

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

MINUTES

April 8, 2024

Lahaina Civic Center, Gymnasium

CONVENE: 6:13 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary
David Raatz, Director, Office of Council Services
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Additional staff

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:

Angela Lucero
Christian Balagso

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tom Cook:

Jared Agtunong

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Axel Beers

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:

Sarah Sexton

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:

Don Atay

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OTHERS: Nicolas Pinto
Jussimara de Sousa Pinto
Logan Boozer
Ally Harney
Jo Anne Johnson Winer
Rick Nava
Mark Tillman
Anastasia Arao-Tagayuna
Patty Copperfield, Transportation Director, Maui Economic
Opportunity, Inc.
Ginger Prince
Nathan Pallett
Mike Whitehead
Junya Nakoa
Gretchen Losano
Alicia Watanabe
Shannon I'i
Mathew Dauenhauer
Bob Goodmanson
Miriam Keo
Mark Deakos
Kiley Adolpho
Kai Nishiki
Laurie Lawson
Kaipo Kekona
Mikey Burke
Autumn Ness
Laurie Lei Degama
Marilyn Cabading
Pahnelopi McKenzie
Ali Bodick
Keaka Mitchell
Lana Albright
Lawrence Cabanilla
Lonopele Cathcart Cabanilla
Others (20)

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BILL 60 (2024), BILL 61 (2024), BILL 62
(2024), BILL 63 (2024), BILL 64 (2024), and RESOLUTION 24-66)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome, everybody, to the Budget, Finance, and
Economic Development Committee Meeting, and this is a residency meeting in
your district. It is in-person only, but we do have *Akakū* here to film it, and they

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will be filming it so the rest of the community can also hear what you have to say. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of this Committee, and I welcome you to speak to us and share with us your thoughts for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. I'd like to introduce the other Councilmembers here. We all know Tamara Paltin, and I'm going to have her introduce all the other Councilmembers to you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. At our far left over here, we have Councilmember Tom Cook, coming out of South Maui; then we have Councilmember Gabe Johnson from the Island of Lānaʻi; Councilmember Tasha Kama, representing Kahului; Council Chair Alice Lee, representing Wailuku; and as you know, our Budget Chair, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, representing Upcountry, Kula; to my right, we have Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez of the Island of Molokai; we have Councilmember Shane Sinenci from East Maui, Hāna; and Councilmember Nohelani Uʻu-Hodgins out of Pāʻia, Haʻikū, and Makawao. And for anyone who is not familiar, the women's restroom is located over there, and the men's restroom in that other corner across the way.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Tamara. I also wanted to recognize our Staff, who worked really hard to make sure that we could all get here to be with you. Pauline Martins is the Committee Secretary at the far end, as well as, Jen Yamashita, receiving you as you signed in. Megan Moniz is Legislative Attorney...Megan. And, oh, yeah, Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst. Shelley Espeleta, she's the Supervising Legislative...over the Legislative Analysts. And thank you to all the...oh, David...oh, our boss-boss, David Raatz. Sorry about that, David. He's such a gentleman. Thank you very much for being with us. It's so important. Before we proceed with our meeting, I just wanted you to know that today is the eighth month since that devastating fire, and I'm...I'm sad about all of it, and I think tonight we're going to hear a lot of your thoughts about that, and if you could share anything else that you want. I also wanted to do a happy thing and congratulate the Lahainaluna Robotics Team for your...is it Statewide Championship that they just won? Anyway, congratulations Lahainaluna. So, just as a reminder, this meeting is in-person only, so we're not taking offline...or online testimony, and that's why we're filming it on *Akakū*...thank you, Chivo, for being here. Your public testimony is really important. You can also submit to us in writing, as well as you can speak to us when you get to the mic. And you can submit your comments also to our online process at mauicounty.us/agendas on eComments, so we'll get that from you. Your oral testimony is limited to three minutes, and if you're not done, you can have another 30 seconds to complete. Our Staff will be timing you. And when you come up, can you please say your name, if you represent an organization, let us know who you are, and then proceed with your testimony. Thank you very much for letting us be here, and for your cooperation. Oh, yeah, you want

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to hear the sample buzzer? Good idea. . . .(timer sounds). . . So...so, that's the...that's the sample buzzer, so when you hear that, that's three minutes, and then you'll have 30 seconds after that to complete. Oh, before I go on, I wanted to also recognize former Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson. Thank you very much. And from the Mayor's Advisory Committee is Rick Nava. Is anybody else here? Okay. I don't see anybody else. We also have...I wanted to thank HI-EMA...and in order to get this facility, because of the disaster, HI-EMA has actually reserved this space so that you could have community meetings, and fairs, and use it for the community, and they have allowed us to be here tonight. So, special thanks to HI-EMA. So, at this time then I'd like to proceed with our first testifier. Please come up to the microphone.

MS. GRECO: Jussimara de Sousa Pinto, followed by Logan Boozer. Jussimara.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. PINTO: . . .(inaudible). . . I go to school. I like my school.

MS. PINTO: Hi. Good night. . . .(inaudible). . . Hi, good night. My name is Jussimara. My son is Nicolas. He's at the Head Start School. This program is amazing. He loves his school, the teachers, all the stuff there. It's amazing for us. I'm so blessed. They had family. . . .(inaudible). . . we need to keep this program. We need to do this school for all the kids.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS. PINTO: It's more because the fire, it's amazing the school make for us.

MR. PINTO: And it is so good when I go to school. I...I sleep.

MS. PINTO: You love your school.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aww. He's three, and he's supporting Head Start. What's the names of your teachers? Ms. what?

MR. PINTO: Ms. Anna.

MS. PINTO: Ms. Anna. Ms. what? Ms. CJ.

MR. PINTO: CJ.

MS. PINTO: And?

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MR. PINTO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. PINTO: Miss . . .*(inaudible)*. . . You say thank you.

MR. PINTO: Thank you.

MS. PINTO: Thank you so much, you guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aww, thank you very much. Any questions for the testifiers?

MR. PINTO: And it is so good.

MS. PINTO: Say bye.

MR. PINTO: Bye. Good bye.

MS. PINTO: Say bye and mahalo.

MR. PINTO: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bye.

MS. PINTO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. GRECO: Logan Boozer, followed by Ally Harney.

MS. BOOZER: Is that good? Okay. A little more? Good. Hi, my name is Logan, I am here representing the Head Start program. My son, Levi Ray, has been attending Head Start for three and a half years now. He was born in 2019 at Maui Memorial. Shortly after, due to unfortunate circumstances, I became a single mother with a boy to raise. Thankfully I found the early Head Start program that began to help me start the process of standing on my own again. We wouldn't be where we are today without this program. Levi is a kind, helpful, caring, smart young boy because of the teachers and this program. This program has done more than allow me somewhere safe to send my son. They've given us resources to succeed, food when we've needed it, diapers when I ran out, clothes, toys for Christmas so that he could have one. This is so much more than a program...than a building. This has become our 'ohana. Today I'm able to share this success story because of what we've been able to receive. I would also like to add how extremely grateful we are that the Lahaina Center has reopened because for five months after the devastation to Lahaina, I was driving twice a day to Wailuku Head Start so that I could continue to work. We

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are here today in hopes to inspire more funding, not only for Levi, but for the next generation they are helping raise and those to hopefully come. Mahalo for your time.

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

MS. GRECO: Ally Harney, followed by Jo Anne Johnson Winer.

MS. HARNEY: Hi, I'm Ally Harney, and I'm here for something probably the most light-hearted thing you're going to hear tonight, and we're looking for more pickleball courts. And at this point in all our lives, we could use a lot more light-hearted things. And my favorite part of pickleball--I used to be a tennis player--but in addition to the sport is a camaraderie we have. When I...and after the fire and we all came back, it was like people welcoming you home. It was such a warm, wonderful feeling. Plus it gives people, older people--not that I put myself in that category--playing with teenagers, and you meet a lot of people you normally would not converse with. And people are so generous about their time. But a couple of years ago I sent pictures to the...I don't know, one of the...where you're supposed to send for, you know, different things like tennis and things...and I sent pictures of 8 to 12 people waiting to get a pickleball court, and I took a picture of the same time with one tennis court being used. You know, we just need to have more pickleball courts for the community. And plus, it's really good for tourism. I mean if you want tourism or not, you know, they really enjoy playing with us because, you know, it's really the aloha spirit. And I'm not very good, I've played for many years, but it's so much fun, and we really need more courts. Just...people are starting to not play as much because you can't get on a court. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Oh, okay. As Jo Anne Johnson is coming up, we have Laurie Lei Degama, that...you just walked in from the Mayor's Advisory Committee. I don't see...Laurie Lei. Thank you.

MS. JOHNSON WINER: Is she going to testify? Oh, okay. Oh, okay, great. Jo Anne Johnson Winer, and aloha, Budget Chair Sugimura, Council Chair, and Councilmembers, and all of the Staff that I enjoyed working with for many years. We really appreciate you coming to West Maui, it means a lot to us. My testimony tonight is not going to focus on the West Maui Hospital, that's going to be coming to you from the Administration following the conclusion of Budget. Tonight I'm channeling the spirit of Bill Tavares and the members of COMET, for those of you that remember, the committee for equitable taxation. So, I realize you have a daunting task before you, and so I'm going to give you my two cents...or I guess with inflation, that's probably up to ten cents by now. So, my

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example is my own property valuation, which increased by \$300,000, so it put me in the next tier, increasing my new rate from \$1.90 to \$2.50 per thousand under the Mayor's budget. Even with the homeowners' exemption, it's going to double my real property tax. Now, I can pay the bill, you know, I can take from my savings and pay that bill, but what I'm asking you for tonight is to consider those who have already gone through their savings, or never had any savings to begin with because they're living paycheck to paycheck. Since the fire, we know that revenues are going to be far less than past years, and those in the burn zone, of course, were exempted. But what about the business owner who lost his income because the building burned, but he didn't own it? Or how about the business owner who barely survived COVID lockdown, and is now facing a huge downturn in their business where insurance doesn't help? What about the employee who worked in Lahaina, and was paying a mortgage on a home in Nāpili, and has not been able to find a job? How about the retiree who has limited income, and can barely pay for food, medication, and insurance, let alone taxes? You see where I'm going. You will not be able to restore Lahaina if the residents are forced to leave because they are taxed out of the place that they have always called home for years and years. Taxes have consequences, and even our visitor industry cannot survive if the cost becomes so high that it makes people consider other destinations based on their wallet. Please consider shifting priorities in County projects, giving some tax relief to those with limited incomes, and finding a way to balance the need for revenue...and I know you got GET, which is also adding to some of the inflation. . . .(timer sounds). . . But give consideration of the consequences to those who are vulnerable and already suffering. Whatever you do, please exercise prudence and compassion...that is what our community needs more than ever. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for Councilmember Johnson? Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Rick Nava, followed by Mark Tillman.

MR. NAVA: Aloha, I'm Rick Nava. Aloha, Budget Chair Sugimura, Council Chair Lee, and all the Councilmembers. Thank you for coming to Lahaina. It's a good thing you're coming in the afternoon, not at 7:00 in the morning, otherwise you'll get there at 10:00. Anyway, last year I talk about the parks, and unfortunately we had the fire, but more so, right now, we need parks here in Lahaina. On Lahainaluna Road, there's one park there, but there's nothing there for the kids. Mental health is very important, and getting these kids to be a part...to have parks to go out and play, to me, really helps with these kids. Right now, most of our kids have to travel to the other side of the island to play sports. We have one basketball court here in Lahaina. There's one also in Nāpili. You have a housing area right on Lahainaluna Road, but there's no parks whatsoever. We have a nice area there where we could build a park, so please put that in the

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budget for a park. Also, with the fire and everything else that's happening, I'd like the Council to prioritize health and safety of the ongoing resolutions over all the crisis that, you know, in an emergency budget. Right now, if you go up to Kelaweia Mauka III, again, we still just have one exit. And, you know, June, July, August, when it's coming out again, the other day it was so windy right here, and people are still freaking out of the condition that we're in. And we...I don't know if that's going to be part of the budget, but we definitely to look at to the safety of not only Lahaina, but the entire Maui County. We need to...building fire stations is great, but we need to find a way to prevent the fire from happening. What happened was the perfect storm to burn our...you know, our town down. I...I lost my home. Thank God I did not lose some of our family members, but because of that, we're all scared. Every time we hear the wind or we hear a siren going on, it's...it's just very uncomfortable. So, I know there's a lot of things that was in the Charter Amendments that we need to put in our new department or what have you...maybe we could set that aside right now and put our focus into building a safety...Maui County...a safe Maui County. That is what we need. So, please look into that, parks and safety. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Rick Nava. Anybody have questions for him? Seeing none.

MR. NAVA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Rick.

MS. GRECO: Mark Tillman, followed by Anastasia Arao-Tagayuna.

MR. TILLMAN: Good evening, everybody, and aloha, County Councilmembers. Thank you for making the trip over here. I know it's not easy, but this means a lot to us, to have you guys come and sit and listen to a variety of different items...but let me get to it because I've got three minutes. Once again, my name is Mark Tillman. I've been a resident of the West Side of Maui for 36 years. I currently serve as the ambassador for pickleball, for USA Pickleball Association. My job is to advocate on behalf of the West Maui residents for the needs that they have regarding this sport. As some of you know, or don't know, that pickleball has become the fastest growing sport in this country, and it's just growing by leaps and bounds. We have over here where we normally play in the Lahaina Civic Center eight tennis courts...one of them has been converted to a pickleball court, another one to a basketball court. Seven courts sit open every day without anybody playing on them, and we have four courts, that's the conversion of a basket...or of a tennis court to...for pickleball...we have those four courts that accommodate everybody that wants to play at...on certain days we'll end up with 32 people waiting in line to play. And I know the mission statement of the Parks and Rec is to get people outdoors and to exercise, and we're trying to help them

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do that, but without the facilities, we can't. And so, what we're asking you all to consider is the conversion of just one court for us to expand what we have. And the bottom line for us is, I know the money is tough, and so, we're going to propose that we would raise the funds ourselves and do this with a private donation. So, thank you for the time, and...any questions?

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

MR. TILLMAN: Okay. Go ahead, Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if you had spoken to the Administration. Because we can accept the private donations, but us nine cannot say, yes, go ahead and do it.

MR. TILLMAN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I just was wondering if you spoken to the Administration about it?

MR. TILLMAN: Sure. And Tamara, you may know this better than I do, the conversion of the courts up in Nāpili, two tennis courts built up there and hardly ever played on. The County took the proactive move, thank God, to build courts up there, but 15, 20 minutes away as to what we have down here, and it's two different worlds. It's like us trying to drive to Kihei to go play pickleball. And what we're asking for is not to take away anything that's currently being used. We're asking to make good use of a facility that sits vacant virtually every day. Sometimes people will come out and play--one, two, or maybe three at the most on a weekend, but the rest of the time --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We don't have the authority to do that, so that's why I'm asking, have you spoken to the Administration?

MR. TILLMAN: Correct. What we're asking for is the County to spend \$50,000 to convert a court, but we're willing to put up the money ourself if that's necessary, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. TILLMAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Tillman. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Anastasia Arao-Tagayuna, followed by Patty Copperfield.

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MS. ARAO-TAGAYUNA: Good evening. My name is Anastasia Arao-Tagayuna, and I'm from Lahaina, born and raised. And I'm here to testify to support the Lahaina Community Land Trust. It's a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was established right after the fire to help support the Lahaina homeowners. And I think that we need to keep the money in the budget to support Lahaina Community Land Trust because it's something that the Lahaina homeowners need. We need an option here. We need someone to fill the gap. We need someone to protect us from foreign investors buying up our land, pushing the local people out. So, here, I ask you to please support the Lahaina Community Land Trust. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have any questions for the testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Do you have a specific request?

MS. ARAO-TAGAYUNA: I believe you do have allocated funding in your budget for Lahaina Community Land Trust.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, the Mayor...in the Mayor's budget?

MS. ARAO-TAGAYUNA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Thank you.

MS. ARAO-TAGAYUNA: Mahalo.

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

MS. GRECO: Patty Copperfield, followed by Ginger Prince.

MS. COPPERFIELD: Hopefully this time I get into the mic better than last time. Aloha again. It's nice to see you folks. My name is Patty Copperfield. I am the Transportation Director for MEO. Tonight I am wearing two hats. One is myself as a member of the community, I'm asking for your support and continued support of MEO's Human Services Transportation Program. I'd like to testify in regards to my own experience of using the Molokai expanded rural shuttle in my youth. I was one of the kids that would stand in line at Kilohana Elementary in Mana'e, Molokai, waiting for the bus after school to get a transfer to Kaunakakai. At the time, my mother was a young widowed single parent, and having this program allowed her to work longer hours to provide for both of us. She didn't need to leave work just to come and pick me up. My other hats, as the Transportation Director, is to ask for your help, as well as the help of the Lahaina community. It's a lot...I'd rather do this in person than ask over social media and post on Indeed, but we are in dire need of Lahaina drivers. We still have dialysis that we are transporting people from that is very crucial for their

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health. We have kūpuna that still need to go on shopping shuttles, and we have a lot of youth that still need to get to their programs. And it's been almost every week that I ask for an extension of services, and I don't have the staffing level to do it. And right now, we haven't had a Lahaina driver in...I want to say it's been three or four years, and it's more critical now than it ever was to get one. We have one position posted on our website. I'd like to be greedy and ask for two, and that would look like a bus...the bus is kept on this side so that somebody wouldn't have to commute all the way into Central Maui to come and pick up a unit. So, I need people that are residents of the community. Previous to this, we would only hire CDL drivers for the human services program. As of this year, we have opened it up to non-CDL with a little bit of a difference, but non-CDL is \$24 an hour, full benefits package, and working the standard eight hours, unless somebody wants to give a little love and work additional for the community, that is always welcome. But that's my ask of you guys. And the Lahaina community is...we need the drivers that are based out of Lahaina to move Lahaina people. Mahalo.

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

MS. GRECO: Ginger Prince, followed by Nathan Pallett.

MS. PRINCE: Aloha. My name is Ginger Prince, I've been a resident of Lahaina well over 60 years. And I'm here today because I feel like the fabric of Lahaina is the local people, and I'm here to ask that the Mayor's line budget that has any funds for the Lahaina Community Land Trust remain so that we can help keep Lahaina people. Mahalo.

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

MS. GRECO: Nathan Pallett, followed by Mike Whitehead.

MR. PALLETT: Hi, everybody. My name is Nathan Pallett, I'm a teacher at Lahainaluna High School. I'm here in support of Bill 61 to...for continued financial support for MEDB's STEMwork's Program. As a teacher, the STEMworks Program provides us with teacher PD that is localized, and opportunities to meet with our other ag teachers that sometimes are not very subject-specific. When the DOE provides professional development, the ag professional development is sometimes hard to travel to when it's on different islands. There are grants for student travel, so we can go to different competitions. Student internships have paid opportunities that our boarders find extremely valuable, as well as our day students, and even this year, post-fire, our students were...accepted the challenge of doing so, even though we

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started a semester late, more or less, as far as the internships were concerned. There are project support. There is a project that STEMworks is supporting this year called Growing Beyond Earth. We grow plants in an environmental chamber that greatly resembles the one that's on the International Space Station. Those plants that we grow are later...the data is collected by NASA to figure out what seed varieties will be grown on a permanent mission on the Moon and Mars, and of the 12 seed varieties that growing beyond Earth has tested, four have made it to the ISS. And our student competed in that, as well as two Molokai students, who did an exceptional job...like they got amazing praise. So, Emilio on Molokai is doing a solid job. With that, going to these competitions, it pushes our students to do better academically in the classroom, so that way they can compete more...better academically later. As a teacher, we have these pau hanas that we meet virtually, where I meet teachers from Hāna and all other parts of Maui County, where we get to collaborate, we share ideas, we support each other, just...like classroom management and all kinds of other opportunities. We get curriculum support, project ideas, and other resources from the amazing work that Britney James does, focusing on just ag policy. And with STEMworks, as well as the new County Department of Agriculture, hopefully we can collaborate further to grow more farmers locally. I ask that you continue to fund this awesome program for our students and our teachers of Maui County. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Good job. Thank you for your work, sir. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Mike Whitehead, followed by Junya Nakoa.

MR. WHITEHEAD: Howzit going? Thank you for coming, I appreciate you all showing up. I'm not going to lie, I'm a little disappointed. I thought the turnout for us would be a little bigger, but maybe I understand because it was hard for me to come here. You know, we're speaking and we're testifying again about what's going on, where to put the money, where is not, you know, and a lot of it is not moving fast enough for us. The Land Trust, I'm in support of that. We should be putting money there for affordable housing, affordable rentals. But what is an affordable rental? If the buildings by the bypass coming up, they're being called affordable, are they basing it on your pay? I mean really, Lahaina is displaced at this point. So, if you got a nurse, they make good money. You got a hotel manager, they're married. So, are we going to put someone who's making less...a couple making less money in a three-bedroom unit, maybe at 1,800 a month, but yet because they make a lot more money, they're going to pay 24, 25? I mean, I keep hearing affordable around, but I wouldn't apply for affordable because I've never qualified for it. But you're going to...it just seems unfair that anything coming up now we're displaced, the town's displaced. Shouldn't there be something said to, okay, this is not affordable, this is going to

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go for two years, we'll let...it will be a lottery. Whoever can get in can get in, you know. Because all of us who make a decent salary are thinking, wow, it's...I mean, really, it's unfair. Do you want to pay for your...you know, 3 grand for a three-bedroom because of what your salary is, knowing your neighbor in the same unit is paying 15 or 1,800? It's kind of unfair. It's like we're being punished. You know, anybody knows right now, if you get married as a young couple, you're making good money, you're putting yourself into a higher tax bracket. You guys are talking about raising taxes on the fuel. You're taxing people out. You know, we may be putting...we're almost eight months now from the fire. We put a smile on. We go to work. It doesn't mean things are great for us. We're stressing out. I know because I stress every day. Every night I'm in that hotel room, I feel fortunate I have a...a roof over my head, but I mean, I see the tents every day at the beach, people living on the beach. You know, where are we at with that point? You know, capital projects, everything going on. Things are moving on in Lahaina. I see it moving, but I mean, we just had a home burn...burn out in Lahainaluna where there's surrounding homes. Did we evacuate the surrounding families because of the toxic ash that we were told about in our neighborhoods so we couldn't go back? I mean, it's the same fire, same chemicals, same ash blowing up. We had strong winds. Was anybody in that neighborhood? I didn't hear about people being evacuated. The houses next door, houses right above...right below. They're all...everybody is still there, it's just...just business as usual, from what I see. That's what we're dealing with on our side. . . .(timer sounds). . . I know the three minutes. I apologize for taking a few more...a little more time but, you know...and then again, this is...almost feel like you guys just pacifying us by just listening. You're showing up. We're thankful, but at the same time, I mentioned this at the last two meetings back in, I think, November at the Westin and up in Kapalua. You're giving us three minutes to talk and vent out? We're here on our time. You guys are getting paid. I mean, I don't think you guys clock in and out, the salary, but still, you guys get paid. We're...this is our time coming out here to speak with you guys, and maybe that's why they didn't turn out . . .(timer sounds). . . because we're just . . .(inaudible). . . Well, obviously, if we're worrying about three minutes for people from Lahaina to testify, then...then why even testify? Because nobody can get out their feelings in three minutes, nobody can speak about what they want. Maybe, like I said, things aren't moving fast enough for us. You know, I see...I see emails coming through for foreclosure lists for Lahaina...or for the island for that matter, but you got to pay to get those foreclosure lists. But where are all these lists coming from? I know a lot of friends who have moved to the mainland already because they just can't deal with it. We're being bought out...by who? Nobody's watching us, really, or protecting us on this side, and that's where we're at right now at this point. The one thing in my head that gets...that I can't stop thinking about...the amount of people lost. The firemen who knew when that hose went dead--because my mom's boyfriend was right there watching the hose go dead--and they took off

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after it went dead. Why wasn't nobody going through those neighborhoods sounding the alarm themselves on the loudspeakers...when the police come and tell you to get on the side of the road. Why wasn't nobody going around all of Lahaina just telling people to evacuate, there's no water? Things like that go through all of our...all of our heads right now, and we're still stressed out. I'm...you know, I'm shaking a little bit because it still stresses me out. You know, we're being told to suck it up, and it's tough. I don't know if anybody here lost their homes, but you all get to go home to your family and sleep in your bed. We took a nice vacation. I just got back, but I go to a hotel room and come back to a hotel room. There's nothing for us still. We're all trying to get back. When we have our first home back, that's when it will stop, but that's what I'm looking for, for us. Like she said...like Anastasia said, we need to protect the Lahaina lands, but no, it doesn't seem like anybody's doing that for us. Is there a moratorium being coming out? We're not talking about it at the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sir, can you wrap it up? I'm sorry.

MR. WHITEHEAD: I'm taking up your time. That's what I'm saying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. WHITEHEAD: You're here to pacify us --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for --

MR. WHITEHEAD: -- but we don't want to listen. Because maybe you're going to be late for dinner, you're going to be late for your family, you didn't think you'd be here this long. People gotta say what they want to say.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. WHITEHEAD: You're keeping us wrapped up for so long, and if we act out, it's like we're angry. Oh, you're angry, you got to go to angry...anger management classes. You know, we're stressed.

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

MS. GRECO: Junya Nakoa, followed by Gretchen Losano.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, next testifier. So, as the next testifier is coming up...so, thank you very much for your...expressing your concerns. And just so you know, we are bound by Sunshine Law, which...which is our part of our policy when we conduct meetings.

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MR. NAKOA: Why you pau?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. NAKOA: You was talking? Whew. I come to plenty budget meetings, yeah. I talk about parks, you know, da kine. I talk about everything. I talk about MEO. I talk about everything, yeah. I support everybody...MEO, parks, and all that stuff. Pickleball, I wish I know how to play 'em, I want to play 'em too. But I going tell you guys this, brah, you guys is the one entity that I only have a little bit of hope in. The Federal screw us up. The State screw us up. The Mayor, Administration screw us up here in Lahaina. You guys no like hear the word I like use...you know, you guys no like hear the words I like use. Okay. We getting screwed. I hope you guys are going to help us out. Okay. I pau do all that kind of stuff, but you guys went spend...you guys...you guys thinking of giving \$29 million to two other projects, or three other projects on the other side of the frickin' island...that's not one swear word. That's not one swear word, okay. And you guys going use the wildfire as the excuse for 'em, yeah. You guys like use that as an excuse. That's why you're going to spend the money. Oh, yeah, we go put the Lahaina wildfire guys over there. You guys all said, oh, yeah, we going make good news. We'll open the Kahului place for the wildfire guys. You guys still use that damn thing. Steady use the West Maui wildfire. That thing wasn't one wildfire. Buggah was one fire that was not taken cared of because of the 2018, was...you guys...you guys supposed to get educated. Yeah? Just telling you buggahs, oh, please be the entity that can help because FEMA screw us up. Josh bullshit Green. Missing...missing Bissen screw us up, yeah. I being straight up, okay, guys. I'm mad. I'm piss off. Yeah. Help us out, you guys. Help us out. Okay. I let you guys build the parks. I'm like...hey, I coach 30 damn years baseball. Yeah. Mad, brah. Pissed off. Please help us out. The Kupuohi...Kupuohi project . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . ready for rock and roll. Those guys went spend their own money to clean up...to go clean up, okay. They nevah use FEMA money. They never...they nevah use the dummies money, America's money, and all that kind stupid crap. Okay? They when use they money for clean 'em up. So, give them their money, or whatever. Help them out, 2025. HHFDC, they screw us up. DHHL screw us up. DHS screw us up. . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I don't know how much letters I gotta use. You guys don't want four letters I like use, right? Huh? Tired, so tired. Tired. Help us out, god damn it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Nakoa.

MR. NAKOA: Okay, I going tell you guys right now, help us out. Okay. Give us the money we need to get Kupuohi going. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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MR. NAKOA: Please get us the money because this...this project, they when clean up everything, they ready for build in five days.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. NAKOA: They're ready for build. The other projects, the other \$29 million you guys like give 'em up to, they're not ready. They're not shovel-ready. They're not even close to being ready. These guys ready, my bad.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a question. I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. My clarifying question is...so, are you asking that for this budget session, that we prioritize giving West Maui funding in the Affordable Housing Fund to West Maui-based housing projects? Is that what you're asking for in your testimony?

MR. NAKOA: Okay, I not going say 'em that nicely, but yeah. Wait...yeah. Yeah. But the bottom line is this. You guys all say, where is the dire strait for the housing? Huh? Where are the dire strait for housing right now? Us. So, why would you give \$29 million dollars out? You know, no get me wrong, those projects, they badass. The project is good. Okay. No get me wrong. But bull, take care of us first. We no more...we no more place. We no more no place. Take care Lahaina first, guys.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And to clarify, so the Kupuohi project, did you folks speak with the Mayor or the Lahaina Advisory Committee folks on advocating for the...for funding for the Kupuohi project now, before July, so they can build so that it's pau by September?

MR. NAKOA: I did. I did. I...this...Junya Nakoa did. Junya Nakoa did. I not going speak for nobody. I no speak for nobody. I speak for this dummy. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. NAKOA: But I have done it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. NAKOA: Me, I no screw around. I just go. Let's go.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Next testifier. Does anybody else have any questions? Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Gretchen Losano, followed Alicia Watanabe.

MS. LOSANO: Aloha, everyone. I'm...I'm here to advocate for your support for our composting program for West Maui Green Cycle. I also would like to advocate for your support for the Lahaina Community Land Trust, super important. I just wanted to give you some numbers. For this year...well, for the last year, because I don't know if you got the updated numbers, but last year we were able to divert 93,000 pounds from the schools in Maui. And this year, even despite the fire, we've been able to divert almost 55,000 pounds. Even with the fire, even...I...I'm not going to lie, like, I didn't...I didn't even want to...I didn't even want to go to work, you know, I didn't...there was...like sometimes when it was really hard to come into Lahaina and...but as soon as those schools opened in West Maui, I knew that it was our kuleana for our program. You know, there's...there was a million other things to do, but I knew that that was the one thing that I had to do. And I'm really glad that we started the program up as soon as the schools opened because for us, it was really healing to be around the keiki, and to see them, and to see them happy and, you know, having some sense of normalcy. And last week we...we just opened up our...with Kam. III, we started on the second day. We're doing composting at Kam. III. They're really good at it. So, I really hope to continue this program for...for next year, and to be able to divert even more waste, and support our community with all of the compost needs that we have for a lot of the Lahaina properties. You know, our...our...our priority for compost, finished compost, is for Ku'ia Farm because that's where we are, and we want to support as much as Ku'ia Farms needs for the agriculture on the West Side...they get the first dibs for the compost. And up to this point, we haven't had more compost than that, you know. So, like our Central Maui compost facility, like they're more centrally located. They're supposed to be the ones to support composting for like people on the other side, you know, and I get calls from people, oh, can I sell compost to the other side? I...I have to say no because it's for West Maui, and it's for...especially now, it's for West Maui, and I advocate for regional compost . . .(timer sounds). . . facilities, and...yeah. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Losano, for your testimony. I just wanted to clarify. You diverted 93,000 pounds of food waste from the landfill for the purpose of composting, which you give to Ku'ia Farms because your compost is located on Ku'ia's land?

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MS. LOSANO: Yes. And some...so, we diverted 93,000 pounds. Some of that food waste, we had a partnership last year with Waihe'e School, which started in February, and so, we had a partnership with a pig farmer last year. We also have a partnership with a pig farmer this year. So, not all of that is made into compost because there...you know, there's a need for the pig farmers to have a clean waste stream collection. So, there's plenty of compost to go around. We definitely want to share. We're also using some of the waste this year to support...to support our pig farmer in Honokōhau Valley. So, not every single pound of it is going to compost, but most the majority of it is currently. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And they're not getting it from the restaurants as much as before because there's less restaurants.

MS. LOSANO: Absolutely, yeah. So, that's why actually, when my neighbor came and asked me, oh, do you think we could get some? I was like, oh, my gosh, of course. Because they weren't able to source from any of the restaurants because now there's a...like there's much fewer restaurants and...and more pig farmers looking to get the food.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And to clarify, you wanted to keep the 500,000 that's in the budget currently in the budget?

MS. LOSANO: I...that would be amazing. We...we could expand a lot. We were just...we're going to be moving within Ku'ia Farm, so it's the same...you know, it's the same permit. It's the same, but we're going to be moving to a larger area. We're going to be able to compost more. I've also talked to the Health Department about expanding to not just food waste composting, but green waste composting as well, and they're open to us expanding as much as Ku'ia Farm has the space for us to do so. So, we're still...you know, I don't know if you guys know, but all of our heavy equipment that we were using for our composting operation burned in the fire. So, we have been recovering this year from that, but we've still been able to divert a lot of waste, even while we're in recovery mode, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the specific ask is to keep the 500,000 in the budget?

MS. LOSANO: Absolutely. If we can keep that in the budget, that would be amazing. I mean, we'll take whatever you guys will give us because I don't want to lose this program. The school program is so important to the keiki.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody have questions for her? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MS. LOSANO: Thank you so much.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. GRECO: Alicia Watanabe, followed by Marilyn Cabading.

MS. WATANABE: Hi, everyone. My name is Alicia Watanabe. I am a community health worker for HMSA. Currently, I've been a community health worker since I moved to Maui three years ago. I'm originally from Seattle. I have my Master's in Health Policy and Law. So, the big issue is housing. I...my job is to be resourced on the housing resources. So, working with Lahaina members, I do everything I can. A lot of them do not qualify for FEMA, or they can't make it through FEMA for whatever reason. There are a lot of barriers. This is a very disadvantaged population overall. A lot of them have PTSD and depression. Some of them saw houses fall on top of people, and saw kids burn up in the back of cars, and saw bodies floating away in the harbor. So, I don't know if they all know how to say that, but they're pretty messed up, and they're not getting the resources because mental health resources are already scarce. I try to get them into the Makai Foundation. I try to get them to rental assistance for KHAKO. Where else...any alternate housing sources besides FEMA. But there's waitlists, so, I have them all signed up, all the way to the brim. We're all waitlisted. GEM's waitlisted. Section 8 hasn't reopened yet. The people that are getting miraculously lucky are people that know people that had housing, that had family with housing, or that got a lease and had the means to get it early on. Right now, the rental assistance limit for FEMA, if...if you're able to get it, is 2,500 for a two-bedroom, and there's nowhere on this island that you could get a two-bedroom for that price. So, the other option is the homeless shelters, right? Well, those dorms are usually full. A lot of people don't want to stay there. They don't want to go to Tent City, so they're choosing to sleep in their cars. I feel like they would rather die in their cars and die on the streets than die in a...in a shelter. And so, we're going to have to think about the future ramifications of Maui, what it's going to be with all these people on the streets...because where else are they going to go? It looks like the ones that are left are the ones that want to really stay, and they're going to do what it takes to stay, even if that means dying on the streets. So, kind of as a...as a new leader, and as an outsider, I think we should really do something because it doesn't look good to the rest of the world, and it's really upsetting the community, and I...I just...it hasn't gotten better in the last eight months, it's...it's only kind of stayed the same. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Marilyn Cabading, followed by Shannon I'i. Marilyn Cabading? Moving on... ..(timer sounds)... moving on to Shannon I'i, followed by Matthew Dauenhauer.

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MS. IŪ: Aloha mai kākou. My name is Shannon IŪ. Thank you so much for coming to us, traveling to West Maui, we really appreciate it. I heard somebody ask earlier why there's not a lot of people here, and I think...today marks eight months, and so for me, it was a really hard day. So, I think for a lot of people, it's hard to show up and even share, or process even what's going on and...and think about budget when there's a lot of other things. So, I just wanted to say that. So, I kāko'o a lot of the...whatever people said before me, but most importantly, I want to express how really important it is for housing in West Maui. Being a survivor of the fire, still living in a hotel, there's not a lot of places to rent on this side. I'm a homeowner, and like I had loss of use, so there's a lot of things we don't qualify for, yeah. So, I think it's really important to fund projects that are shovel-ready here on West Maui. There's all these other projects on the other side of the island--and again, we're grateful for the help--but really, I feel like again, it's off of the backs of this wildfire. Like the people who are struggling the most don't have the opportunity to stay where like we belong, like we belong here. I am a ninth generation family, and I don't want to move out of Lahaina...like I don't want to leave. And that's the one thing my daughter asked and said, mom, I cannot move to the other side. And so, even if my family has to squish into a studio--because that's all we can afford with our loss of use because I don't know how long it's going to stretch--we need something ASAP. And there are two projects, the Kaiāulu O Kupuohi and Pulelehua that are shovel-ready, it's ready to go. So, why are we not funding the things that are like there? Like there are things that are already there, it's just like it's mind boggling to...to process. And in order to keep our mental health, our sanity, like...I feel like we keep coming and asking the same thing. And I laugh about it, but really, like, it's just...I think that's why I laugh. Because I'm so frustrated that it's the...the constant like, I'm here again asking for the same thing over and over, and it's super frustrating. And I know it's not you guys because you guys have definitely done so much for our community. But yeah, it's like the powers that be on top. So, I'm just asking that...that you really support and put in for long-term housing here in Lahaina so that we don't have to drive. You know, I drove . . .(timer sounds). . . I house sit...I house sat for my friend this weekend, and I drove from Kihei to Lahaina, and I couldn't believe how much traffic there was. I was like, I am so glad that I'm here on this side, and I don't have to travel that every day...but I know my friends and neighbors have to do that because FEMA have put them on the other side of the island. So, thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Matthew Dauenhauer, followed by Bob Goodmanson.

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MR. DAUENHAUER: It's all good. I can get that. Yeah. Thank you. My name is Matthew Dauenhauer. My heart breaks for these people. What I'm bringing to the table is minimal of what they're going through. I've lived here 40 years, my kids born and raised. I know this building very well. I've coached eight years in this building, and it's all about community. And the stupid thing is, I'm here to talk to you again, like Mark Tillman, about pickleball. Like the sign on the wall says, County of Maui Parks and Recreation welcomes you. Parks and Recreation builds communities. It brings people back together. I don't know if you saw when you drove up, but when I did, there was two people playing tennis. There was 38 people waiting to play pickleball because we have four little courts. Two people, and all the other courts were empty. All we want is one. Give us...so we can invite the visitors here, and show them aloha, and make them feel part of our community. And they're giving...these people are giving to us. They come, they volunteer while they're here, they give out food. Just give us another reason to show aloha to all these people. That's all...that's really all we want. Thank you.

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

MS. GRECO: Bob Goodmanson, followed by Miriam Keo.

MR. GOODMANSON: Okay, thanks. Aloha. My name is Bob Goodmanson, I'm a resident. I'm here in support of more pickleball courts. As Matthew said, we've got room right now for 16 people to play. Oftentimes, we have over 30 people, pickleball players, who want to play. The tennis courts are definitely underutilized, and we're just asking for your support for another court or two. I think this would be good for the visitors, as well as the residents, and we appreciate your support. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Miriam Keo, followed by Mark Deakos.

MS. KEO: Aloha mai kākou. My name is Miriam Keo. E kala mai, super nervous, it's not usually something I do. But I felt it was important for a couple of different reasons. First, to advocate, definitely, for funding for Kupuohi. I was a resident of Kupuohi at the time of the fire, so I've lost my home since. And we relocated to Kahului in a house that we probably are stretching our budget to afford because we don't qualify for FEMA assistance, and we just meet that middle ground of income levels at which they didn't clarify to us in the beginning, but that's another subject. The other thing that I'm testifying is, I hope that you will continue to keep West Maui Green Cycle in the budget. I left my job at the Hyatt

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after 16 years. During the COVID, my na'au stirred. It was hard to serve tourists after that because they let me go so easy during COVID. There was no jobs. And same thing after the fire, no job. And my job was starting to suffer, but it wasn't even that. It's hard to serve tourists when you don't have a home to go to. And, you know, we have programs like Ku'ia Agricultural Center and West Maui Green Cycle that are really trying to help the community, and I...I witnessed it. I've never before worked with my hands to they have calluses on my hands, and I love it. I love what I'm doing. I love getting dirty. I don't mind it, I don't mind the heavy lifting, and it's because we are creating a better space for our keiki and the generations to come. We're teaching them how to malama 'āina, how to take care of their trash, to take care of, you know, everything...the people, the opportunities that are there. West Maui Green Cycle is giving us Lahaina people another opportunity to work, not serving tourists. I'm not totally against tourism, whatever that's...but that's not me anymore. I don't want to worry about having to serve tourists. Today, I just want you guys to please consider West Maui Green Cycle. They're doing great things. And please fund Kupuohi, we need more housing on the West Side so hopefully me and my 'ohana can return. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Any questions?
Next...oh, you have a question?

MS. GRECO: Mark Deakos, followed by Kiley Adolpho.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to ask living in Kahului to work in West Maui, how much does that add on to your travel time in the day?

MS. KEO: A lot. So, me and my keiki...my keiki go to Kula...or to school at the temporary campus at Kamehameha III. So, we leave at 6:00 a.m. because we want to miss traffic, right? Because if not, you're stuck for about an hour trying to get in. And then we don't get home...after sports and whatnot, sometimes we don't get home until 7:00, 8:00 at night, so it adds hours. Friday, we didn't...we spent four hours waiting in traffic because of the accident. So, yeah, it's a lot of time...extra time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, like you leave in the dark and come home in the dark.

MS. KEO: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. KEO: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Mark Deakos.

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MR. DEAKOS: Good evening, Councilmembers, Chair Sugimura. Mark Deakos, resident of West Maui for 28 years. First, thanks to all of you for your long days and engaging with the community directly, we appreciate it. In our rush to rebuild, we often hear that regulations are the barrier, and reducing them would accelerate housing development for our residents. However, as you know, building without careful oversight can lead to a host of issues. In my role as a Planning Commissioner, part of my responsibility is to evaluate the environmental and social impacts of projects in the estimated shoreline areas. I always hope to see proposals, especially affordable housing, that demonstrate complete stormwater management with onsite water catchment treatment and reuse for maximum aquifer recharge, 100 percent powered from the sun with significant waste reductions, the use of nontoxic and sustainable materials, and the restoration of native habitats inclusive of food cultivation. As you can imagine, I haven't seen any rarely attempting any of these initiatives. You guys faced the same challenges last week when an applicant dismissed your request for 100 percent stormwater control...stormwater management and adding renewables as cost prohibitive, an answer we tend to accept without question. And I understand the skepticism about the feasibility of such a project in Hawai'i, that's why I shared with you earlier today a 120-page draft report funded by the County, which argues that our biggest obstacles are more about perception than reality. As you know, my team and I are prepared and eager to design and construct a living building home for a displaced resident of Lahaina that embodies all the components just described...resilient net positive energy and water, carbon sequestering, habitat restoring, food producing, waste reducing built with nontoxic materials, and developed with the community involvement. And yes, this prototype will highlight a stark contrast between current building practices and the regenerative approach we advocate, which may be unsettling for many, especially those in the conventional design space. However, once complete, we will share with everyone the design plans, the material lists, and all the energy water carbon calculations to empower others to implement them into their projects. So, imagine if every new construction in Lahaina had a net positive impact on the people and the environment...that's worth investing in. The solution is not less regulation, it's investing in a regenerative smart design that designs out the bad. So, in conclusion, as Councilmember Cook insightfully suggested earlier today-- . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and I hope I'm capturing his sentiments accurately--we must think boldly about how we reconstruct Lahaina, breaking free from conventional limitations. And since you're scoring the things, please support the Community Foundation, composting, and the greenway. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Do you have written testimony you want to submit to us?

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MR. DEAKOS: I submitted an email earlier today --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

MR. DEAKOS: -- that probably has it all in there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for Mister...oh, do you want...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Deakos, mahalo for your testimony. When you say community foundation, are you talking about the Community Land Trust?

MR. DEAKOS: Yes, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. DEAKOS: Yeah, the Lahaina Community Land Trust.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for clarifying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. GRECO: Kiley Adolpho, followed by Kai Nishiki.

MS. ADOLPHO: Hi, my name is Kiley Adolpho. I'm a member of the Lahaina community, and I service the Lahaina community. And what I mean is, the organization I represent, Kelaweā Mauka Community Hub, which was a site that was approved as a disaster site. It was stationed up at Lahainaluna Road, and later became a mobile hub. And what that means is that it does...what we do is we go to family homes, straight to their homes, and give them basic...their basic needs and...which would be their food and whatever need that comes around. Okay. So, there's three things I want to talk about, and hopefully do it in three minutes. Three things that everybody needs to have a healthy life...family, food, housing. And there's others, but those are the three top tiers. Okay. So, with housing, I support the Land Trust. Okay. You have that land, open it up, open it up quickly, and get the people on it. Okay. However you do it. Because like all of us said, you are our last hope, our last ears to hear. I wish I had an easy solution and answer for that, but I don't. But I'm out there, and these people need homes. I hear all their stories, and we try many innovative and creative ways to bypass all the red tape so these children, the single parents, this kūpuna can have real shelters for their heads. But we shouldn't, as a community, have to find all these creative ways to bypass all of these things so that people can be safe. So, we're asking you to do it for us, and be strong. And you may not have the powers, but you have the voice, and you have the title,

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and you have the community behind you. So, if you say go, we're behind you, especially for housing. So, the second thing, food, and that's the love of Hawai'i...food. Every place you go, even over here, you see people with food. You say, come to the meeting and you gave free food...I bet you, you would have 300 people over here, right? But one week after the agriculture community here on Maui--and my sister-in-law knows, she's right here because I used her house...I called and said, I'm coming with thousands . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . of pounds of fresh produce to give to these families. Twice a week, our community hub, over 3,000 pounds of fresh produce goes to over 200 Lahaina families. Families in the hotel rooms that cannot cook, or cannot have the foods because they cannot afford it. Families who lost their jobs and need something to supplement because the only thing they can get . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . from Government is food. And guess where we get it from? From the Maui Food Bank, from community nonprofits, from people, farmers, they give it to us. We go and get it from these farms and get it to the people, and hear their sad stories. Food, housing, and then people. And that's my love, the kūpuna...the kūpuna housing that burned. Our kūpuna, who carry our legacy, who died because they didn't have a good emergency management plan to get them out of there...they bordered the burn zone. The burn zone that I service, the Kelaweia Mauka Community Hub service, and then we go out to Kupunakea, we go to Kahoma. Councilmember Paltin knows because I see her at Nāpili Noho watching these families come through that need her help, that need your help. The Lahaina people need your help. Use your power. Use your name. Use your title. Use your family, your friends, your cousins, whoever is up there to do what we need to do. We are disappearing from the news, but we need the help. There's no fairness in this family. I go to one person, they got FEMA and Red Cross. I go to the other person, they have nothing. I go to another person, they living in their car, or they getting nonprofit funding. Why? Millions of dollars pouring into Lahaina. Where is it? I'm fighting for fresh foods. These people are fighting for homes. The housings that are coming up, why have criterias on it? They lost their million dollar home, and then on top of that, you're asking them to get an SBA loan to add to their mortgage. We need something. Please be our voice. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Kai Nishiki, followed by Laurie Lowson.

MS. NISHIKI: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers. Just wanted to share a little bit from the West Maui Community Plan vision. Quality of life for residents is a priority. West Maui has everything its residents need to thrive, including a range of affordable housing options. We all know that the FEMA cliff is coming, and that temporary housing options will end. We really need long-term permanent housing in West Maui...87 percent of the displaced were renters, and the reality

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is that those folks will likely not be able to even afford if their former rentals are rebuilt. Because if you were renting an add-on to somebody's garage, or a room in a plantation home, that is not going to be what is going to be available. It is going to be out of reach for so many...87 percent. The foundation of economic recovery is housing. People need to feel safe. They need to have a place that is home base for their families. And people really need pet-friendly rentals available. We cannot abandon our furry children to then have housing. People would rather live in their cars or live on the beach than abandon their pets. And the two...the two projects that are shovel-ready, Kaiāulu O Kupuohi and Pulelehua, are pet-friendly rentals that are ready to go right now. I also want to offer support to the Lahaina Community Land Trust. These are important projects that will address a real crisis that is...that is happening now. Today I spent time at Cut Mountain, and anyone who drives in West Maui or visits, look at Wahikuli Beach Park. The unsheltered population is growing every day, and that not only affects health and safety, but also, you know, that is a really harsh environment. And we are, as a County, ignoring the least of our people and putting them in huge danger. Cut Mountain has no fire protection. It has no bathroom facilities. The brush is higher than us as we're walking through there. So, we're asking to please prioritize housing in West Maui in this budget cycle. It is vitally important. And after . . .(timer sounds). . . all that West Maui has contributed over the years, it seems that other needs can be sacrificed for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show, through your budget, what your priority is. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, Kai. So, Cut Mountain, you were there today. Could you kind of describe the atmosphere? . . .(timer sounds). . . How many people were there? And are these displaced victims...I mean, residents, or are they working families? Do the kids go to school?

MS. NISHIKI: There are some of each of those segments of our community there. We...we talked to a number of residents whose jobs were burnt in the fire, their homes were burnt in the fire. They have pets, and they said they couldn't...they couldn't keep their pets at the hotels, and so, they chose to go there. It's a really harsh environment and, you know, it's not because they want to be there, it's because they have no place else to go. And there is a really strong odor of feces permeating throughout the area. There's abandoned vehicles, there's children, there's dogs, cats. It is a really unsafe environment. And it is...it is...the area is growing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Do you know if the property is a State-owned or County-owned?

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MS. NISHIKI: It's my understanding that it is County-owned.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, is there any kind of County oversight of...of the encampment?

MS. NISHIKI: Well, I did meet down there with a member of the Administration and another nonprofit, Family Life Center. And we're hoping to collaborate and do some at least cleaning up of...of the trash in the area, and definitely offering of continuing, you know, Family Life Center, and they do outreach there, and make sure people are getting signed up for different services.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sounds like the people there want to stay in Lahaina rather than go to the other...other side to live.

MS. NISHIKI: Yes, that was overwhelmingly what they said is that they were offered services on the other side, but they are of Lahaina, and they want to stay in their community. So, hoping that there will be efforts made for a kauhale of some sort in West Maui. We also lost our houseless shelter, and so, that is a really great need at this time. And it will probably grow as the FEMA cliff comes, and it's just a really sad situation. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Kai. Any other questions for her? None. Thank you.

MS. NISHIKI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Laurie Lawson, followed by Kaipo Kekona.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How many more testifiers do we have? I want to maybe take a break.

MS. GRECO: Laurie is the first of the last five. There's five more.

MS. LAWSON: Aloha. Thank you for coming to West Maui, and basically seeing our sad state affairs. You're very fortunate, the road was open tonight...so, thank you so much for coming. I would like to ask you to research and see how many residential building permits have been issued for the burn zone since the lots have started to be cleared. As of ten days ago, there were none to my knowledge when I checked. This is beyond serious. I don't know how to get this across. West Maui residents are leaving in droves. It is breaking my heart to see these families leave. Vilifying short-term rentals and trying to get rid of short-term

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rentals that are under the Minatoya decision is not the answer. Families cannot move into a 500-square foot oceanfront, even mauka side, vacation rental. They don't have closet space. They don't allow pets. There's one parking space per unit. Maintenance fees are high. The owners can't afford to have them there. Insurance rates for buildings have gone up tenfold. It's killing us. We need houses. Pulelehua, why has that not been started? How many years has that been on the books? Let's get that started. We need homes for families where they can have pets in yards, and have more than one car, and come home to a yard and a...just a place to call home. That's what we need. So, I'm asking you, please get the building permit process started. Get it going. Thank you.

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

MS. GRECO: Kaipō Kekona, followed by Mikey Burke.

MR. KEKONA: Aloha kākou. Thank you guys for coming out tonight and hearing from us. Ironically, happy that it's just pickleball and our Lahaina Land...Community Land Trust that's pretty much at the subject there. Parks and that kind of stuff is...definitely can be spoken to. Something about Parks that was important is that they were the action and focal point of any immediate response for our disaster. So, that's not only important for our current need, but also important to note that we should have adequate parking spaces available for all our community districts because in the end, that's what was available for us immediately, and that's what gave us a lot of shelter. So, I appreciate that perspective. I'm here to ask for your support in the budget for the Lahaina Community Land Trust. Even MEO, you know, they...they put out a lot. They...they do more, and they're barely out there, not like most of the other organizations. Not...not that I'm hating on any of them, I appreciate all of them, but a lot of them that are recognized, MEO I don't feel like gets the recognition for what they do. So, let's keep that fund going there not only for the transportation. It almost made me feel like I wanted to go and drive. I'm kind of weak that way. When I hear need, I try to serve that. So...but sorry, I can't...can't quit my job and do driving. I have to remind myself that though. Also, you know, affordable housing, the budget there, I think should be...you know, a good amount of that should be allocated specifically for Lahaina, at least for at this moment, you know. I wouldn't ask for that normally, but we do need that. But important...more importantly, when you get to the subject matter of dealing with those housing opportunities, I encourage you guys to provide a budget for that, but also try and keep that within line with what our community was already trying to advocate for prior to the fire. Because even though we talked about other homeless shelters that are existing and were existing prior to the fire, and whether they were displaced by the disaster or not, it was always an issue, and we worked to try and address that, so we know there's no secret

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there. Housing has been an issue for a long time. Now we've been named to be the worst in the State prior to the fire even. So, when we do that though, I like to appreciate...I would appreciate it if you guys can keep it in line with what we're going. My fear now is that we'll have some...some desperate attempts to solve our needs, and then end up with some really, you know, displeasing situations that we don't want to see in the long-term result of whatever we're going to be when we're done with this. So, I'd like to keep that into consideration. Also our schools, I know that it's a State issue, but if there's any way...like even if it's with funding for transportation and stuff like that because right now, I think we only have three bus stops for our kids on this side of the island. And so, everybody just got to kind . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . kind of congregate in one...in one zone. I don't understand why it's possible or why that's happening. Like, I don't get it. How come a bus can't just do its regular route that it's done all this other times? What's the difference? It's actually got a shorter route now, unfortunately. But we don't...we can't do a route, a regular bus route. I don't get it. So, if there's any way that we can help with that, I'd appreciate it. Our kids definitely need something at the forefront. Composting. The OED's resiliency plan. I think we need to make sure that there's some adequate funding in that area. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I'm going to cut it quits there because the time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Kekona. Mahalo for your testimony. I just wanted to clarify when you say affordable housing, but not anywhere that clarify that you wanted to stick to what our West Maui Community Plan areas that are approved for housing, that's where you'd like the housing built?

MR. KEKONA: Yeah, we just kind of took a few months. I feel like it was almost at least over a year that we were working on that community plan, and there was a lot of input. It wasn't too...I mean there was our differences, but for the most of it, that was a good collective agreement on where we wanted to go with that. And I hope that it's still on the forefront, even though a lot's going to change, keeping that where it's at, you know, like makes sense with what we have in place, and that we're not going to try and create more in the wake of a disaster and end up with sprawl.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like if...if they built it in Ukumehame, might as well be the other side because they still got to come through Keawe Street, that kind of thing . . .*(inaudible)*. . . north of Lahaina --

MR. KEKONA: Yeah, all of our infrastructure doesn't accommodate for that. And then even we would have to go forward with more implementation anywhere else we go to, to provide adequate evacuation routes, and fire safety responses, and that

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kind of stuff. And like right now, I know that we have funding, but we need to keep that where we can best make use of it for our community. It's very limited. Even though it sounds like there's a lot, there's really not that much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No other question. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Mikey Burke, followed by Autumn Ness.

MS. BURKE: Aloha mai kākou. I come...for the last ten years, I have come to the budget meeting, and it started really simple. I had a child who was in MEO Head Start, and so, that's why I advocated for every year. MEO has been a blessing in Lahaina, for kūpuna down to the keiki. If there's any way you can increase the budget for them, that would be awesome if you could expand Head Start. In Lahaina, we lost so many of our preschools, and MEO Head Start was one of the only ones that survived, so please take care of them. Take care of the West Maui Green Cycle. Sorry, I'm just so...I had all these things I wanted to say, but the lady, the STR lady just...whew...okay. I'm actually here to support the Lahaina Community Land Trust, actually, and affordable housing. I agree with Kaipō, majority of that affordable housing needs to be put towards Lahaina at this time. You made a great point, Alice. Lahaina people would rather die on the beach than leave this place. And so, guess what? We can live in a 500-square foot condo oceanfront with no closets, with one parking space because that means we get to stay in Lahaina. We're doing it already. All the people that are living in the shelters right now, what do you think those hotels feel like? So, this crap about short-term rentals are not the way...housing in Lahaina is the way. And if that means that we take over these short-term rentals for the time being, then that's how we do it. You keep this community in Lahaina. We spent decades building a system here of friends and family as our safety net. The very way you will kill this community is if you disperse us. And remember, you need this community. We are the workforce here in West Maui. The revenue comes in here. If there is nobody here to live and to work, nobody gets the revenue, and all of Maui suffers. So, please keep us together. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MS. GRECO: Autumn Ness, followed by Laurie Lei Degama.

MS. NESS: Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Autumn Ness. I'm here to speak on behalf of the Lahaina Community Land Trust. It's a Lahaina-born and led initiative to keep Lahaina land in Lahaina hands as this community faces the threat of investors with stray capital looking at Lahaina as their next good

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investment. Lahaina Land Trust is a new organization, but the organizing team and the board of directors is not new to this work. The Board of Directors and the advisory board is made up of Lahaina-rooted individuals with backgrounds in real estate, engineering, education, housing, and water policy supported by well-known land and compliance attorneys. The Land Trust has partnered with veterans and the land trust industry, both across Hawai'i and the U.S. continent, to develop its programs and to secure a commitment for bridge funding for its first purchases, close mentorship and support funding through the first years of land acquisition, land stewardship, and a community engagement and collective decision-making process that we really hope Lahaina will make Lahaina truly proud. I'm the only member of the team that is not of Lahaina, but my involvement is very personal. You might know that my family and I moved here after the Japanese tsunami and Fukushima disaster. My Japanese fishing family saw their community's land sold to corporate fishing entities. And what I need to convey to you folks is what happens to the fabric of a community when lands get sold out of desperation. Families are torn apart. It changes the course of history for the community, for the family, and for the culture of a place. I watched it happen to one place that raised me, and I will do everything in my power to prevent that here. A recent report commissioned by HILT estimates, based on other community's post-disaster real estate transactions, that at least 25 percent of residential properties will go up for sale in Lahaina in the next three years, at an estimated price of \$365 million. Lahaina Land Trust is going to need substantial support to ensure that as many of those parcels that go up for sale stay in Lahaina hands. The Mayor's budget currently includes \$1.5 million in the Open...Affordable Housing Fund, and \$1.5 million in the Open Space Fund for the Land Trust. The \$3 million from the County can be leveraged tenfold on a foundation and Federal level. We currently have about \$20 million in grant proposals out, but that's just a start, and we're building a comprehensive long-term financial sustainability strategy. We are also poised and willing to accept donations of any County-owned parcels in Lahaina. They can be added to the Land Trust portfolio, and included in our in our long-term community decision-making and collective governance process, which we take very seriously. I can answer questions about how the land trusts work if you have them. I also am here to ask that you dedicate a portion...a large portion of the Affordable Housing Funds for Maui Komohana between Kupuohi and Pulelehua. As a disaster survivor myself, and being with so many Lahaina folks on the daily, I need to tell you that wanting and needing to live in West Maui is . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . to stay together--I'm almost finished--it's not a luxury, it's a trauma response, and it's a trauma response for a reason. It's a human need to stay with the community that you just went through tragedy with. And separating folks from their community is...like, it's...it's death to the future of Lahaina. So, please take that into consideration. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Autumn Ness. Any questions for her? Oh, Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. How are you doing, Autumn? I don't know if this mic is working, so I'll speak loud. You asked...you said in your statement how do land...you know, how do land trusts work, you can explain it. Can you explain how land trusts work to the body?

MS. NESS: I'll give you the like two-minute answer. There's a lot of ways land trusts can work. Some of them are for affordable housing specifically, some of them are for conservation specifically. The Lahaina Community Land Trust is...is putting itself together to be a hybrid. So, parcels that are secured by the trust to stay out of investor hands can then be put...made a part of this collective community decision-making process. Parcels that should never have been developed can be kept in conservation or for...for cultural importance. Parcels that are appropriate for housing can be put into affordable housing, and we have attorneys on our team that are putting together policies of how we can prioritize historical relationship with 'āina to put people on those parcels that we acquire. And there's some parcels that are even going to be set aside for economic development so that the trust has a long-term revenue-generating strategy. But all of that is under community decision-making process.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Thanks for that clarification.

MS. NESS: Yeah. Thank you for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You mentioned that you'd be willing and able to buy...or to work with the County on County-owned lands. So, have you spoken with the Administration on any County-owned lands?

MS. NESS: There have been conversations that I'm aware of. I personally have not had those conversations because we're kind of right in the middle of a budget process. But I'm aware of a parcel on Dickinson that the County acquired a few years back that might be a really suitable place for housing in the future that we've already discussed internally, but we would be happy to steward.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The County has purchased some condos with some CBDG-DR...CDBG monies. Is that something that you guys could...could you do is work with condos?

MS. NESS: Yeah. I mean I...I can't make the decision, we'd have to talk to the board about it. But speaking in generalities, absolutely. We're putting ourselves together to be able to steward multi-family, single-family, you know, owner-builder, that kind of stuff. So, there's a lot of different ways this could

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play out, and it's going to happen a lot on a unit-by-unit or a parcel-by-parcel case. Because everything is so...every parcel and every unit has a story with it, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks for all the work you do on them. Mahalo.

MS. NESS: Yeah. Automatic.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mister...Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Ness. You mentioned this year's budget gave \$3 million that we could...that the Land Trust could leverage to acquire more funding, like Federal funding. Are you guys looking at specific types of funding that you guys...whether it's from the State legacy lands...

MS. NESS: We have a whole list.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You have a list?

MS. NESS: . . .*(laughing)*. . . We're just working down it, yeah. It's like a no stone left unturned kind of thing. The good news is, there's a lot of money for this. There's a lot of money for housing, for conservation, for...you know, for keeping tribal and Hawaiian communities together. There's so much money out there. We're just crossing our T's and dotting our I's right now to make it an organization worth investing in, and we're there, I think.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then are you guys working with either the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate or the State of Hawai'i as far as acquiring some of their State lands?

MS. NESS: Not at the moment. Right now, our first...our first...the whole reason this thing was put together was as a safety net for folks who are homeowners that may need or want to sell their parcel, and want the parcel to stay in Lahaina hands. So, that's the first priority. Everything else, yes...but we're really just trying to cut investors off at the pass, if I'm being honest, you know?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. NESS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

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

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MS. NESS: Thanks, guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Laurie Lei Degama, followed by Pahnelopi McKenzie.

MS. DEGAMA: Thank you for coming to the West Side tonight. Next time, don't make me go after Mikey. . . .*(laughing)*. . . . Because even after all our loss, we come here to plead and have our voices heard because we love Lahaina. Eight months today, I always talk and ask for housing. Today I have a different topic. 2018 fire was the warning, 2023 was the lesson, and a big lesson and sacrifice for us. We need to learn from the fires. This fire can happen anywhere on Maui. Lahaina has been the most windy and rainy. If we build back or keep living with all the dry grass, this can and will happen again, it's just a matter of when and where. Luckily, the fire Upcountry shifted and went towards Kula...that could have wiped out all of Makawao down to Pā'ia. Kīhei can wipe out with the right wind, and they only have one real way in and out. The two fires both had no water to fight the fire. All the dry grassland, what are we doing moving forward for the fire prevention and empty land with all the green grass that has dried? Yes, utilities being put underground is important, but landowners need to upkeep their land and maintain the grass as well. There's been two road closures happen on the Honoapi'ilani. One was the actual poles being blown down from the wind in Ukumehame, another was an accident. What happens for emergency? I asked for the cane road along the highway to be used as an alternate. If it's too expensive to build the road anywhere, then the hospital needs to be built on the West Side. Did I mention I hate politics, and look where I have to sit and speak at? That's all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for being here. Any questions? Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. GRECO: Pahnelopi McKenzie, followed by Ali Bodick.

MS. MCKENZIE: Thank you guys for all being here. I wasn't going to speak tonight, but when the woman spoke of the short-term rental that a 500-square foot house is not enough...it's enough. People are sharing bedrooms. There are ten families living in one small house. Like the short-term rentals should not...they need to go to the community. They need to be for the housing. You guys know that they're illegal. You know that it's not set up for that. This has been since COVID we've been talking about it. It's time to really put that action to really make these houses that are available for the Lahaina community. The tourism should not proceed, and not...the developments need to happen. Affordable housing needs to happen for the Lahaina community, but we're going to talk about developing more. Let's talk about the aquifer. The aquifer cannot handle

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the continued building and continued construction. And then who are these construction companies? Why are we not keeping this money and having it? Everything that's happening is backwards, is not supporting the long-term. So, again, I don't live up...I don't live in Lahaina. I do help with bringing food to people. I work with Women Helping Women. I see the phone lines going off, people needing places to go. There's nowhere to go. There's no money, there's nowhere to go, and we look at the crisis of maternal health. We look at the crisis that we continue to see with mothers and children suffering. This is exponentially...we're in a crisis, and it keeps getting worse. And we're watching the State fumble, and you guys really are, like everyone is saying, the hope for us. We know all of you personally. We see all of you in your community doing the work for your community, and we see you, and we know that you care. The Governor has failed. I know the Mayor is trying, but he...it is...it is failing across the board, and I...I am not--I'm not very good at public speaking, that is for sure--but I just...I just...you know, we look at the health term, we look at the long-term health. Like, let's get people tested to see their levels of mercury and arsenic growing and growing and growing, but what are we going to do? What are we going to do when people don't have food, and don't have a home, and the breast milk is full of toxins, and...like, what are we doing? This is no more. So, this tourism conversation about this is the answer? No, the Land Trust is the answer. The protecting the people is the answer. Maternal health care is the answer. Like it's...let's get the workforce...like let's make the workforce for the people. People don't want to continue to serve these tourists and...and have people look at them as if they're less. It's...it's got to change. We can't keep doing the same thing. So, I support the composting program. I support...people need the basic needs--food, shelter, community--and with the programs that are shutting down, everything that we're seeing happening, like we cannot continue to make this claim that tourism is the economy. It's not true at all. We need lactation consultants, we need midwives, we need farmers. We need the money to go to these people that are actually taking care of the community. The tourism [sic] . . .(timer sounds). . . don't care about the community. The tragedy that's happened, it's just another form of gentrification. And if the State continues the way that they're going about it, they're supporting it. They're saying corporations matter more, these tourists matter more. It's not...we know that that's not true. We know that there's no survival with tourism, as West Maui has no survival with tourism. It is actually the death of Lahaina. And so, we need to really stay focused on taking care of the people, and put that . . .(timer sounds). . . money towards mental health. And anyway, thank you guys. And we really support you and thank you for all that you do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. MCKENZIE: Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MS. GRECO: Ali Bodick, who is the last person signed up at this time.

MS. BODICK: Aloha, everybody. Thank you for coming. I'm happy to be here. I drove over from Kihei, and I was a Lahaina resident for 20 years. Lost our house...the school, the jobs, all that, like everyone else. But I, you know, pulled it up, got together, got everyone to Kihei because that's what's happening...but I'm here. Thank you for listening, and we'd love to see Pulelehua, we'd love to see Kupuohi up again. Support MEO, they've been very gracious with supporting, like, additional clothes for my family. Not getting weird used things from random people and the...obviously it sounds good, the Lahaina Community Land Trust might have...might be the answer. So, thank you.

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

MS. GRECO: Chair, there's nobody else signed up at this time. If anybody would like to testify, please come to the podium. Doing a last call, three...one person coming down.

MR. MITCHELL: Good evening. Keaka Mitchell, for the record, Lahaina community member. I fully support housing. I used to work at an affordable housing project here in Lahaina, three different sites, almost 200 families displaced. At one specific site, there was over 500 active people on the Lahaina waitlist. Waitlist, at that time, was over ten years. This was a family site. We need it urgently. The other thing that I am a part of in the community is keiki care. So, I'm working with your Maui County Early Childhood Coordinator on that topic. I don't know if you know, but there was 270 zero to three in pre-K keiki that no longer has care. We need to support PATCH, MEO, Partners in Development, all these other partners that's out there that's willing and able. YMCA is another one that comes to mind to get our keiki back in school so their parents can get back possibly to work. And I know I'm a supporter of Laurie's initiative, the Kūpuna Care, so I also support them, and Kaunoa, as it's been a hana hou bingo night, next week Tuesday, 16th Royal Lahaina. So, if you guys have that line item on your guys' budget, I would also support them and commend the work that they do out in Lahaina because that's another group that do not have a house, a hale, care. That's all I have to share. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier...any questions, Members? Next testifier.

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MS. GRECO: Chair, there's no one else signed up, but I see another person approaching the podium.

MS. ALBRIGHT: Aloha. Thank you for being here tonight. If you were to ask me a year ago if I would be scared of the wind today, I wouldn't have believed you, I wouldn't believe that I'd be having panic...panic attacks over the wind. Being at different places at different times, and just wanting to get in my car and get home, just to see that...if it's there, that's been hard. And the day of the fire was hard, and the day after that, and the day after that, and the day after that. And you'd think with time there's a lot of healing, and there is, but then it just becomes more real, and the list doesn't get any shorter. Our lists are very, very long, and there's a lot that everyone's dealing with. So, I support housing on the West Side. Also, being at Wahikuli Beach Park and seeing my neighbors with dogs, they're all there. They'd rather be in Lahaina with their pets. Imagine losing everything, and then you have to give away your dog or your cat. I mean, it's a lot of trauma, and everybody's working through a lot. So, I think on all of these events or these meetings, I hear it's always, well, where is everyone? Where is everyone? I mean, it's all very traumatizing to hear an ambulance, the wind, everything...these things that you've never had to deal with. I'm an adrenaline junkie. I love the outdoors. And I'm talking to my therapist about having a panic attack that I never had of a panic attack before. I've never been scared of the wind before, and I just shut down. It's these little winds every day that we have to wake up, and we're trying to sort out our life again, a completely different life, and we didn't ask for this. Sometimes we...I feel like we're looked at like just figure it out, and pull up your boots and figure it out, and it's a lot to figure out. And again, the list only gets longer. So, really, the mental health...and think about that, and people need a safe home to go to. The community has only gotten closer and stronger together. We've been here for one another since day one. We've been each other's everything, really...so, there's a ton of support. So, by spreading everybody...every...you know, everyone out, it only makes it harder to be able to go somewhere where you can talk to, where they understand what you've been through, what you're going through...because all of us are going through a lot of the same things. So, to keep, you know, families that have, you know, grew up here and were raised here on the West Side, I think, is so important for the community, for history, for...I mean, for everything. So, I'm in big support of that. And also, I mean, mental health, it's huge. And people do not want to leave the West Side because this is home. They just lost everything. This is their connection. This is where they're rooted. To take that away from that, I mean, it's back to mental health. People are holding on with everything that they got. You can't take away the only thing that they have as of now. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? Next testifier.

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MS. GRECO: Chair, there's one more person approaching the podium.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the record, your name was Lana Albright?

MS. ALBRIGHT: Yes. . . .*(speaking from audience)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Lana Albright. Oh, sorry. Go ahead.

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: No, I'm sorry. Thank you, everybody. But my name is Lawrence Cabanilla, and I've lived in Lahaina for the past 80 years. And I just wanted to share something tonight that, you know, if it is all possible because I've just learned that the crushed concrete is being used for ground control, right? That's erosion control, and the...excuse me...but the crosswalk was kind of, like, refused by the community. But now, you know, in realizing that, the crushed concrete that's going to be used is the concrete that being crushed by the cleanup debris, right? So, whatever known to be toxin, or being said to be toxin is almost within the concrete itself, right? So, to me, what the use of cleaning up and saying we cleaning up the toxin, and then kind of like dumping back waste from the toxin field into the property. The...I had the...we had the meeting with the kūpunas last night, and one...one of the representatives from the Corps of Engineers said that they...the decision to use that was because of the speed of...of getting the place ready to rebuild, and cheaper. But when you measure that in life, in our lifetime, I think it would be more expensive because by not, you know, being positive that these things are...are pure, and that going to be dumped on the properties for foundation use, you know, to build on might be a good thing if it's mixed with other materials. But as for put on a property, and then the family go back and try to grow things to eat, isn't that being...the plants being absorbing that toxin, and then as they fruit, the people will eat it. So, the toxin that is in there was one of the concerns that now Kā'anapali crusher...I mean, yeah, crushing station was shut down because of the bad chemical. So, I mean, does the County have the means . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . to interact with the Corps and find one, you know, better material to put down on the ground, you know, as far as financing? Because I know this is something that's going to come up and hold back the...the speed of the cleanup, and expense is going to be talking about, you know. So, I just wanted . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . to make it aware now because if it does come up, you know, be prepared, if possible, to kind of like interact with the cost factor --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: -- for materials that the County have available to use. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Could you give us your last name again?

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MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Cabanilla.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cabanilla. Okay. Any questions for Mr. Cabanilla?

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Oh, you have...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello, Mr. Cabanilla. I think I know your sister Priscilla.

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Hi, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Are you the one that had the service station?

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The Cabanilla service station?

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, your question, we're going to take it down and we're going to check on it for you, and we'll get back to you with an answer, okay?

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: All right.

MR. CABANILLA: I have one more, but I don't know if appropriate for tonight because it's about the shoreline and it's about health situation.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. You know, what we can do? You see the...the lady with the yellow jacket? When we're...when we're done, she'll write down all your questions and we'll check on it for you, okay?

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Okay. This one wild one, that's why.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I know.

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But...

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MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Okay, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I know you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we'll let your sister know what the answer is. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Chair, there's nobody else signed up at this time. If anybody else would like to testify, please come to the podium. Last call. One more person coming down.

MR. LONOPELE CABANILLA: Hi. My name is Lonopele Cathcart Cabanilla. I guess my question...I'm in support of the affordable housing, but I hope there's in consideration on...so, right now with FEMA, I don't know if you guys know, they're paying rent at average 8,600 a month to this rental assistance direct lease program units that they're trying to put us all in. And when you guys say affordable housing, I hope this amount that they're paying isn't going to affect that amount that you guys so-call affordable housing, meaning...like the amount, I hope, is not even close to that because this is ridiculous. And they telling...this is what they're telling us they're paying, and my answer to them is, you guys are ridiculous. You...you screwing everybody, and that's basically what it is. You guys are setting us up, after you leave, for have to be paying this. And that's something you guys gotta take into consideration to, I hope, have a solution and not let that happen. And like my grandpa was saying, that crushed concrete for the erosion control that the Army Corps is now putting instead of the gravel that they said they was doing that, that's ridiculous. I mean, you...you guys, everybody was saying, we got to get in there and move all this toxic, hazardous material, but then you taking them down to the Pioneer Mill Station, crushing the concrete from those properties, and throwing them back on the property and saying that it's good. What is the difference from you just laying the concrete back over instead of crushing 'em? You're telling me that crushing 'em makes it safe? That...I don't see how that is even right. So, that's pretty much all I got to say off the top of my head. I get choke things for say, but I think you guys kind of get the gist of what everybody needs in Lahaina. Keep us on this side. Stop trying to shove us into Wailuku, Kahului, Upcountry because you guys all know we no like go over there. We need to stay in Lahaina.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next. Any more questions? Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: If anybody else would like to testify, please come to the podium. Doing a last call...three, two, one. Chair, there's no other testifiers.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

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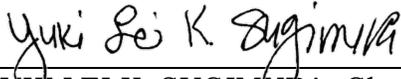
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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, everybody, for being here. And Staff has been taking down notes of your testimony, and thank you for submitting any written testimony to us. Your voices are heard, and it's been filmed on *Akakū* Public Access Television. And this meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ACTION: **DEFER** pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 8:11 p.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:min:240408-West Maui:ta

Transcribed by: Terianne Arreola

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CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 41 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 16th day of May 2024, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



Terianne Arreola