so that they don't have to incur the cost and get

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reimbursed. So, it's a forward payment. And at the end of the fiscal year, after all four quarters have been...three-quarters have been paid, in their fourth quarter is when the reconciliation comes into play where, if they've not spent all their money, we know how much they've lapsed, and then make sure that all of the bills are paid. And then we close the grant, and then any leftover funding is lapsed as savings.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I'll continue that question afterwards because my time's up. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director and team, Deputy Director. Okay. Regarding the 850,000 for the safe parking programs, will there be an RFP for this?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you. Nice to see you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. The RFP was already issued at the end of March. Jessica convened the meeting with interested parties and other entities on Tuesday. I think we had 10--oh, 14, we had 14 people in attendance. They asked some good questions about the scope, about what was expected, and I think the due date for the RFP submission is May the 16th.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then the...the 14 individuals were representing like 14 organizations, or--yeah? Wow.

MS. TSUHAKO: I think even Councilmember Sinenci sent a staff member to just listen in and...and stay aware of what was discussed. And that meeting was recorded. I don't know if it's been posted on the website yet, but it'll be posted on the website so that if somebody was interested, but missed it, they can listen to the recording and...and get caught up with the questions and the responses. And then additionally, the RFP requires us to compile the responses, and publish those as an addendum.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, awesome. Okay. And then you do you have an area identified, or is that part of the scope of work, to have an organization identify an area that the program would operate?

MS. TSUHAKO: You are correct. So, the...the RFP was written and drafted in a way to allow for more flexibility. So, rather than saying, you must do it here, or you must do it here, it was like, you...if you have access to land, you can get an agreement with the landowner, and you can provide this service, you know, propose...tell us how much it's going to be. And those will all be scored competitively --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- upon the...the end of the RFP period.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Do you think the 850 would cover only one potential project, or like a couple in different areas?



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MS. TSUHAKE: We believe the 850 would cover only one. The intention in the RFP language is that one proposal will be selected. But I think the important part is the Mayor intends for this to be a pilot. And so, depending on the success of the program--and we look at what are the outcomes, right? So, out of all these people who are using that parking lot program, how many of them have been connected to services that are going to end their homelessness, right? So, we'll look at outcomes, and then I think the pilot can be expanded to in...to also include different sites afterwards. But for right now, proposal says one selection . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . will be made.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Can I do a last quick follow-up?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Quick question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then I won't have any more questions about safe parking. So, does...does the Department have some like areas identified already in case an organization does not have a place, or is the RFP set up in such a way that an organization that could provide an area would get a higher score, and therefore, a higher likelihood of getting the funding?

MS. TSUHAKE: The Department hasn't pre-identified any parcels, partly because of the way the RFP is structured to allow for that access. So, for exa...I'll give you an example real fast. So, if a agency already has a partnership and they want to work with a church, so long as they have an agreement about that, the church parking lot could be used as the site, right? So, we don't want to limit that and say, you got to do them here, and you got to do it here. So, we thought that it gave us the best opportunity to be open to proposals that come in from various different entities who might be interested.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Countywide, not just Maui Island?

MS. TSUHAKE: The proposal is for Maui Island this time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: May 14 deadline?

MS. TSUHAKE: 16th.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 16?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I got a couple other questions in there. Sorry, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: You slipped it in.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . All right, Member Johnson, then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director, Deputy Director, for joining us today. I know you guys are busy, I...and I appreciate your responses to a lot of our questions. And I noticed a lot of the responses to my question [*sic*] was...you kept...it was all about putting money back into the food, shelter and safety pot. So, I'm really curious of why a lot of these grants were going to be put in this pot. Can you guys explain why you did it that way?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Councilmember. So, part of the movement that you saw in some of the details about funds being transferred back to the larger allocations is because some agencies have been receiving funding from a line item, for example, and then getting part of their funding from different allocations...like the homeless allocation, the substance abuse allocation, food, shelter, and safety allocations. And so, part of the reason for that movement was to consolidate funding so that the staff had to deal with only one index code for...for grant funding. It's...it's a matter of administrative efficiency for us.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I was wondering if it was for administrative efficiency. Can you talk about the costs that you saved?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Well, I can give you an example. Last year, during the budget season, I think over \$2.5 million might have been added to our budget...some for new grantees, others for existing grantees for either expansion or for new program tweaks. I think that process resulted in our Grants Management staff having to issue...or work on 16 contract amendments, two new grant agreements from the start, and various different budget revisions that require...that take time and effort.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. TSUHAKEO: And I think you heard this morning from some of the testifiers that the process of executing these grant agreements and amendments takes more time because the department stages...on our second year of grant funding, we stage these agreements so that as soon after July 1st as possible, the grant agreements are executed --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good.

MS. TSUHAKEO: -- so the agencies can submit their first quarter, and get their first quarter payment ahead of time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I guess the idea is the...if...if you did consolidate it, and you did reduce the amount of work, and revisits, and all of that, then I'm hoping we--the

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expectation is you can do more now. Or is it just like you were drowning, and you could just barely even keep your head above water...now, you're just, let's keep it flat? So, I'm curious of what the end result of that change in administration is.

MS. TSUHAKEO: The end result should be a little bit more ease in administering the funds with one sub-object code versus three --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. TSUHAKEO: -- for example. So, earlier I missed --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, could we put more...would...let me jump in because --

MS. TSUHAKEO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- I hear where you're coming...can we just put more in the pot, and then you guys could do more because you--there's only one index code? If I'm following the logic that you're saying.

MS. TSUHAKEO: You know, that's...Councilmember, that's your prerogative. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I will say that we had to issue two new RFPs for--with the extra funding for immigrant and migrant services and for the mental health programs. We had nine absolutely new grant agreements, and 24 amendments to existing agreements. So, adding more funding may be more helpful to the nonprofits who get the funding, but it is...it adds a burden to the staff to have to manage more grants. And I'm not complaining about that, just telling you because you asked.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: First-world problems, right? . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thanks. All right. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director Tsuhako. So, I just wanted to verify, first of all, last year, you said that there were 30 vacancies in the Human Concerns that was transferring from Housing and Human Concerns, and then over this fiscal year, you filled 16 positions. But there's 36 vacancies, five of which are going to be filled coming up pretty quick, May 16th or something, but you don't want us to cut the funding for the other vacant positions, minus the 13 vacant grant-funded positions. Is that an accurate representation of facts?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Good afternoon, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Good afternoon.

MS. TSUHAKEO: It is. The...the basic request was--I think last fiscal year, we did have some reduction in our...in our A funding, and we asked this year to have that restored. I would like to be able to fully staff our department so that...

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wouldn't we all?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Yeah, yeah, it...but, you know, I think --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But even with the reduction, there was still like 700 Carryover last year--I mean last fiscal year for which there was records, which is Fiscal Year '24, when you said there was 30 vacant positions, and now we have 36 vacant positions. So, I mean, we don't want to...we don't want to have that big Carryover/Savings because it's taxing people that don't necessarily needed [sic] to be taxed. So, I mean, I'm not asking if you want to fill the positions, I'm asking for what's realistic, given, you know, the past eight, ten years of however many years you've been in this role, like what is realistic? We all want to fill the positions.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you. We do. And I think filling the positions would help us deliver our services much better as direct service providers, and as Mr. Johnson suggested, as administrators. So, you know, one...one of the things that we've done is, we're...we're working really closely--and we appreciate our DPS colleagues because they've helped us be better, more efficient in reviewing position descriptions, updating, and doing all that stuff. And when we turn in those documents that are done cleanly, like there's no big issues with them, we've been able to get requisitions and...and job postings done really efficiently, which helps us. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, all of your vacancies besides the 13 and five are in open recruitment right this minute?

MS. TSUHAKEO: I...I think most of them are in continuous recruitment, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And they're updated regularly, you said, your Administrative Planning Officer or something...so the position descriptions are current ...*(timer sounds)*. . . as of Fiscal Year '25?

MS. TSUHAKEO: What we have done is we have asked our Administrative Officer to review the job descriptions with the division heads when we do the recruitment. So, we try not to have--there's a couple of job descriptions that are pretty old that we're working on right now to update.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like what year old, '90s, '70s?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Probably in the '90s, or maybe early 2000s.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Before widespread smartphone usage?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Yeah. So, some--I think one of the older ones actually said typewriter.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I think--I mean, if you had accurate, updated position descriptions, then we could pay more of a living wage, and then maybe we could recruit folks better. Because I think money is a big reason people come to work.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are we...did we lose connectivity?

MS. CROUSE: Good afternoon, Councilmembers. So, just a couple of things to add. The 36 positions that are vacant right now are not necessarily the same 30 positions that were vacant a year ago. So, as we fill positions, see employees who maybe retire, see employees who might transfer to other departments in pursuit of their own career goals...just because the number is similar doesn't necessarily mean the actual dynamic is the same. And then also, some of the positions that are--have those older job descriptions currently are currently filled with employees who have been in them since those changes happened. And so, it's not that updating those job descriptions is going to lead to recruitment for new employees necessarily, it's just part of our administrative responsibility to go in and make sure that we're updating them to get them to be more current and reflective. But I wouldn't say those particular job descriptions are a barrier to recruiting new employees for our department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. But if they've been in it since the '90s or typewriter-era, then I would imagine they're closer to retirement than not, and then it would be beneficial to have accurate, updated descriptions ready to go so you can fill the position as soon as possible.

MS. CROUSE: That's correct. And as Director Tsuhako said, we are working on reviewing those job descriptions, and making sure that when a position is becoming vacant, that we're using updated forms to expedite the process to the extent we can control.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, for my turn. Director, in testimony this morning, we heard from people--oh, we heard from several people asking why Family Life Center was the only authorized person to do the count, homeless count, and I wonder if you could explain that. It came from several people, so...or --

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- is that true?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. So, I think the issue was more about the homeless verification process. So, just to be clear, homeless verification is not under the jurisdiction of the Department. The State of Hawai'i is the primary funder of homeless shelters. They are the primary funder for Ka Hale A Ke Ola, the Family Life Center shelters, and as such, the Department of Human Services has contracts with those two agencies to provide those shelter spaces. And as part of their contract, they have said

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that they prefer the State-contracted outreach agency, which is Family Life Center, to be the agency to provide the homeless verification. So, the...the comments about the homeless verification process are really...should be more appropriately addressed with the State of Hawai'i because that requirement is made through their contractual relationship with the agencies, not with the County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, okay. So, that's something...needs to be explained, I guess. So, another question--or we heard from testifiers regarding training from Maui Grassroots Collecting [sic]...or the Maui Rapid Response. That whole conversation, can you shed some light on it? I think everybody wants to do a good thing, and they're--of course, we're talking about funding, so are they in the budget? I couldn't find them. Could you educate us?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Neither of the agencies that you just mentioned has applied for funding through the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- Department. Also, the idea of harm reduction and trauma-informed care, those...those two concepts are not new concepts. Many of our service providers have undergone that training. Our Deputy Director recently submitted a grant application to the National Alliance to End Homelessness to...to obtain more grant funding so that we can sponsor more of this training in the community. We also have an upcoming training that is sponsored by the Homeless Alliance with Iain De Jong from OrgCode, and Iain is a world-renowned trainer. He will be doing some training on harm reduction and trauma-informed care when he comes here in May. And I hope that the Homeless Alliance is able to extend an invitation to Members and--or to your Staff to come to that. We will certainly invite members of the community to also join as well. In addition to that, I have met with and spoken to Heather Lusk from the Hawai'i Harm and Reduction Center on O'ahu, who's a nationally certified trainer in harm reduction and trauma-informed care. And we're working on trying to put together a training for our Department staff, and trying to see if we can open that up to a larger . . .(timer sounds). . . portion of our community, or have multiple trainings with Heather.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: That's upcoming.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, we go back to the start with Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And just to follow-up on your last question, Chair, does the State provide funding to Ka Hale A Ke Ola and Family Life Center for running the State shelters?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, they...they do, Councilmember Sinenci. So, the...the State has a contract with both those agencies to provide shelter spaces. So, as a recipient of that contractual money, the two agencies are required to follow the written rules, and--you

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know, that...that are...that they're bound to in order to run those shelters according to the State's request.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So--and in the budget, you also have houseless programs that also fund those two shelter agencies.

MS. TSUHAKE: We...we do not fund the shelters.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. Well, there's --

MS. TSUHAKE: So, we...we have operational --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- 2 million --

MS. TSUHAKE: We have operational funds --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- that go to Ka Hale A Ke Ola, which helps to pay for case management --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And to run their programs?

MS. TSUHAKE: And to operate their programs, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then following-up on the safe parking--and maybe Jessica was there--could you--was there discussions about security, insurance, toilets, water buffaloes, or trash pickup at these safe parking locations?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you, Councilmember. Yes. At the meeting on Tuesday, there were questions that spoke to those various topics, that we did answer to help clarify the language in the RFP.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And so, that would be part of their...the applicants...that would include those things as part of the...the cost of running the...the parking lot?

MS. CROUSE: Potentially, yes. So, what we ask applicants to do is to review the list of questions that are included, and explain what their processes would be. So, depending on the applicant, the site they would use, they might have different start-up requirements. So, if someone's using a facility that already has toileting facilities, and...and a solid developed lot, they might not have as many start-up costs as someone who might need to bring in maybe porta-potty units, or portable hand-washing stations. So, we invite applicants to...to really tell us what their needs would be to address those areas, and how they would plan to address those topics.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. And then I did see in your response to my question about the mobile hygiene unit, that it has been since transferred to the Maui Police Department. So, I'll check with them, if they're currently using the hygiene unit.

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MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. Councilmember, I haven't spoken to anyone from the fire--I mean, from the Police Department --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Well, we can --

MS. TSUHAKE: -- recently, but --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Maybe we can send --

MS. TSUHAKE: -- the De...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- correspondence --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- Maui Police Department about the hygiene...mobile hygiene unit?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, the --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- this department never owned that unit.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, it was never --

MS. TSUHAKE: No, it was never in our inventory.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, because --

MS. TSUHAKE: We...we never owned it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- it was just parked at the --

MS. TSUHAKE: It was --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- Waiale site?

MS. TSUHAKE: It was parked...we were using it on loan from Ka Hale A Ke Ola . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . to provide facilities for the people who were living in the pallet-home shelter --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- during COVID.



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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Cook, followed by Member U'u-Hodg...Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, Director, is there--I...I did go, and I'm looking at the handbook. And I can see how like MEO can handle this kind of stuff, and a lot of other smaller nonprofits who are trying to provide public services wouldn't fit. Is there like a...what's the smallest amount that is practical? Not--I mean, I'm just seeing, you have to pretty much have a staff and be very business-savvy to comply with all of this, and I can see how this would be a great accounting...accountability for giving public funds. So, if you were given more money, but not added more grants, just funding the existing grant pool...grant applicants more for food or shelter or for whatever, would that equal more work for the staff?

MS. TSUHAKE: I was searching for the button to turn this on. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yes, it would, Councilmember. Because as I said, we...we've tried to stage the grant documents so that they're ready for execution on--or as close to July 1st as possible. And so, if additional funds were added for Fiscal Year '26 above what that prepared grant agreement was, we would not be able to execute the original...we'd have to pull that back, agency would have to submit a budget revision for the extra money --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I --

MS. TSUHAKE: -- we'd have to change performance --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- measures, the whole thing, right?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I...I get it. Thank you for answering that.

MS. TSUHAKE: I can also answer your first concern about lack of capacity. So, I agree with you that some agencies don't yet have the capacity to both do the work and be accountable for the administrative part of doing the work. And I think two years ago, Council Chair Lee added \$100,000 to Lokahi Pacific so that these smaller agencies could go to Lokahi, and Lokahi would be their fiscal sponsor, to allow the agencies to operate and get some experience with how to do the administrative part of...of grant...being a grant recipient, and then hopefully be able to launch from there.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, the \$100,000 for...is for Lokahi to do the management and accounting of it, it's not part of the grant to the applicant?

MS. TSUHAKE: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. My next set of questions is regarding boards and commissions. Does your FY '26 budget reflect cost or funding for the boards and commissions under your department or staff?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Thank you, Councilmember. We have some funding allocated for boards and commissions. I think I heard a testifier today ask for travel funds, and we haven't included travel necessarily in boards and commissions because of the ability to use video conferencing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

MS. TSUHAKEO: And I think another real realistic concern should be that we've had difficulty establishing quorum for meetings, and sometimes quorum is lost at the very last minute. So, if we're paying for multiple people to fly to Maui, and we lose--I mean, the last Commission on Homeless...on Healing Solutions [*sic*] meeting, I think, lost quorum at 3:00, they started at 1:30. I...I don't think that that's necessarily the best use of...use of funding for boards and commissions in general, but in--for the County.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. So, when I chair my Committee meeting for KA'Ā Committee for the Council, even though I can join remotely, and sometimes I do chair it remotely, my preference is to be here with Staff, to be in-person when I chair my meeting. So, I think at minimum, Board and Commission Chair should have a travel budget. And then for Healing Solutions specifically, we made it so that there was really, you know, just like one person from each district. So, there shouldn't be multiple people flying in for Maui, there should only be one from Moloka'i unless, you know, the...there's a person that's satisfying one of the seats that is part of the, you know, coalition, or representing some other, you know, specialty that is required under that in the ordinance. And then there could be--you know, there should be one from Lāna'i, so that would be max two. I don't think right now Moloka'i or Lāna'i residents are filling the seats of the other spots on that Commission. Okay. So, next, are there any additional funds needed to support those commissions and ensure they are efficiently staffed, able to attend training and workshops, and other opportunities to build capacity?

MS. TSUHAKEO: The...Councilmember, the only request that I've received over the past probably three years for training of commission members has been to attend the State's Annual Planning Conference. And the...the cost was exorbitant, and I didn't see a direct relationship between the request . . .(*timer sounds*). . . and the need, so...and...and we didn't have any money allocated for that purpose. So, I think that we would consider...more likely consider a training like the one that I described to Councilmember Sinenci is, if members of the commission, whether it's Children and Youth, or Council on Aging, or Commission on Persons with Disabilities would like to attend that sort of training, and if there's a fee associated with it, we could probably do a waiver, or we could pay for that fee based on who's sponsoring, and things like that. I think the larger

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ask, or more challenging for travel, for \$600 a night in hotel fees...that kind of thing, I think, is probably more than we could bear and...and justify.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I know--Member Johnson and I attended a conference on O'ahu that was on housing and houselessness. And I think they do it annually, so that...that's one example. And, you know, that's like interisland, so maybe I can put together like a budget or something. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Member Johnson --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I appreciate the table of all of the grants and the lists and numbers, so I'm going to kind of jump into that. Lāna'i Kīnā'ole asked for 250,000 in 2025, they got 175. This year, they asked for 250,000, they get 175. Lāna'i Community Health Center--as we all know, our community health centers are in big trouble with Federal funding, right? Once again, they--FY '25, they asked for 118, they got 82. '26...in FY '26, they asked for 125, they got 82. So, the--I can go down the list. There's a lot of these organizations that...that had an ask, and you guys didn't give them that. Is there something that you can say that--I know...I...I just don't want the answer to be ESID--every situation is different, right? I know there might be--this guy didn't fill out it right--but what...what is like...what do you--how can we help these folks get what they're asking for, besides us them...besides us telling them, oh, you didn't fill out your form right, or you didn't do this right?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. I...I think one of the basic things is, for example, if you're contemplating recommending funding, is understanding what the proposal is, and ensuring that it--the proposal actually meets Department standards...like it makes sense. So, for example, you know, if you were to propose a grant to Agency ABC, and their proposal is well, we're going to open a juggling school for clowns, right? And then you say, Lori, I want you to fund these guys 'cause they're...they're doing this great thing. That is not going to match with our mission, or the things we --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I gave two examples about healthcare. I mean, isn't that what we do? That's what the Department would...it's not a clown school, it's...it's the --

MS. TSUHAKE: No, I'm not saying that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- Lāna'i Kīnā'ole, and it's the Lāna'i Community Health Center. They're...I'm sure they have to match our visions, right? Is--or I'm trying to...I'm just curious to why...I could see where you're coming from though. If there's some that are not matching the vision, I get it, but these ones certainly. And there's a list of them, but I...I'm just focusing on the Lāna'i ones.

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MS. CROUSE: Thank you, Councilmember. So, I don't have the data specifically for those grants in front of me. If you'd like that, and could send that request, we can follow-up for those specifically. But I will say that earlier this week, to prepare for today, we met with our grants management staff, who shared comments with us about how sometimes agencies predict for increased fundings based on their anticipated needs, but those timelines often get pushed back. So, for example, if an agency predicts needing additional funds because they're going to be moving spaces, will be increasing programming, deliverables, because of that, but the move gets delayed, they're not ready to use the amount of funding that was maybe anticipated. So, that those are some factors. And then another factor we've seen in the last year, especially as many of these nonprofit organizations are receiving additional grant awards from different sources as part of maybe post-fire response, or other funding sources, and so as they receive some of those additional grant awards . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . their request to the County has gone down too.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MS. CROUSE: And so, it's just that each...like you said, each agency --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. CROUSE: -- really does have a different story.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I...I'm out of time, but just to let you guys know, we go around the...the whole County, and we do public hearings on the budget. MEO is one of our top sup...people support MEO all the time. I'm looking at their budget, they didn't what they asked. For all the things that they were asking, in every section, they didn't get what they asked, you--they got a little bit less. So, I'm just...like that's kind of tone deaf to what our community's asking. They want more MEO service. They thank them left, right, and center. So--and then we look at the budget, and they're getting less in every department. These are very important things to our community. So, just please reconsider, and look at those kinds of things when we--you know, because that's what the community wants and that's--they're providing great service. And my time's up. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to go out on a limb and say this one is going to be an in-writing answer.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The first one. And so, it's--I'm on HC-02, page 8, 7a, and I think the question was kind of misunderstood. It says, please explain how the Department will allocate the grants, and how much entity will receive...each will receive, and it refers to 12A in HC-01. But I guess, you know, for all of those categories where it's broken out, more so I wanted to know, for all of them, like what is the vetting pri...process, what

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is the selection criteria? You gave some of it, that it has to align with the mission, it has to, you know, comply with State and Federal guidelines, and like that. So, assuming everyone does meet all that criteria, what is the vetting process, what is the selection criteria? That one can be answered in writing. The other question is, do we still need the Commission on Children and Youth? I think a previous Cost of Government Commission study said that we don't need it. And I think Chair Lee was the one to start it, and she did say it was for like, you know, early education grants, how that would be distributed, and they said that's not what it's used for. And so, like do you think that it's a necessity to continue that Commission on Children Youth [sic]? Do you see a value? Do they...what is their output? Like, you know, Planning Commission, the SMA permits and all that stuff; Board of Variances and Appeals, there's an outcome. What is the annual outcome for Children...Commission on Children and Youth that we're paying for board and commissions staff, and all that hours and whatnot, like you were talking about?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you, Councilmember. So, for that commission, a lot of the work is based off of the interest and the opportunities that might come up during those commissioner's terms. And so, one example of a project that commission has been working on recently is a Talking is Teaching campaign, and how to support that, and how to increase the visibility of those posters and awareness for early childhood literacy. So, there isn't necessarily a firm mission, like some of the other commissions that you might have mentioned, but those commissioners do actively participate in seeking opportunities to champion needs of children and youth in our community, and they are volunteering their time to help support our keiki.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it just depends on the makeup of the commission at the time. Next question. So, you said that the housing...houseless thing didn't change, so I'm assuming it's still Housing First, right...model?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes. That's the big picture that we operate under.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and I'm not sure what the point-in-time count was, but today's vacancy report lists 4 studios available, and 15 congregate spaces available. I imagine the houseless community is larger . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . than that, so then how does Housing First work if we don't have housing...enough housing for all our unhoused folks?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. Housing First is both a model of care, as well as a strategy. And the idea about it is that people are--help to achieve permanent housing to end their homelessness, and sometimes shelter is an appropriate step for them to get to a permanent housing solution. For some people, they're never going to enter shelter. But the point is that the work of...of the agencies is to help people get their birth certificates, their IDs, their Social Security numbers, and if they want to pursue housing, we have to have some form of income, whether it's Social Security, disability, or through employment. We also have to work on getting them housing subsidies if they would be eligible, such as Section 8, and then help them fulfill that housing plan. The

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availability of shelter spaces varies from day to day. You've seen the report that's published by the Governor's coordinator.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's the...it's the same as it was yesterday, I mean, but it varies.

MS. TSUHAKEO: Yes, some...I mean, sometimes it...sometimes it goes up, it just depends on who is in the queue for placement in those units. So, the Housing First really is not dependent on having shelter spaces. I think shelter spaces, we should try our very best to have them available if somebody who's unsheltered wants to shelter, that should be an issue for us to deal with. But Housing First is really about not requiring people to go into treatment for mental health, or substance abuse, or any of those other counseling things before they're housed. So, I cannot make that a prerequisite of working with somebody to get housed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are...are you aware the National Alliance to End Homelessness says that a Housing First approach can be successful for any person, regardless of actual or perceived need, provided that the resources that they need and choose are available and accessible to them?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is it true that they have to be unsheltered for 90 days?

MS. TSUHAKEO: I heard somebody mention that this morning, but I've never experienced that requirement. So, I don't know where it came from.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Two days, one day?

MS. TSUHAKEO: They have to have a verification of homelessness, so I think it's...I don't think it's two days, I think it's just a verification of homelessness.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and the agency that you suggested to reach out to expand that capability to give the verification of homelessness was the Department of Human Services?

MS. TSUHAKEO: Yes, specifically BESSD houses the Homeless Programs office.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: BESS...

MS. TSUHAKEO: Yeah, Benefits, Employment, and Support Services Division of DHS.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. Benefits, Employment, Support Services Division.

MS. TSUHAKEO: I can send you an email after.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have one question for you. And I...I noticed that Member U'u-Hodgins is here, so sorry I didn't recognize you earlier. Welcome. You want to ask questions? And I'll go last. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: To add, I'm at home. I have three minors walking about, so that's my little disclosure. In some of the questions, I believe this is question...let me see, hold on...16f in your response to us in HC-02 regarding the 375 complaints and inquiries the program received in FY '25 regarding...regarding houselessness. And then in the program budget on 450 for that goal 3 where that information is found, one of the goals is a percentage of inquiries that were resolved and/or answered. So, out of the 375, we are estimating in 2025, this year and of next year, 95 of those complaints or inquiries are going to be answered or resolved. How do we...how do you do that? And how do you measure--obviously, I know it's a number, but how do you measure if it's resolved?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. The resolution usually comes in the form of a response on our SeeClickFix program, where it--the person who initiated the complaint is responded to usually by Chris Kish, our Homeless Division Coordinator, and given information, told what the Department might do in terms of deploying outreach to people identified as being unsheltered, and then following up, and then usually getting a response from the initial complainant saying, oh, I didn't know that information, thanks for telling us, and, you know, I hope so and so, you know, Joe...Joe Doe gets some help, and saying thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Because...thank you for clarifying that for me. Because, you know, the first concern out of 375 complaints are regarding some of the encampments that limit access to public parks and beaches. And so, we respond like, okay, thank you for letting us know, but the issue isn't necessarily resolved?

MS. TSUHAKE: I...I agree with you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. That's what I wanted to know. Thank you. That's all for me right now, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, I just have one, and it's...it's the third letter that went out to you, so if you have an answer, fine, if not, we'll just wait for it to come, AC-3...AC-03 [sic]. And the other day, we had a few testifiers from the Maui Humane Society, and they mentioned that the Hawai'i Animal Rescue Foundation is no longer a viable organization, and they...they were asking for some funds. So...and I looked up, I didn't see them in our budget last year, so do you have a number that you can recall that we had funded the Hawai'i Animal Rescue Foundation?

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MS. TSUHAKE: Madam Chair, I did see a draft of that response, so I'm pretty sure we can get it to you tomorrow formally, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- my recollection is that the Hawai'i Animal Rescue Foundation was funded at \$150,000 for the current fiscal year, and since we've been notified of the agency's closure, none of that funding has been expended. I think second part of the question was about why additional funding wasn't added to the Humane Society allocation because of the closure of HARF, and that is, we've not received a request from the Humane Society to do that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, if they're looking for funds for this current fiscal year, they can send a letter to you? Is that what you said?

MS. TSUHAKE: I think the deadline for getting a budget revision has passed, it was --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- the end of March. So, administratively, that would be really hard.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: I...I think...if I heard Dr. Labrecque's testimony correctly, she was hoping to have additional funding added to her Fiscal Year '26 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because of that.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- contract.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, okay. That's my only question. No. So, next round...you want to do two minutes, Members? Yeah? Okay. So, Member Sinenci, two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Listed under mental health programs, are those open for...for applications? There's 500,000 for mental health programs. Or is that's...that has been allotted to...it doesn't have a list on page 436.

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, during the last budget process last year, a \$250,000 allocation was added to the Department. We did a request for proposal, and three programs were selected through that competitive process. Funding was provided to Spirit Horse Ranch, whom you heard from this morning; an agency on Moloka'i, Pūlama Na...Ka Heke for mental health services, bringing in providers to serve that community; and then the third grantee was the Lāna'i Community Health Center, to provide a one-time allocation for training purposes. So, in this Fiscal Year '26 request, we've increased that funding to 500,000, and we will--once the budget is passed, we will issue another RFP to make some selections about other providers who can then apply for the extra money.



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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So...so, the Department will put out the RFP, it's not for grant applications or anything like that?

MS. TSUHAKE: Well, the RFP is a competitive process, right?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: So, let's say five entities apply. We will have to score those applications based on criteria that we'll publish, and then the agencies with the highest scores will be selected for funding.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yep. And as Member Johnson says, we get a lot of people--requests during our district. Can the Councilmembers go ahead and provide...if we do see some people that want to ...*(timer sounds)*... you know, provide these services?

MS. TSUHAKE: So, the Department will issue a press release once that RFP is...is posted to inform you and your constituents that the proposal is open...I mean, we're open for proposals, and so the agencies can then follow through if they want to...to bid.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Cook...oh, I'm sorry, Member U'u-Hodgins. Sorry about that. Then Member Cook, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, if I could ask you to skip me for right now and hold me to the end. I'm trying to do some little research before I formulate my question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Member --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Member Johnson, Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I don't have any more questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay, on page 9 of the first response, the question was, did your department apply for any grant funding in FY '25? If yes, how much? And the response was, the Department has not applied for any grant funding in FY '25. Would you please share why?

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MS. TSUHAKE: Actually, I believe that the application to the National Alliance to End Homelessness might have been submitted after we composed this response to you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, you're amending your response?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes. Because --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. TSUHAKE: -- we...we have, but it--I...yeah. I think the timing was such that we prepared this response before the application was actually submitted. So, apologies for that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So, you did apply for one, and that's for the National Homeless what? For how much?

MS. TSUHAKE: National Alliance to End Homelessness. I forgot...\$30,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. For...let's see, where is it...question 12, response A and B for the HC-1. Can you clarify what is covered under the 220,000 to Family Life Center for homeless outreach on Moloka'i?

MS. TSUHAKE: Sorry, Councilmember. Were you referring to HC-01 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- question 12?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, yeah, 12. It's in the exhibit at the end with a list of all the...it's in both exhibits as a response to question 12 --

MS. TSUHAKE: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- B --

MS. TSUHAKE: I'm sorry, I was looking somewhere else.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and A.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you. So, case management services are provided . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . in...in a couple of different venues.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I would love that. I don't know where that is.

MS. TSUHAKE: Family Life Center provides case management for those formerly homeless families who are now living at Huliau, which is the old MCC dorms on Ka'ahumanu and Wahinepio. They also provide case management services for those who are unsheltered, or living in their shelters at the moment, to help them resolve their homelessness. And

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case management is a really broad area of work, but it includes helping them sign up for entitlement benefits like Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps; applying for Section 8...Section 8 vouchers; applying at all income-restricted housing opportunities, including public housing; and helping them manage budgets, and all those support services that help keep somebody afloat until they can be housed. It also helps folks with obtaining their driver's license, their Social Security card, their birth certificate and other IDs, all documentation that's necessary for somebody to sign a lease and be housed. The Moloka'i homeless services grant to Family Life Center pays for staffing for that case management services, as well as taking folks who are living in unsheltered conditions, housing them, and trying to ensure that they are able to transition into permanent housing. And then the outreach grant is for outreach teams to go out into the community. They go to different geographic areas on a rotational basis to engage actively with unsheltered folks, offer services, offer connections through services such as case management or entry into the shelter if that's something that's desired. Family Life Center also does --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I specifically asked for Moloka'i.

MS. TSUHAKE: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moloka'i --

MS. TSUHAKE: I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Homeless Assistance, 200,000. And I did the math because we talked about Healing Solution Commission travel, and \$250 round trip once a month comes out to \$3,000. So, that's airfare. I don't think there's a Moloka'i-based person. Do you know if there's a Moloka'i-based staff person on Moloka'i? Because a lot of this assistance you just said, my office does...Ms. Lindo does, and we...we don't get funding or like work with Family Life on this, even though Ms. Lindo has reached out to them for that purpose. So, 200,000 for Moloka'i, what is that for?

MS. TSUHAKE: They...they do have staff members there...a member.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One person?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Can you tell me her name later?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks. Or I assumed it was a female, it could also be a male. Okay, mahalo.

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MS. TSUHAKE: At...at one point, they had...they had two, and I think that's gone down to one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, I have the name. All right. It could also be nonbinary or LGBT. Sorry, I just wanted to...it's...it's not, you know, binary. So, mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, Member Paltin, then we'll go back to Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So, this is about my question that I had to go into a UIPA response. So, I was just asking in regards to can you give us copies for the programs, grants, and contracts? And then your department's request was--or response was that we would have to request a UIPA request. And then I'm curious why, and then do I have to pay for the pages?

MS. TSUHAKE: No, you do not have to pay for the pages. The...the reason that the response was such is, we...we coordinated and asked guidance from our Corporation Counsel. Everyone else who's made a request for the actual grant documents has needed to go through a UIPA request, and in order to be fair, we were given guidance to have that same process adhered to.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is--so, just your department has...has done it this way. I don't...I might ask for somebody from another department, I wonder if I'm going to have to deal with that next time...next round, you know, if I have...if...if I asked Department of Housing, are they going to go to UIPA? I mean, part of our job as Councilmembers is to review this. *(echoing)* So, I'm...I'm curious to hear...maybe I'll have to send a letter and find out because I'm curious to why that it was decided that way under the law--or I mean, by going to Corporation Counsel. Just for fairness?

MS. TSUHAKE: I...I think it was a matter of our process. So, when we get a request...like, you know, if anybody in the audience were to come into the Department and say, hey, I want to see the grant to MEO's Early Head Start program --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't really feel like I'm John Q. Public when we're talking about budget, you know? Like we're trying to sort out, you know, the grants and the contracts. Some of the questions we had were about the contracts, you know? So, I'm just curious to why you guys do it. This is really kind of our job . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . to look at these things. It's kind of surprising to hear that I have to do a UIPA request for it.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. I...I'm sorry if...I'm sorry for the hassle. We're simply listening to guidance that was provided to us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Paltin, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, first question for in writing, on page...shoot...3 of HC-01, program title, Agency Names, FY '26 Proposed, can I get the breakout specifically for West Maui Adult Day Care Center of the 638,000? So, that one is in writing. And then my follow-up question was going to be, you know, for the Humane Society, I think this is the first year you guys are taking it on. My concern was, you know, with HARF pau, and the requested Countywide spay and neutering shortfall, like to me, that's kind of something we really want to get ahead of, you know? If...if we don't provide enough...enough funds to do all the possible spay and neutering, you know, one cat can have a litter of how many, and then next thing you know, they're yodeling all night, and nobody can sleep, and...welcome to my neighborhood. But...so, I was wondering, if we were to put more in, would it be similar to the Maui AIDS Foundation where they wouldn't get the money until March, or could that be increased and just given out? Because...go to Keōpūolani Park, go anywhere, and you see all the unneutered/spayed cats, like toxoplasmosis, and all the...all the things. I think there was like some flea disease someone in my neighborhood got...they don't own any cats, but they're all over Nāpili. So, I just was wondering if we were to increase the spay and neuter amount to what is requested, you know, for kind of like health and safety reasons, the--the feces, the fleas, the yodeling--would that take until March to get out?

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, I'm sorry you have to deal with the yodeling.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Me too.

MS. TSUHAKE: The Animal Management program in Fiscal Year '26's budget has been excised to the Department of Agriculture. So, the Department of --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- Agriculture's staff . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . will be administering that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, man, I wasted all my time. Okay. You...you guys never gave any guidance on the amounts there?

MS. TSUHAKE: We...we did. I think what happened is in the...in the translation between the two administrative processes, they ended up with the same amount, which is I think what Dr. Labrecque was talking about. So, I...I don't know if the Department of Agriculture has come before you yet, but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, not yet.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- I think that that's something --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, re-ask that question --

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- to them.

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MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shoot, I just missed my oppo...okay, go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm looking at your guys' response, it's question A...or question 12a, where you gave us all the agencies and all of the grants that go with it. So, I see for food and shelter and safety, we have \$1.1 million potentially allocated; early childhood programs, 1.4; our houselessness programs, 2.8; immigrant services, 400,000; mental health programs, 500,000; and it goes on and on, and I'll mention services to the frail and elderly, 1.1 million. I mention that because one of the things I learned while I was in school, in my little criminology classes in college, was we can track...basically how our population will end up based on the dropout rates at 8th grade, and sometimes the mental health of our young students and children. Usually around 4th or 5th grade is when young girls experience some trauma I don't want to name on the floor...and we can track that, and we can track how all of it will play out later in life. How do we find this balance where our early childhood programs, and even our kūpuna programs, get...both of them combined is what necessarily we...we share with our homelessness and houselessness program. And I know that everybody needs money, but in my opinion, when we talk about our most vulnerable population, for me, that's our children, and that's our kūpuna. And it's...if we don't invest in early childhood programs, and we don't ensure that kids are eating at school, it's going to...we're going to create more homelessness. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And we're going to be right back into this situation, and throwing money at something doesn't always solve the problem. So, I'm just wondering, how do we find our balance? How can we ensure that our children are fed and safe? And then how can we ensure that our kūpuna are also fed and safe? And I know--I want to say before you answer my question, I know everybody is doing the best they can. So, I just want your folks opinion, and how do we find our balance, and what...what we're going to look like in a few years right now with our Federal Government doing all kine funny stuff?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. I...I know that there's a palpable degree of anxiety in the community, not just around the providers who are dealing with potential losses of Federal funding, or changes in ruling, or...you know, we've...as a department, we've had to resubmit paperwork to get funding for our Retired Senior Volunteer Program because there might have been language around DEI, right? And so, we have to go through these exercises to meet those demands. The Department is working with a vendor right now to do a community needs assessment. I believe the first round of test questionnaires have also...have already been issued. We expect to get a final report back. I think over 900 people are to be surveyed from across different geographic areas of the County, and I think we should have a little bit better sense after that study is completed about how funding should be focused in the future, and that will guide--and we'll certainly share that with...with you and with other Members--and that should

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guide some of it. I think the other thing is that we're getting anecdotal information from...directly from our divisions, who have staff working directly with people in the community, and all of that put together should help us to really look at assessing what our priorities are, are they aligned with what the needs are, and trying to help us kind of reconfigure the distribution of...of our grant funding.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I know the bell rang, but can I ask one more question since I missed the first round?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can, and this is going to be the . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you so much. A few weeks ago, when I had to leave budget early and I had to go to my family meeting, I had an opportunity to have lunch with my Uncle Lui Hokoana, the Chancellor of MCC. And I asked him, what...what can I expect, as somebody who sends their children to public schools, with the...the defunding of Department of Education? And he basically said, well, you know, your kids are still going to go school, but you're probably going to have to pay full price for lunch--which, we don't qualify for any lunch subsidies, but I know that so many other people do. And we're also going to have to pay for what the lunch actually costs instead of the reduced price of like 2.25, 2.50, which is already hard for some people. And I know that schools are a State issue, and State is doing whatever the State is doing, and I cannot speak for them. But is there a way--when I was just asking about, you know, the early childhood programs, is there somebody we can basically help to cover schools lunches? And I know Pukalani Superette, which is both in mine and Chair's backyard, they had a fundraiser for student lunches so they can cover that delta. Because if you miss so many payments, you don't get served. And some people, that's all they eat...that's the only food they eat that day. And my kids eat in school, and they come home, and they straight to eat because it's usually just never enough, and they spend all of their time running around. So, really, my question is, is I know--I'm not trying to step on the State's toes, but do we have someone that we can maybe make a line item, or can we give money to somebody who's going to cover kids' school lunches, especially with the anticipation of our Federal Government doing funny kine things?

MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember, I'm not sure what the capacity is to do a program that that's far-reaching because there's school in every...there's schools in every community, right, from...from elementary schools all the way up to high school. So, that would be quite an undertaking. I do think that the Legislature has set aside--and this is assuming the...their version of the budget is signed by the Governor--but they have set aside money to re...sort of supplant Federal funding that's lost through these sort of arbitrary cuts. So, I think that we can moni...all of us as citizens can monitor, and we can testify in favor of...of having that set-aside done by the Legislature, but the creation of a program to help with the supplemental food cost at school will need to be...will need to be worked out and thought...thought...thoughtfully kind of planned for. I don't think it's kind of like a snap decision that could be made like today, for example, because there's so many layers to it, and probably needs to have some sort of eligibility criteria, and...and a fiscal agent, and a fiscal process that's sophisticated enough to handle that across the entire County. I...I'm not saying it's undoable, I'd just say it's --

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sure.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- it's not going to be a very nimble, quickly-implemented thing.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. I hear you. Thank you for that. As we're discussing our district funds and our district priorities, that was one of the conversations we had in my office to at least ensure that like, you know, each of our districts can hopefully receive something, if...if at all possible. But I appreciate your answer. And thank you for the...time allowance, Chair. I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you for those good questions. Okay, Members, I am going to close out Human Concerns, and any questions you may have, please send it in writing to the Department. Because I'm trying to take up Housing, and they're sitting here and...and waiting for us, and we have to leave here by 4, so...for traffic from the West Maui master.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I don't...I don't think I'm going to be done with my Housing questions in 40 minutes. I mean, Housing was the number one --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do you guys want to...you guys want to recess until tomorrow?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I can do that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'd like to ask one more question because I messed up --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can ask one more question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- on my last turn.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For Human Concerns.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You can ask one more question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. It's...it's actually two, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a way of sliding in there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the first question, I noticed the request to reinstate Council funding from Fiscal Year '25 is about like close to \$150,000. And did that cut of 150,000 prevent you from filling all the vacancies? Was there vacancies that you couldn't fill because the Council cut 150,000 in your A category last fiscal year?



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MS. TSUHAKE: I don't believe there were.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second question. You know, I read the answer on...I think it's HC-02, page 2, 31a [sic], but it...it didn't really answer the question that I had. Does the Department support a medical needs registry? The answer that I see, while it...it's good like pre-August 8th, 2023, I'd say it's the reason why we lost all those paratransit riders, you know? There was no telephone. Nobody even knew the whole entire town was burning down. The Mayor was saying the road was open. So, in an emergency, staff in each program calls at-risk senior participants to make them aware of the danger, and ensure that they have transportation and food in case of evacuation. Follow-up wellness calls are made post-emergency. Kaunoa is limited in the kinds of transportation that can be provided for those with special needs beyond the job description and training of its staff. None of that, if even enacted, would have worked on August 8th to the death of many people. And I understand Kaunoa is limited, and that's why we form partnerships with MEMA and, you know, Hale Makua, Hale Mahaolu, all...all the people. Like we're...we're not meant to do it alone, but there was no answer to the question, does the Department support medical needs registry?

MS. TSUHAKE: I...I think, Councilmember, that our...our staff, both at Kaunoa and the Office on Aging, have discussed and been in discussions about a medical registry. And I think the...the concern expressed to the Deputy Director and I, over the course of those discussions, is that there has to be a mechanism for updating that medical registry, and there wasn't certainty about how that would be done. Because every situation, every crisis situation, emergency situation is different, and might be impacted differently for every person who might be on it. And so, I--the primary...I think the primary and the highest concern was, well, who's going to keep that updated, and is that registry, in itself, going to be . . .(timer sounds). . . enough to make sure these folks get evacuated and everything?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, we don't need to recreate the wheel. This is in effect in Jefferson Parish. I can get you their forms and their protocols and things like that. But the other thing about Kaunoa, you know, we all know that Kaunoa does a killer bingo situation. And I guess, you know, part of it is like, you know, when you talk about evacuation or disaster preparedness, it's...it's not really something people want to...want to talk about, or do.

MS. TSUHAKE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like if you...if you go to Hale Mahaolu Eono, and were to tell people we got to get out in two minutes, nobody's...that lives there is...is going to get out in two minutes because, you know, all the things. But I guess I'm...I'm asking to incorporate some of the disaster preparedness things into the fun stuff, you know...like maybe they can win a go-bag or something like that. Because the stuff that...I've been to some bingos, and it's...it's...it's fun, I guess, if you're into that kind of thing, but if we could bring some of the essential get-folks-ready to the fun and make that fun, and make that be a prepared thing...I mean, we got to start somewhere.

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MS. TSUHAKE: Councilmember. Madam Chair, may I call in Ruth Griffith, who's on call with us --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah. Yes.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- to speak to that in particular? Ruth? I think you got to unmute yourself, Ruth.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can't hear you or see you.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we've made Ruth Griffith a presenter, but she's muted on her end. She'd have to unmute on her end.

MS. TSUHAKE: Ruth, you're still muted, and your camera's off. If you turn your camera on, maybe you can talk to us in sign language.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . She probably could.

MS. TSUHAKE: Hmm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We can't...

MS. TSUHAKE: Okay. I...I...I think there's a technical issue. But Councilmember, your...your suggestion is actually being implemented.

MS. GRIFFITH: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: Oh. Oh, we're good? Good. Thanks, Ruth.

MS. GRIFFITH: I'm here. Hi, can you hear me now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, and see you.

MS. GRIFFITH: Okay, sorry about that. Technology. I have two screens, and one of them is off. Okay. So, thank you for the question. So, Councilmember Paltin, so I totally agree with you about getting the information out during these fun activities, and that is exactly what we do. During congregate, we provide information to them about evacuation, about storm season every single season. We also send out flyers and storm information, hurricane season...every single season through Maui County Office on Aging as well. So, we do that, we do provide that kind of information. We also, during bingos and all those other fun activities, which...we do more than bingo. Bingo is our biggest thing, but we do have congregate activities that happen several times a week, and classes and activities, and...and part of those fun is giving them prizes that are relevant to doing evacuations, or preparing for hurricanes, things like that. So, yeah, I do totally agree with you on that. In terms of the evacuation--because, you know, I'm from Lāhainā as well--I have thought about that so many times, about what we could have done more. Without the phones, we were just helpless. You know, we were driving to people's

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houses, trying to figure out if they were there. So, unless...and on top of that, even if we could have gotten to some people--of course, that would be only our participants because we don't actually serve all the seniors, we...we can only be in contact with those seniors who are registered for Kaunoa--we couldn't have gotten out because of the road situation. So, I think in any of these situ...anything that we do, we would have to be working with Police and Fire, and in communication with them --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so --

MS. GRIFFITH: -- Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in...in some of your things--like I know the Fire Department, as well as MEMA, has given presentations. Have you booked presentations for our seniors? Now they have that Genasys Protect and Ladriss AI, I don't know how it works, but, you know, if...if it gets...if they get a special kūpuna presentation, or...on how to sign up for the alerts if the phones are working...and the Fire Department has those new Fire Code standards like to...to present to the kūpuna as...as they go about --

MS. GRIFFITH: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- their day, to how to report if they see violations of the Fire Code in the areas where they live. Because, you know, for Lāhainā, a lot of people are very nervous about the upcoming fire season, hurricane season --

MS. GRIFFITH: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and a lot of the weeds --

MS. GRIFFITH: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- have been growing back on the vacant lots that aren't yet being built on. And so, if...if they get that education about the software is design to help future evacuation, the new Fire Code's designed to not let the fires spread so fast, that could be helpful as well. Because I mean --

MS. GRIFFITH: Yeah, I...I totally agree.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- even if they only have six fire inspectors, if they have 120 kūpuna that are educated and aware of how to make complaints or, you know, report violations, then maybe they have 120 fire inspectors?

MS. GRIFFITH: Absolutely. And we can have them come to all of the congregate sites as well in terms of showing them how to use these new programs. A lot of times, with kūpuna, you have to sit and you have to show them, yeah? Or you have to sign up...help them sign up, otherwise that's a barrier. That's the first barrier. One of the things we can do in West Maui is because at bingo, we have 100 people, what we've been using the bingo for is to...to bring resources to them. So, they can actually sign up for MEO programs,

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and sign up for legal aid, those kinds of things, at the site while we do that. So, we provide time during the program for them to do that. So, it's a perfect way that we can incorporate your idea.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you want me to send you the medical needs registry that I have from Jefferson Parish, and so you can look it over and see?

MS. GRIFFITH: Sure, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'm not sure who RD is, but they got their hand up. Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did you want to --

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- add Rowena to the discussion?

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. Madam Chair, would you mind adding --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, sure.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- Ms. Andaya? Thank you.

MS. DAGDAG-ANDAYA: Okay, good afternoon, Councilmembers. For the record, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Department of Human Concerns, Office on Aging. And sorry I'm...I'm late to the meeting, we just completed our Commission on Persons with Disabilities meeting, but I joined in once we were talking about seniors and emergency preparedness. And I...I heard mention about a registry. And this item has actually been in discussion with our Commission on Persons with Disabilities for a few months now. We started that discussion back in November with Hawaiian Electric, when they gave us a presentation about their...their power shut-off program, and then that sparked a discussion with FEMA. And Peter Edmondson had come to our meeting to talk about what other communities on the continent were doing with respect to notifications, warnings...and then we also dived in a little bit about community registration programs and registrat...or a program called Smart911. So, what we learned was there are some advantages and disadvantages to the program. And so, I do have some notes that--if you have...if there is a follow-up letter with questions, I can prepare some...some notes that we took, and that the Commission on Persons with Disabilities...they're actually preparing a letter right now that they wanted to send to the Mayor with their recommendations. And then yesterday, at our Council on Aging meeting, we had a meeting with staff from Maui Emergency Management Agency. Amos, the Administrator, had done a wonderful presentation on the Genasys program, and of course, the--our...our Council on Aging members have concerns about, you know, technology and, you know, seniors being able to use that technology. But I think it was also stressed that family members be a part of creating an emergency plan, or working with their loved ones to create an emergency plan. So, there's a lot of discussion on ways that we can reach out to the...to the seniors. Both Ruth at Kaunoa and I, you

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know, we...we have staff that...that conducts outreach to various senior groups. We also--through our service specialist at Office on Aging, we work with our participants in identifying and--or creating an emergency plan with them. We do contain those--that information in a database, and in the past, we've actually used information from that database, and shared that with Emergency Management...the Emergency Management Agency to identify where the seniors are located, create a GIS layer, and then start creating evacuation...you know, plans for evacuating people. But that...that was during events where you had some lead time, such as a hurricane or a tsunami, that...that had, you know, hours of...that afforded you hours of planning time. So, with that said, you know, just to sum it up, we...we do have opportunities to engage with our seniors to provide education. We are working with different community groups, and also engaged with Maui Emergency Management Agency. One of our recent engagements was with AARP in coming up with a plan for independent living facilities, or senior independent living facilities, so that their...their homeowners' association or their...the resident agencies have like a template in place that they can use during an emergency. So, there's a lot of efforts that are happening right now, but if the...the...the Committee would like to prepare a question that we can respond . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . to in writing, we'd be more than happy to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, can we follow up in writing about what's going on, focused on our kūpuna in disability--communities, evacuation plans, and pros and cons?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Okay, you got that? All right, so we'll send it forward. Members, anybody have any more questions? Okay, I see none. So, we are...as I said, we are like at 3:29, and we are not going to have enough to...to do Housing. And I wanted to know, Members, if you would mind coming back to a recess meeting tomorrow at 10:00. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. So, I wouldn't be opposed to taking them up for at least their...the first 30 minutes. If we're going to go until 4:00, at least we can do one round. And then two, folks are flying to Molokai tomorrow. My flight...I just got an email from Mokulele, my flight was changed --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- again. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What time does it leave?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I believe my flight is now at 8:00 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wow.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, you're--okay. And Member Sinenci's flight has also been changed, and I wouldn't be surprised if all of your flights also change, but mahalo for coming to Molokai. So, if we do have a recess meeting tomorrow at 10:00,

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what's your plan for keep--maintaining quorum? Because people are going to be flying --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Well, I don't know what all --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and traveling and stuff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I wasn't planning on leaving. Of course, Mokulele may have other plans for all of us. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I wasn't planning on leaving until later on in the afternoon, like 2:00. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Also, what--do you have a plan in place if you don't make it to Molokai? Serious question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, okay. Okay, are...are...we are not planning on having a remote meeting, we--you know, because we film it on *Akakū* and whatever. Are you thinking you might be the only person there, is that why you're asking, at 8:00 in the morning?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I hope not.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Me too.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think we should ask the Fire Department if we can catch a ride on RB3 *(phonetic)* to Molokai.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If--in worst-case scenario.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Blue Lightning *[sic]*.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh, not yet available.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thunder.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not yet available. All right, Members. So, I want to have Housing, for sure, I want to recess this meeting, and we just now--it sounds like we have to look for a good time, if Mokulele's going to cancel all of us. And the second question is, what's going to happen to the Molokai public...the Molokai residency meeting that we had scheduled for? Wow. Let me...let me call a brief recess so that we can confer with Staff.

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So, this meeting will be...will take--come back at 3:00--what, you want to take a little recess?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't need it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don't need --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't need a recess, but I...I know you'd like to confer with Staff --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I do.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- so I, you know, support that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, 3:37.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Five minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's fine. I will stay right here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that all right? Okay. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 3:32 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 3:45 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Thanks for the break. We're trying to figure out scheduling because we did not get to Housing, as you all know, and we're...we were going to re-establish a date for a recess meeting for this to be at 9:00 on the...no, 1:30 on the 14th for this portion...for Housing. And in the morning, we'll be taking up Public Works as scheduled, and not taking up Department of Transportation. So...so, next week Monday, the 14th, we're going to con...we're going to recess this Housing meeting, so in the afternoon, we'll dedicate it all to your questions regarding Housing, okay? That's one. And on the change to--in...in order to do this, on the 14th at 9:00 is going to be Public Works, Transportation would meet...would then move to the next day, which is the 15th, Tuesday, and that will begin at 9:00. Oh, Transportation was 16, okay. Transportation on the 16th. Okay, wrong. Let me scribble that...okay, Transportation on the 16th. *(echoing)* So, basically then, on...oops...15th is going to be the departments as scheduled, which is DEM, Water, Wastewater--okay--and EP&S. The 16th is, 10:00 will be Transportation first. Those of you that are on the MPO, there's 9...8...8:30 MPO meeting, I think, with some important work. So, please, you know, log in to MPO. But on the 16th at 10:00, we're going to start off with Transportation, and on that day is OCS and Department of Ag. That's Wednesday. And Council meeting on the 17th, yeah? So, what else did I miss? We're good? Oh, yeah, they --

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- they have that memorized. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yes --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I don't understand what recessing the meeting will achieve because anyone can testify on anything in the budget on any day. So, what...what is the purpose of recessing the meeting?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, for --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because it's just one agenda item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are...we're...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Just going to...we're just going to continue this recess meeting next week Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, we're not going to recess the meeting because it doesn't --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are recessing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- make sense to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are recessing this meeting for next week --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Why?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- on the 14th at 1:30. So, we have heard --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wait, what...what would you achieve by recessing until Monday?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We heard all the testimony for today regarding Housing, as you know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But they can testify on Housing again on Monday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because anything in BFED-1?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, you got it.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we can--can we say we already heard your testimony?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Peter Hanano?

MR. HANANO: Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah?

MR. HANANO: -- so a recess is not required, but it's up to the Chair if the Chair wants to recess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(laughing)*. . . I...I guess...I think what you're trying--like...okay. So, what Member Paltin said I agree with. If we're going to do it tomorrow, as you had initially suggested at 10:00, then it makes sense because we would like go straight into the Department without taking testimony. But on Monday, we're going to have another agenda, and BFED-1, and anyone that testified today will be able to testify on Monday, and on Tuesday, and on Wednesday, and every day that we have BFED-1.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, of course. So, if we had it tomorrow at 10:00, that actually makes sense because then we can say, okay, we took all the public testimony and whatever, right? It's like a kind of natural flow. And there's no new agenda, right? And that's...that's what's causing the conflict.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Correct. And over the recess, Staff informed me that if--you know, hopefully it doesn't happen--but if Mokulele prevents a full quorum of Councilmembers at the Molokai hearing tomorrow at 6:00 p.m., that we would still be able to accept testimony with less than a quorum of Councilmembers. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On Molokai?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that wouldn't change. And then Staff would take notes, and *Akakū* would report it so Staff can, you know, see what they missed on Molokai.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, do you want to just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we're not --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- recess until 10:00 tomorrow? Because you and Shane will already be on Molokai, and then me and you are on like the 2:20 flight.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wait, I'm going to take a short talk-story with Staff.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. We got to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One minute. One minute.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- start packing up to go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:           3:50 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE:       3:54 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the...welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Okay. So, we're going to recess today's meeting and--for 9:00 tomorrow. Department of Housing's Director is available. That was just confirmed with Budget Director. So, that'll be tomorrow at 9:00. 6:00 tomorrow is--we're going to pray that we can all make it to Molokai and have the residency area meeting as scheduled. And then let's talk about the 14th, which is Monday. Oh, we're going to just go back to the regular schedule? Okay. So, it'll be 9:00 and--Transportation, and that...then following is Public Works for the rest of the day. We know that's going to be a big discussion with Public Works. So, that's the 14th, Monday. Tuesday, the 15th, again, 10:00, we're going to start at the same --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, we got to get going.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because the idea was to leave here at 4:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, well --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You got all your stuffs?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If you guys want to know what's going on, I'm just trying to clarify that. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I'm going to wait until you're done. I...I got a request, but it'll be quick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right, Members, have any other questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I do. Okay, thank you.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I spoke with Marcy Martin yesterday at the...Director Marcy Martin at the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, something new?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, at the blessing yesterday, and I just need--if we could have the BFED Committee send a letter to Finance for net taxable for each parcel in Agriculture. I don't know if anybody else wants that, but I want that for Agriculture, and I wanted to put it on record so we could send them a letter. You know, you got to do it official. So, just letting that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can we do that, Staff, team, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you get that?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. If...if you want us to do that, we can do that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, that's all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else? That's it? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, and welcome to a fraction of what I experience regularly with Mokulele and traveling between islands. So, my flight right now is at 8:00, I don't know if it's going to change again, so I will be joining the meeting by phone tomorrow at 9:00...hopefully not on the plane again, but I...I'll be there. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's good. All right. Anybody else have any more questions or comments? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Monday, I will see you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- in Kīhei Community Center for the district meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. So, that's Monday, and then on --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: At 6:00 p.m.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then on the 15th is Makawao. Okay. All right. We are going to recess this meeting until tomorrow at 9:00, right? Okay.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS** (excused: TK, AL).

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This meeting is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 3:57 p.m.**

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Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

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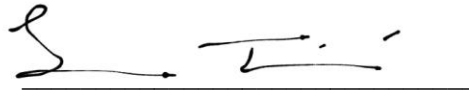
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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 124 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 12th day of May 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

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

Logan Tsuji