

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

MINUTES

June 17, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:02 a.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 (left at 11:46 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member (arrived at 9:53 a.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (arrived at 9:07 a.m./left
at 11:20 a.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

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

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lanai Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka‘i Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Buddy Almeida, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Mimi Desjardins, First Deputy, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff, Department of Management
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Marcy Martin, Director, Department of Finance
Richard “Remi” Mitchell, Director, Department of Housing
Jolie Jenkins, CDBG Program Manager, Office of the Mayor
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director
John Smith, Administrator, Office of Recovery
Patience Kahula, Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Programs Chief, Office of the Mayor

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OTHERS: Brian Kohne, Film Commissioner, Maui County Film Office
The Royal House of Hawai'i
Jasee Law
Jared Burket
Bo Montalvo
Kristel Corpuz
Others (24)

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:02 a.m. I'd like to welcome all of you. My name is Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura, and I will first be calling on Chair Lee to do our welcome, but I wanted to say that meet...this meeting is being conducted in accordance to the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Chair Lee, welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- Chair. And if you're planning to go to Thailand this weekend, you can pretend like you're a local person when you say sawasdee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sawasdee to you. Next, we have Vice-Chair of this Committee, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair, and good morning, my fellow colleagues. Sawasdee to every one of you. I am here in my home workspace, and I am alone. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Sawasdee. Next, we have Member Johnson. Sawasdee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sawasdee, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers here at the Lāna'i District Office, and I'm alone on my side of the office along with Hoku-chan *(phonetic)*, so pardon me --

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- if she's snoring in the background.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hoku-chan. That's a perfect name. Member Rawlins-Fernandez is not here. Member Cook, sawasdee.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Sawasdee, and good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Sawasdee, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sawasdee, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sawasdee, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and sawasdee. No testifiers in Hāna.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Sawasdee. We got notice--oh, yes?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I apologize. There are also no testifiers --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- in the Kihei Regional Office. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. We are notified that Member Paltin is going to be late, and I guess Member Rawlins-Fernandez. We will welcome them to the meeting at the appropriate time. From the Office of the Mayor, we have Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff; Lesley Milner, Budget Director. Department of Management, Josiah Nishita. I am told that John Smith is not available for the last item on the meet...at the...on...on the meeting agenda. Department of Finance, we have Marcy Martin, Director of Finance. Department of Housing...is Director Mitchell going to attend, or we don't know yet? Okay. And Jolie Jenkins, CDBG Program Manager. Corporation Counsel, we have Kristina Toshikiyo, but we have Mimi here today, Desjardins. And Committee Staff, Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk; Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney; Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Staff. And please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting, and we have three items on the agenda. The first item, which is Bill 47, Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the Counties for the Hawai'i Creative Econo...Economy--excuse me--Collaborative, BFED-36; Bill 116 ('24), Amending Chapter 3.36, Maui County Code, Relating to the Maui County Grants Program, and Chapter 3.40, Maui County Code, Relating to Concession Awards and Rental or Lease of the County Property, which is BFED-17; Rule 7(B), the last item, which is the Federal Disaster Recovery Grant Funding Program, the CDBG-DR Action Plan, which we've been waiting for, and has been approved. So, those are the three items on our agenda. Do we have any testifiers? We should.

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MR. KRUEGER: Chair, for the beginning of the meeting, we currently don't have any individuals signed up to testify, but we could do a last call real quick for the beginning-of-meeting testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: If there is anybody who would like to testify at the beginning of the meeting, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function...that's the raise-hand icon in the...at the top right. Oh, Chair, there is an individual online indicating they'd like to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good. All right. So, the individual who will be testifying, when--excuse me--when your name is called, please identify yourself as well as the organization that you're representing. And you will have three minutes to testify and one minute to wrap--oh, sorry, 30 seconds to wrap up your testimony. And if you are calling in, please follow the prompts via phone; star-5 to raise and lower your hand, and star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifiers list in the order...order testifiers sign up and raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower...lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it's your time to testify. At this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to, or anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you are in-person, please testify...please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the...for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. I already said that. And once you're done testimony, or if you would like to wish to...do not wish to testify, you could also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. So, now, will you please call up the first testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, currently, the only individual we have signed up to testify at the beginning of the meeting is Brian Kohne.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good. Mr. Kohne?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Member Rawlins-Fernandez . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Let's...let's welcome Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, mai Molokaʻi nui a Hina. I am at my private residence, alone here in my room, and there are currently no testifiers at the Molokaʻi District Office. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Welcome. All right. So, first testifier, which is Brian Kohne. Ready to testify?

MR. KRUEGER: Mr. Kohne, you are unmuted on our end. You will have to unmute on your end. That...that's the microphone icon in the upper-right corner. If...if it doesn't appear to be working for you, you could try leaving and rejoining the meeting real briefly, and that might prompt it to work for you. I think Mr. Kohne is...is...he's left, and he's trying to...he's going to rejoin real quickly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. *(pause)* Do we have any other testifiers? None?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we don't have any other individuals signed up to testify, but I think Mr. Kohne might be able to speak now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KOHNE: Yeah, I'm...I'm here. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good. Yes, we can hear you.

MR. KOHNE: I'm Brian Kohne, Maui Film Commissioner. Sawasdee --

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

MR. KOHNE: -- Committee Chair and Councilmembers. I'm here to testify in support of Bill 47. It's an administrative action, frankly. We are the last county to sign the--this is something we've been trying to accomplish for...for a good long while. The short of it is, it allows our--us to hui, all the film offices on...the four county offices, as well as the State Office. It just simplifies how we can share resources. We attend five or six events around the country and the world per year, and it's...it's a little complicated how...how we go in, how we...how we sponsor as a group. And so, what this really does is it allows...is it allows all that to be really simple. It doesn't mean that the State of Hawai'i or Creative Industries is going to start picking up the tab for our share of the hui expenses, but--as...as that's still part of our budget, but it's going to simplify the way we're able to...to perform these agreements. I am available for questions if there are any.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, anybody have questions for Mr. Kohne? Chair Lee, and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Brian. I'm just wondering why did it take so long? What's so complicated about having this intergovernmental agreement?

MR. KOHNE: I'm not sure. I just know that it's taken time to work its way to this meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Does it have anything to do with the County being required to go along with the majority of the group, the hui, on certain things?

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MR. KOHNE: Not to my knowledge. I...I think it's just an administrative circumstance. You know, back in November when we were all at the American Film Marketplace, and we were sharing expenses in the various counties where--you know, sort of struggling to...to...to make their contributions, and...and it was putting us, as a hui, at a disadvantage. And we were getting into trouble with some of the organizations that we were working with because we weren't making on-time payments, or we were making five payments. So...so, it's really an effort, you know, really, that...that started a while ago. But it's also a reflection, I would add, of...of an effort on the part of all of our offices to work more closely together, to share resources as we move towards perhaps a more unified statewide permitting process, and ability, ultimately to market Hawai'i as opposed to competing against --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. KOHNE: -- one another when we're --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I think I --

MR. KOHNE: -- when we're out of state.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think I get the drift of what you're trying to say. I...I was just concerned that --

MR. KOHNE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- as long as we're not sharing liabilities, especially if we're forced to...to be in that position. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair Lee. I'm going to call on Member Kama, but I...I'm...this is the first item on our agenda, and I wonder if Members would allow Brian Kohne to then be a resource when we take this item up. Cynthia Lallo from the Mayor's Office will also be here for this item to talk about it.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Kama, you want to hold your questions until we take up this item, which is the first item on the agenda?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That would be fine, Chair. That would...that was my question to you because I do have a lot of questions, and they're not clarifying questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Film Commissioner Kohne, can you be available? We're going to take this item up, and can you be a resource for the Members?

MR. KOHNE: Absolutely, Committee Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, Members, I'm going to move on to the next testifier.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, currently there's no one else signed up to testify at the beginning of the meeting. If there is anybody else who'd like to testify now, please identify yourselves. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a brief countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one else has identified themselves as wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, we're going to close, with your permission, Members, the testimony at the beginning of the meeting, and we will always receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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

ITEM 36: BILL 47 (2025), AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF HAWAI'I, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, AND THE COUNTIES FOR THE HAWAI'I CREATIVE ECONOMY COLLABORATIVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. The first item is Bill 47, which I read off, and basically this bill authorizes the Mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and with the other Counties for the Hawai'i Creative Economy Collaborative. The proposed agreement formalizes a statewide partnership to support workforce development, data sharing, marketing coordination, and infrastructure planning across Hawai'i's Creative Industries. And in particular, this is about the film industry. Assisting us with our discussion today is Mayor's Chief of Staff, Cynthia Lallo. Do we see her? I don't see her. Is she online? Oh, she is online. Good morning, Ms. Lallo. There.

MS. LALLO: Good morning, Committee Chair, Committee Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. I'd like to ask to you to give some opening comments. And then just so--in case you didn't hear that, we do have Brian Kohne on call as a resource. He has agreed. So, would you like to make some opening comments?

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MS. LALLO: Wonderful. Thank you. Yes. So, the...the IJA and the bill that is before you today will assist the State in collaborative marketing and business development across the state, all counties included. We are the last to the table for this, and this was actually originally put forward when the previous OED Director was still in place, and there was some confusion about who could sign it and who couldn't. Obviously, it's the Mayor with authorization of the Council, so it has been topsy turvy in that process. I would also note that at this particular time, according to Director Jimmy Tokioka, there is no financial commitment, other than what Brian had talked about that's included in the budget already. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I will ask Mr. Kohne if you want to give some comments also, or...or you're fine?

MR. KOHNE: No, but I am available for questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much for sticking around. I'm sorry, what?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Do you have to take testimony --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I do. So, I have to open up for testimony again. Thank you.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 36 . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no one signed up to testify on Bill 47 at this time, so we'll do a last call. If there is anybody who would like to testify on this item, please identify yourselves now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a brief countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, at this time, Members, with your permission, I'm going to close public testimony for Bill 47, and receive any written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 36 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. We'll do a round of questions, and three minutes per Member. And I will start off with Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Brian. It's kind of exciting to see that the State is finally figuring out that unless, you know, everyone hui together, that we can't do this on our own. And for film industries across the counties, to be independent, it's even more competitive, and it costs even more money. But...so, my question is, who are...who are going to be the members of the hui? I mean, we tied...I'm

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looking at the agencies that have been contacted, and I see Georja Skinner, and Amy Asselbaye, and Mitch Roth, and our Mayor, and...but who are...who are the people who are going to sit in this hui and make those decisions in terms of how you move forward with some of your joint projects?

MR. KOHNE: Thank you for the...for the question, Tasha. We...we...we meet monthly, and sometimes more often than that. It's the various film offices. There's a Honolulu film office that has two members in it. There's a Kaua'i film office, and a Hawai'i Island film office. So, the Commissioners ourselves, we're the ones who...who tend to...to discuss this, along with Georja Skinner, head of Creative Industries, and we scheme and plot as to...to what events we're going to go to, and how we're going to approach them. This particular year, there are going to be three, and then--this particular calendar year--and then there will be two to three leading into June of next year. And what I would also add is, aside from deciding where we're going, Hawai'i, because of the power of this hui and the...so, there's four county film offices, but then there's also the Hawai'i State Film Office, so there's five parties in this hui. And so, what it's going to...what it's going to allow us to do is, we pool our resources and we become...now Hawai'i becomes a major sponsor at these events, giving us all a higher profile. And at a time--and I don't want to go too far into this unless someone has the appetite--Hawai'i, as a film industry, is in the worst position it's been in in...in 20 years, and so we're all working in...to claw back what we've lost. And the...the next year's Leg session is...is really important and consequential for a number of reasons. And I can...so, what I would add is, by all of us being on the same page, it strengthens our hand heading into next year's legislative session that our industry is one worth investing in. The problems at the State Leg were...were far deeper than...than one Maui rep that was opposed to tax credits. It was...it was a little more complicated than that. I...I hope I answered the question.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, you did. Thank you.

MR. KOHNE: I...I might have gotten confused. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So, you mentioned that you have three events coming up between --

MR. KOHNE: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- now and next year June.

MR. KOHNE: Yes. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Do you know where those --

MR. KOHNE: Yeah. Would you like...yes. The first would be the America...the first would be a meeting in Cincinnati with...of international film commissioners. It's called Cineposium. It's really remarkable. It...it...it gathers all of the film commissioners from around the world, and then the studio heads and...and a lot of heavies come in. And it's four days of...of not only marketing from our perspective, but...but...but professional

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development and...and team building. So, we have that. We have the American Film Marketplace, which will be in Los Angeles in early November. It's...it's the largest of its kind in the world, and it's where the...the buyers and sellers primarily, but also the decision-makers make decisions. We also hui on a fourth event that I just remembered, which is an annual Locations Management Guild Awards, where the location...the global location managers convene, and Maui--or Hawai'i has a...has a strong presence as a result of the hui. And then the last event that...that the hui is...is scheduled to...to participate in this year is in December in London, an event called FOCUS. London has become the center of the global and European film industry. So, those are--there's actually four that we're hui-ing [*sic*] on heading into the...into the fall.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And do you have enough money to attend these things?

MR. KOHNE: We do, thanks to the Council being sens...our Council being sensitive to what we're trying to accomplish, and providing us the...the basic resources. I have budgeted to participate in this hui. I've budgeted to be able to attend the events that make sense for Maui to personally be at. You know, I'm...I'm pretty...I...I don't just spend money crazily. I...I tend to be very deliberate in...in...in the decisions I make. So, just because we're in a hui--which does make sense to continue to expose Hawai'i to the greater industry--that doesn't always mean that Maui County needs to spend additional resources to send myself or another to be there. But when...but when that is to our advantage, we will be there. And...and moving forward, quite frankly, coming out of the fires in particular, it's more important than ever for Maui to have a presence on the global stage, sending the message that we're open for business.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Tasha --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the buzzer went off.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no, no. Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sorry, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Brian. So, I...I see that you have a lot of plans for promotion, but what about infrastructure? You're...you're promoting people to come here, and what kind of infrastructure do we have to offer? And secondly, do...do we have a workforce that's needed for these types of productions?

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MR. KOHNE: I would say, as a result of what's going on at the State Legislature, everything is in a state of decline. Our local industry has...has suffered in recent years. On one hand, our film office, you know, sort of fell apart, if I may, over the last couple of years. Not that that would have made a massive difference, but the lack of a viable state film production incentive is crippling us statewide. But it goes deeper than that. Not only is the incentive inadequate from a global perspective, because we compete...compete globally, but there's also a lot of really, really nasty little things in the current incentive law that is prohibiting outside productions and studios from coming to Hawai'i. To put that into greater context, back in November, the...the largest entertainment payroll company in the world sent a message to all of their clients, saying avoid Hawai'i, and that came down to the way the incentive --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Brian, what is in the law --

MR. KOHNE: -- is...is being administered.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- that is a chall...an impediment? What is in the law currently?

MR. KOHNE: There are...there's a couple of things that it has to do with. It...it was in the dark of night, two years ago. It was Isaac Choy, on the way out of his position, managed somehow to...to...to revert our industry from...from...from manufacturing to retail. So, that has a significant difference in...in the amount of taxes that are paid on these activities. But then furthermore, from a payroll standpoint, the way the law is now being enforced, sadly, which has been chasing away enormous productions from Hawai'i. When you...when you quali...try to qualify for the existing production incentive, they then come after you to pay your GET tax in advance. And to...for...you know, for somebody who's going to spend \$40 million, they're not exactly looking to cut a 2...2 or \$3 million check on the eve of production. So, those are two of the specifics. There are nastier little things in our existing law. But ultimately what we're...what we're seeking to do--I'll talk to the positive--at...because I'm part of a statewide hui, not--that goes beyond the...the film offices, and extends to the unions, and the show runners, and the stakeholders throughout the...the state. What we're really working to do over the course of the next year is identify what we need, and how we can actually get there.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. KOHNE: And that...that's going to in...that's going to include an uplift --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

MR. KOHNE: -- for productions...yeah --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KOHNE: -- with 80 percent or more local hires.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Film Commissioner. . . .(timer sounds). . . Oh, perfect timing. So, Member Johnson, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure. Thank you, Chair. You know, I, for one, am always going to try to support our arts and film. A dollar spent in funding for arts and film is \$9 in the circular economy, so always going to try to diversify our economy. This memorandum of agreement has me--a bit of a question about what Ms. Lallo said though, about the funding, the monies. And it's in page 2, second paragraph, it says, execute a joint marketing strategy with shared financial and in-kind resources. So, will...what...what's our County's responsibility on that shared financial? Are we paying for that marketing strategy? Is it going to be the hui paying? That's one of my...that's my first question right there, so maybe Ms. Lallo can speak to that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chief of Staff Lallo?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for your question, Councilmember. I would...Brian may have more insight into this, as I was not in the initial conversations --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. LALLO: -- or...yeah, continue. Brian, do you have any idea on this?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mister --

MR. KOHNE: Absolutely. And I'll...I'll use, for example, an event that we were unable to attend and financially participate in that just occurred in the beginning of June. In the beginning of June is the National Convention for Commercial Producers, and Hawai'i had a presence. And the...the total--we were not able to participate. So, our other four partners each put up about 4,500 bucks because we were a major sponsor at the event, so the total for the sponsorship. For most of these, I would say in general--and American Film Marketplace, we haven't agreed yet to be the major...a major sponsor--but if we are, it's probably going to be about 20 grand, and then that gets split up, so it's about \$4,000 each. If --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. KOHNE: -- Maui County was attending this event on its own, we'd be looking at...at a booth cost of \$5,000, and that's just to be in a giant hall, which is a lot different --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. KOHNE: -- than having a giant Hawai'i presence. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks for that response.

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MR. KOHNE: And so, some of the shared expenses be...yeah, some of the shared expenses also that I'd point out that go beyond just booth rental and sponsorships is, you know, we bring in leis and florals. You know, we really...Hawai'i really --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. KOHNE: -- has a colorful presence, so...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. My next question is in regards to--you know, quite often, we...you know, my...here's my concern, first. My concern is...is that if we hui up, and O'ahu being such a big presence, and the size, and population, monies, everything, et cetera, et cetera, that sometimes it becomes O'ahu centric, right? So, I know Mr. Kohne is...is very passionate about film. I...I want to kind of hear your point of view about how would you help make sure that Maui County is represented, is not being overshadowed by O'ahu when we get in this hui?

MR. KOHNE: Yeah, I think . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . that's a really fair question, and a lot of people ask that over the years. What I always come back to is, you know, it starts with us. We have to have our act together, and that's something our office is still working towards, and...and that involves having an identity. What do we do? What do we provide that overcomes not only the...the impediments to bringing productions to Maui, but what do we provide that differentiates ourselves from O'ahu? Frankly, we have no business going out there chasing the studios for large, recurring television programs. It's a fool's errand. If they want to come to Maui, they will, but they're not going to because we don't, and shouldn't, have that level of infrastructure that exists on...on O'ahu. So, yeah, I think it's fair. And a lot of people in this last Leg session kept saying, yeah, but this is all about O'ahu stuff...but it's not. When O'ahu is healthy, and we have a big industry over there, we can bring a production here that may need a studio. They can do 80 percent of their productions here, they can jump to O'ahu to do the 20 percent of interiors. Let alone that our kids, and our initiatives, and our office, you know, really tether to generational advancement in...in education and preparation for industry. So, with a thriving statewide industry, be it on Kaua'i, Hawai'i Island, or anywhere in the State of Hawai'i, especially O'ahu, our kids and our workforce has something to grow into and look forward to. So, there's a lot of...there's a lot of long-term benefits from working together.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. KOHNE: And...and...and then if Maui knows what it is and what it does best, then...then the world's going to respond to that. And then we'll start getting that right-sized level of production, which is...is my clear perspective, as we should be doing productions in the neighborhood of 1 million to \$15 million, and not be dreaming about anything larger than that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Kohne. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Next, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Cook, U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for my opportunity. So, I...I remember this intergovernmental agreement when it came up in the Council meeting on April 4th. And the Budget Chair attempted to pass it on first reading on April 4th, and there were outstanding questions that we didn't have answers to, and that's why it's in Committee. Like other Committee Chairs, I wish this Committee Chair would have done the research to avoid having to go through and waste everyone's time of asking the questions that we asked on April 4th. I don't want to have to go through asking the same questions. I would have expected the responsibility of the Committee Chair to go and research that information, and provide us the information at the opening of this item, instead of us going one-by-one, asking questions that we already asked on April 4th. So, the questions that I asked on April 4th weren't answered, and the bill that we have before us still has two page 5s, still has Mayor Mitch Roth, and I...I haven't understood, or heard any indication from the Committee Chair, that there is a replacement of these pages, or amendments that have been discussed. That's what I would like to discuss first before I ask my questions to Mr. Kohne.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I did not change any of the pages, and I see the same things that you're seeing. Would you like to defer this until we could correct the pages, is that what you're asking?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm ask--no, I...because I...I'm not sure if I can trust --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good, good, good, good, good, good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you to do the work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, what --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're the Committee Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- other questions did you have, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, on April the 4th?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, what is your expectation of today? Do you expect --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To pass --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to recommend passage of this --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- today?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because if so, then these are some of the things that needed to be corrected and answers to be, you know, provided in this Committee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I don't hear those answers from you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I intend to pass this bill. I am glad that Mr. Kohne, as you can hear from his enthusiasm, can provide a lot of the answers that were not available at that time--and on...and Cynthia Lallo, who is the acting OED Director. At the time when this...this took...when this was being pushed, I guess, it was first initiated by then --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I heard...I heard all of that, and I only have three minutes, so I don't...I don't want --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, I'm...I'm answering --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- my time to be wasted talking about the background.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- questions, and you can take the three minutes after.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm asking...because if you're going to push this forward, what is the plan to replace those pages so that we can take it up on first reading, and have the...the...the bill that we're going to be passing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You are the Committee Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to call a recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 9:34 a.m.
RECONVENE: 9:53 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Welcome, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. . . .*(echoing)*. . . Oh, shoot. Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Sorry for my tardiness, I just had a meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you did tell us that you would be late. So, thank you, and welcome. So, we're on Bill 47. And so, at this time then, I would like to hear from our

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Corp. Counsel, Mimi Desjardins, regarding the page number 5 duplication, or anything that you might want to say regarding this bill.

MS. DESJARDINS: Okay. Thank you, Chair. So, so long as the actual meat of the agreement does not change, you folks are authorizing the Mayor to enter into that agreement today. The signature pages would be considered nonsubstantive changes. They do need to be amended. And I understand from Chief of Staff Lallo that she has asked for clean pages, and is awaiting those clean pages...but that can be fixed later, so long as the substance of the agreement doesn't change, and that is not going to change. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And who was she asking for the substitute pages?

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Chair. My understanding is, is that she's asked the State to provide her with the changes. But we, at Corporation Counsel, prior to us approving it as to form and legality, will make sure that all of the signatures line up with the current mayors of each county, and those administrators that are responsible for signing. But--because we don't sign off until we're satisfied that those signatures are adequate and accurate. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, Ms. Lallo, do you have anything to add to that?

MS. LALLO: Thank you for that. No. We have asked for a clean copy the last time Council had conversation about this, as Member Rawlins-Fernandez was alluding to earlier. So, we are just awaiting that from Director Tokioka's staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And regarding the budget questions, did you have Ms. Milner there? Ms. Lallo, was Ms. Milner with you? Oh, there she is.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. For the budget, I...I think any funds for this are included in the line items that you all approved in the Budget for Fiscal Year '26 for MEO for film promotion. I--Mr. Kohne can speak more specifically to it, but I know he's already mentioned travel to conferences to help promote not just Maui, but all the counties as a destination for film. And if there are other costs, that he's going to use those funds for...that are related to this agreement related to marketing or other things that are mentioned, I...I would defer to him on the specifics. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much for joining the meeting. And so, I will then ask Mr. Krueger about the April 4th meeting.

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, thank you, Chair. Yes. So, right, yeah, the Council did meet on this item on April 4th, right? Our...our understanding is that the two issues that did come up was regarding the...the duplication of pages, as well as the financial component that triggered the...that triggers the need for the Council to approve this agreement. So, those topics might have been covered already, but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MR. KRUEGER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Krueger. All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you can begin your three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for my round. Again, these are questions and answers that should have done before the meeting started to prepare so that we could go through this meeting smoothly, like we did in WAI Committee. I know Member Cook puts a lot of time and effort into researching and preparing for Committee meetings, and that's what I would hope that all my colleagues would do, so that they, you know, wouldn't prance around with a title they didn't earn, and not do the bare minimum of work. So, my question is for Ms. Desjardins. First Deputy Corp. Counsel Desjardins, if we remove those pages in Committee instead of sending them...sending the bill as is to full Council for first reading, you know, to avoid having information on it, like Mitch Roth being the Mayor of Hawai'i County, I think sending that with the recommendation for passage on first reading looks like we at the Committee didn't, you know, pay attention to those details, and just overlooked it. And my concern is that if something that obvious is overlooked, others may wonder, what else did we overlook? And are there any other concerns in this document that you would like to share with the Committee so that we know now, and the public knows that we know, and that we're doing our due diligence in recommending passage on first reading?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Desjardins.

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I have reviewed the document. I don't have any concerns. And I will point out as well that on page 3 of the document, underlined, it says that each party may terminate its participation in this agreement by 30 days' written notice to all parties. So, in the event that there is something about this agreement that turns out to not be what is represented today, we do have an option to remove ourselves pretty quickly from this agreement. As far as the signature pages go, my preference is, is that these documents not be signed at all until after Council approves. In this case, because it's taken so long...as you can see, there are several players that are no longer...for example, Mayor Roth, Luana Mahi, are no longer the folks who would be signing this. I don't really have a position as to whether or not if you removed it. I would prefer that it just remain as is, with this discussion having been on the record. I think it is extremely clear...and I want to be really clear that our department would not sign this agreement unless we were satisfied that the proper people had signed off from all the jurisdictions that are part of this...part of this agreement. Because the--we sign off so that the Mayor can then sign off so he is satisfied that we've . . .(timer sounds). . . looked at it legally, and that it's adequate. But I'll...I'll leave that up to you folks to decide whether you want to formally remove the signature pages or not. So long as the meat of the agreement remains the same, I don't think it really matters. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Desjardins.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I really appreciated the presentation, and the clarification of how the film industry in Hawai'i has somewhat deteriorated over the last couple of years. I'm very supportive of this effort. I think that the County and the State's hui-ing [sic] together, collaborating together on this, is an intelligent thing to do...and also, hopefully, on other issues of development and other aspects, the State and the County can work closely together. And so, I'm supportive of this. I have no problem with it. I have confidence in Corporation Counsel, and that the issues that have been raised will be...are rectifiable, and not insurmountable at this time. Since there has been such a transition in the departments, which caused a lot of confusion, I think that us approving this today, and enabling the Administration to resolve and refine the issues, is the way forward. So, thank you for having this, and I'm supportive.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, everybody, for their time and participation. My questions are related to the marketing plan and the strategic roadmap. So, is DBEDT--I don't know who can answer that--is DBEDT going to do that in collaboration with CID? Are the people signing the document--or who's going to, on our behalf, help produce a strategic roadmap for this, and workforce development plan? And the marketing plan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member [sic] Lallo?

MS. LALLO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Lallo.

MS. LALLO: Thank you for that question. This will be done in collaboration with other County programs, but Mr. Kohne will be the lead on this.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then when it's done, or during the process of completing it, are we going to have an opportunity to hear about the various plans and roadmaps?

MS. LALLO: I would certainly think that would be completely appropriate. I'm sure Brian would be happy to share.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, great. And considering that this MOU has taken a year...or almost a year, when do we assume that all of these plans will be done?

MS. LALLO: That's a great question. Let me ask Brian to answer that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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MR. KOHNE: Hello, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hi.

MR. KOHNE: In terms of done, I mean, a lot of the planning is ongoing, but everything is very dynamic. And as I referenced earlier, this...this recent Legislative session has...we...we literally met afterwards, and it was a funeral.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. KOHNE: So, we're all still picking up the pieces and...and in an active state of conversation--not just the five offices, but the stakeholders. So...so, there's just a lot more going on. In terms of what the next steps are, I already illustrated those, so I won't be exhaustive, but we do have four events that we would hui on between now and the end of the year, beginning in...in...in Cincinnati...no, I got them confused. Yes, Cincinnati in September, Los Angeles in August --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. So, is the --

MR. KOHNE: -- Los Angeles in November, and London in December.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- roadmap and strategic plan going to attending conferences, or what...what is this roadmap going to entail?

MR. KOHNE: You know, this is...this is such a broad and expansive question, it's really hard for me to...to provide a succinct answer, other than I...I think everybody can agree that if the basic premises are industry straight...statewide is in a bad way, Maui's been in a worse way for our own reasons, and so we need to get out there. And so, in terms of a strategic marketing plan of how we're . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . going to be looking outside of the state to generate production activity, you know, that's something that...that is dynamic, and we're constantly planning, but it's not that complicated. We either go, and we exhibit, and we network. There's a lot more to it, frankly, and...and with the death of our industry, which is--I'm...that sounds extreme, but that's how a lot of us discuss this now--we all are also planning on what we referred to as an apology tour, where we're literally...industry people are going to have to blow through Hollywood and meet with studio heads --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. KOHNE: -- confessing to Hawai'i's sins --

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

MR. KOHNE: -- and allowing this to die. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I would appreciate an --

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MR. KOHNE: -- this is a...this is a big --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- answer on what --

MR. KOHNE: -- this is a big question.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- strategic means, or else it's not very strategic...then it's a dynamic plan, and it's a marketing plan, and it's an apology tour plan, but then it's not really strategic. I would appreciate a specific answer on that. You're welcome to email the Committee. I'm happy to support this --

MR. KOHNE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- but a strategic plan that doesn't have a strategic plan isn't really one. But I do support this so long as I could have concrete answers, and I hope we would get some concrete answers before we approve this in Council. But I appreciate your time. And I'll be supporting this today, but I would like a little bit more specific answers. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We can send that to them in writing. Thank you. Very good. Member Sinenci, then we'll go to Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, for my opportunity, and I'm following-up on Member U'u-Hodgins' line of questionings. I understand that the strategic plan is mainly about promotion. For...for a representative that comes from a rural East Maui town that...that welcomes our visitors, for us, our main concern is safety, not just for our visitors, but also for our residents. And so, if the industry--and...and that said, our...our priority number one is education. We don't need to be using our emergency services to...you know, to be saving people that fall off the cliff, or go outside of where they're allowed to go. For us in East Maui, there's a lot of those places for that...for visitors to get hurt. And when they do, they take up a lot of our emergency services, which is already limited in a rural community. So, I'm hoping...I can be supportive, but it...the...the education piece is a priority for...for our rural communities, like East Maui. So, those are my...my comments. And I'm hoping that part of that strategic plan is about safety, you know, not just for visitors, but also our residents. And not so much quantity, but a quality of life that we want...we want to see in...in...in all of our communities. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well said. Thank you. Member Paltin? Three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I'm sorry I missed the presentation. From what Member Cook said, it was very informative, so if I ask any questions that were covered in the presentation, please forgive me and answer them anyway. . . .(laughing). . . So, I was wondering...you know, I love all the counties of Hawai'i, but Maui--each one is unique, and each one has like, you know, their strategic focuses, and things like that. And what...what assurances, or what kind of efforts will be made that we're not telling

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other people's stories, or the story that they think represents us, and that we're allowed to tell our own stories also? Or primarily. Because, you know, there was that whole *Temptation Island* thing in the past.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that a Mr. Kohne question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Whoever is available, or qualified, or feels like they can answer it.

MR. KOHNE: You know, I'm not...I'm not completely clear on the question, other than I think everything that our office has been developing for a year, year-and-a-half, speaks to what Councilmember Sinenci was emphasizing--the need for education and growing from the ground up. So...so...so, I...I believe, Councilmember Paltin, that...that your objectives, and your interests, are very well-represented by what we're attempting to do, and how we're attempting to do it. I would--in terms of...of a production like *Temptation Island*, I would just remind everybody that when those types of opportunities arrive, it places our--us in a different...a difficult position, where it represents a whole lot of money that flows into our community and puts a lot of people to work, but at what expense? And...and so, I...I don't know that we can have a one-size-fits-all policy. I haven't, on my watch, had to work with those individuals yet, but that day will soon come. And...and how I'm going to try to get ahead of things like safety, but more important, how...how our industry can integrate into the community, and not be disruptive as it has at times in the past, you know, is something that...that I'm going to have to take on when...when the project itself arrives. We can't...we can't --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess --

MR. KOHNE: Yeah, we can't invent possibilities. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the...the main question is, like how--what are the...the limitations, or the restrictions of this memorandum of agreement? If...if there are projects that we're not very enthusiastic about, but it opens doors for our local storytellers and things like that, how...how involved in those decisions will this body be? How involved in those decisions will the community at large be? . . .(timer sounds). . . How involved will the people in the industry locally be?

MR. KOHNE: You know, I...I don't...I believe that parts of what you're referring to probably go far beyond the scope of what this bill is--intends to do, and perhaps Corp. Counsel can speak to that, or...or Ms. Lallo. But really, this is a very simple thing. In my view, it simply allows Creative Industries, State Film Office, and the...the rest of us to share expenses efficiently and not have all of this red tape, let alone it allows Creative Industries division to use their own resources to even gather us, which has been...been difficult in the past. So...so, I...I really don't believe that this bill really has any direct impact necessarily to the types of stories that are to be told.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. My...my time is up.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Does anybody else have any more questions? Okay. Seeing none. So, Members, I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 47 (2025), entitled, "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF HAWAI'I, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, AND THE COUNTIES OF HAWAI'I, FOR THE HAWAI'I CREATIVE ECONOMY COLLABORATIVE," incorporating any nonsubstantive revisions.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion made by Member Cook, second by Member Kama. Any more discussion? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I would like to amend...I have two motions. First, I would like to remove pages 5, 5, 6, 6, 6 from the document.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made...motion made by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, second by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Discussion. Oh, there's Chair Lee also. Discussion, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have discussion. Okay. Mahalo. So, as discussed in our questions, I asked First Deputy Corp. Counsel Desjardins about removing these. I...I believe she said her preference is to leave it in, but I...but it's up to us ultimately. My preference would be to remove it. I...I...in the Committee report, I can request that our Staff include the signatures of folks as a note, but because we can't get those corrected, I would prefer that it not look like we don't know what we're doing. So, that is my reason for removing those pages, and then I'll follow up with a correction of the Mayor's name in my next motion. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair--oh, Member...I'm sorry. Mimi Desjardins.

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Chair. Just...just for clarity, on page 5, the--if...if it could be clear, just the signatures on page 5 rather than the whole page because there's just one more contact left, and then --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The Kaua'i one?

MS. DESJARDINS: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. DESJARDINS: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you. Friendly amendment to my own motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I...I was just wondering, is Member Rawlins-Fernandez going to take that into her motion or...or not?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's a friendly amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What was requested? Yes. That--I...I said friendly amendment. So, we'll keep the--on page 5, the first page 5, the contact on behalf of Kaua'i. If that is still a good contact, then we can keep that. And then after "in witness whereof," remove those. Those are all the signatures. And I'm sure that it's...it would be easy enough to replace the "E, period," the contact on behalf of County of Kaua'i because all of that is just typed, so we can--and then the rest can be blank.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mimi Desjardins, is that correct? You're fine with that?

MS. DESJARDINS: Yeah, that's fine. And then I also want to give another assurance to the--the actual language in the bill itself, under Section 2, says that you are authorizing the Mayor or the Mayor's authorized representative to execute the memorandum agreement and any amendments consistent with the purpose and scope. So, again, an amendment would be to correct the...the signature pages. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, that is correct from your amendment, Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Okay, so ready to vote?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What Member...what Ms. Desjardins said?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. That's correct. Okay. Members, you...yes, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, I know it's the first page 5 that we're going to be removing, but . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . is it the...and the second page 6, I'm assuming we're removing, but is it the first page 6 or the third page 6 that we're keeping? One says Mayor Bissen, and one says Kristina Toshikiyo, and everybody else's name is the same. Which one are we keeping?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If there isn't--ah, MEMA robocall--if there isn't a concern, I'd like to just delete them all since it's not part of the substance, and they will be replaced with signatures anyway, then, you know...so, if there --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- isn't any concern about just like removing them, I would just like to remove them.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, the two page 5s and the three page 6s, gone?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, except for the County of Kaua'i section at the top of the first page 5.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Para...like E, paragraph E or whatever?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Section E.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sounds great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, ready to vote?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, roll call? Okay. Roll call, please. This is on the amendment on the...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair? Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez' amendment. Yes?

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, sorry. Apologies. Proceeding with a roll call vote on the amendment.
Council Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Gabe Johnson. *(pause)*

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No.

MR. KRUEGER: And Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, that is seven "ayes," two "noes." Motion carries.

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

NOES: Vice-Chair Kama and Councilmember Cook.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: AMEND BILL 47 (2025).

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, you have another amendment, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I move to amend on page 4, Section C, the name of Mitch Roth to Mayor Kimo Alameda. And I...I'm looking at the website, and it looks like the number is 961-8211. And that's different than what they have here, but that might be his direct line. And then I can't find his email address right now, so to just delete the email address section.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, second by Member Sinenci. And we had discussion from Member first, and then we have--Mimi Desjardins has a comment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Again, as Ms. Desjardins said, this bill is just to authorize Mayor Bissen to enter into this intergovernmental agreement. This amendment does not change the substance of it, but it does correct the...the sitting Mayor of the County of Kau...of...of Hawai'i. And that would be my preference, to have things that are obviously wrong corrected, and then hopefully we will have the correct information at first reading that we can put in there, and any other corrections that were mentioned in this meeting today to have at first reading. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Corp. Counsel.

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Chair. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez, I think you also meant to put Richard T. Bissen, Jr. I think you mentioned that earlier. So, if you could just add that. And then we'll make sure that these contacts are still accurate, the other two that I...I think are not as easily apparent, before first reading. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Friendly amendment.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Miss...Ms. Desjardins, no, on page 4, it does have Mayor Bissen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But not Junior.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: On page 5, it has Luana Mahi --

MS. DESJARDINS: No, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and not --

MS. DESJARDINS: It says Richard T. Bissen.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh.

MS. DESJARDINS: It should just say Richard T. Bissen, comma, Jr. It...it needs to --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Junior?

MS. DESJARDINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

MS. DESJARDINS: I...I thought you --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Friendly amendment.

MS. DESJARDINS: -- mentioned that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Junior, yeah.

MS. DESJARDINS: That's why I saw it. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Adding the Junior.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any questions? Ready to vote for this amendment? Go ahead.
Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Roll...roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Roll call. All right. Roll call, please.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, proceeding with a roll call vote on the amendment.
Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

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MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No.

MR. KRUEGER: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, that is seven "ayes," two "noes." Motion carries.

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

NOES: Vice-Chair Kama and Councilmember Cook.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: AMEND BILL 47 (2025).

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And again, those amendments do not change the actual action which...which we are taking, which is to authorize Mayor Bissen to enter into this intergovernmental agreement. It just makes simple corrections that are obviously wrong, and I don't understand the two noes without any explanation in this meeting, and it just feels a little personal, really. And I don't understand that, and no explanation is given. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Members can vote the way they want. Any other amendments?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know. I know the public would appreciate some explanation though --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and so would the colleagues.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: When we vote on the main motion, we will have the opportunity to have a discussion --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- correct?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Okay. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Now is the time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, Members, any...any more amendments? Seeing none. Main motion as amended. Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I welcome the opportunity to clarify my two...my no...my one no vote. I think that it has been...I understand the intent, to make sure that the Council looks like it's doing it's homework. I voted no because I also think that spending the last 30 minutes in an extremely contentious meeting over...discussion over things that have been described by the Administration as being managed and handleable, and that the very framework of this particular bill having a history of transition and personnel, and that the...the Corp. Counsel and people repeatedly saying that these issues will be corrected, that it was not necessary for us to spend this time on the floor. Don't mean it to be personal. It kind of was getting personal all the way around. I'm really looking forward to our continued collaboration as a Member of nine, but that's an explanation. So, it is...it isn't to be overly personal, but it is to clarify to the people that I have faith in the Administration to address, and the Staff to address these types of issues and unnecessary to vote on them individually. That's my explanation, and I'm ready to vote on the main motion as amended.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Cook. All right. Members, ready to vote? Oh, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, while I don't agree with a lot that has been said this morning, I do like Bill 47, I support that. I don't agree with Member Rawlins-Fernandez that this has been a waste of time because that is her personal perspective, and so shall it be. But we were told early on that we know that there's some hiccups in this...in the signature pages, and that it would be corrected, but we wasted a whole lot of time just trying to kowtow to Member Rawlins-Fernandez and her micromanaging of another committee. And I don't want to waste my time doing that. We take a vote, I vote the way I feel, whether people like it or not. That's up to them. But I don't think I have to justify everything I say and do because we all heard the same thing early on in this meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And if you want to be bullied, go right ahead...but I'm not, and that's my vote. And it may or may not be personal, but when you attack a Councilmember on the floor, it's a violation of decorum. We tell people to act right, and if we ourselves can't act right, how do you expect our people who come to these Chambers to testify to act appropriately? So, let's not talk out of two sides of our mouth. Let's be who we are, and let's expect decorum from each other, and civility, and let's not be who we are not. If we want to talk about being aloha, then let's have aloha, and it starts right here in our home, in our Chambers.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Kama. I see Member Rawlins-Fernandez's hand.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Cook, mahalo, Member Kama, for your explanations. I know you don't owe me an explanation, but as representatives of the community, I would hope that we would explain our votes to the public. Because we...we aren't here for ourselves, we are here representing other people, and we believe in transparency. I think the...the word bully has been overused. Micromanaging is...that's not what I'm doing. Someone needs to manage, and I would expect a higher standard of performance, especially if we're going to start getting paid \$100,000...\$101,000, and we want to continue to represent the people of this county, then we need to do our work. Prepare for meetings, and come to the Committee with the...with the information that is anticipated, and then we don't have to waste time. I know we all appreciate when our colleagues actually do the work to prepare for a meeting, and then the meeting runs smoothly. And it is a waste of time when we're repeating the same questions that were asked in the previous meeting. And so, if everyone can just hold themselves, the Chair included, to a higher standard, and actually do their work, then we wouldn't need to discuss about people doing their work, being prepared. As Member Paltin said in budget session, learn your craft. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other comments? I'm going to call for the vote. Okay. Main motion as amended. I guess it's not a roll call vote, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Roll call? Okay. Roll call.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MR. KRUEGER: Councilmember Tom Cook.

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RECESS: 10:31 a.m.
RECONVENE: 10:39 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . *(Audio begins mid-sentence)* ...39. Welcome back to the BFED Committee.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time, Members, the next item on the agenda, which is Bill 116, we found, through our research, that there are some problems with the bill, but I want--I'm going to defer this, but I wanted to find out from the Members if anybody else has any more comments. If not, that's the action we're going to...I'm going to recommend. And I wonder if Mr. Hanano would like to explain?

MR. HANANO: Yes, Chair. Thank you. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh, one sec. We got to do testimony first. Yeah. Okay. Go ahead. Are there any...oh.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 17 . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Here we have Mr. Law.

MR. KRUEGER: Oh. Yes, Chair. There's a per...individual approaching the podium. Followed by them will be the Royal House of Hawai'i.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. LAW: Luna Ho'omalua Sugimura, the Royal House of Hawai'i can go first. Thank you.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we'll...we'll call the Royal House of Hawai'i to testify at this time.
(pause) To the individual signed in under the name --

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAI'I: Al...

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, perfect. Yes, it's your --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We hear you.

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MR. KRUEGER: -- time to testify.

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAI'I: Oh, okay. Aloha. Sorry, just had to unmute just now. But Honorable Members of the Senate [sic] Committee, I stand you before...I stand before you today to assert that any attempts to pass bills, permits, or titles related to land in Hawai'i, because all of Hawai'i is allodial-titled royal-patented, are fundamentally flawed and politically...potentially illegal. The reason is simple. All land in Hawai'i is held under allodial title, patented by the Royal Government of Hawai'i, and this title lasts forever. As such...as such, any efforts to create new land trusts or schemes that contradict the existing royal-patented allodial titles would be a crime on an international level. This is because these titles are rooted in...in the Constitution of Kamehameha III and the laws of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, which supersede any subsequent attempts to alter or undermine them. It's perplexing to hear testimonies about waiting to create land trust for regular people, and in fact, the land is already held in perpetuity under the royal-patented allodial titles for specific families. These titles, established during the Māhele, provide a clear framework for governance and decision-making regarding the land. Given the historical context and the existing legal framework...framework, it's evident that the Native Hawaiian people, with their royal-patented allodial titles, would be best suited to govern and decide what happens on their ancestral lands. After all, they have lived through the challenges and effects of land management, and would likely prioritize sustainable and community-driven solutions, avoiding massive evictions. I urge the Senate [sic] Committee to respect the existing legal framework, and recognize the rights of Native Hawaiians to their lands as established by the royal-patented allodial titles. Any attempts to undermine these rights would be a continuation of the injustices that the...that have plagued our island since 1893, and before. Follow Kamehameha III's laws, and contact the descendants of the royal patents as needed. Mahalo for your attention to this critical matter.

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

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's...the next person signed up to testify is Jasee Law.

MR. LAW: Aloha kākou. 'O wau Jasee Law. Aloha, ka 'Aha o ke Kalana o nā limahana. He ali'i ka 'āina he kauā ke kanaka. The land is chief, man is the servant. This is Bill 116. They cut my...the...the word property again. There is no word for property in 'Ōlelo Hawaiian, so the Internet says. And thank you for the previous testifier. Hail Queen Lili'uokalani. Aloha Pō'alua.

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

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no other individuals signed up to testify on this item, so we'll do a last call. If there is anyone else who would like to testify on Bill 116, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a brief countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. With your permission, I'd like to close public testimony on Bill 116, and receive any written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 17 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So, Members, where I left off...I guess if...Mr. Hanano, would you like to explain the...the situation we're in?

MR. HANANO: Yes. Thank you, Chair. So, in preparation for today's meeting, we did take a look at Bill 116, CD1, I think, is the version as...as presented, and we did discover that after the bill was submitted--because I think this was submitted back in 2024--but after the bill was submitted, there was an amendment that was passed affecting the same section, so it's not reflected in this bill. We also had some questions as far as what the intent and the purpose of the bill is, as well as how the bill, you know, will be applied to situations. So, we would, you know, like to work with Corporation Counsel to draft another version of...of the bill to reflect the intent and the purpose of it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. And any Members have any questions to add to this? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess my question for OCS and Corp. Counsel is, do you realize that there's people waiting to get into this Nāle...Nā Hale Kūpuna housing? And many of our kūpuna just want to die in Lāhainā. They don't have that much longer. I mean, just the last Council meeting, we learned a couple days ahead that Auntie Patty Nishiyama passed away, Uncle Joe Sadang passed away. I mean, the list goes on and on. We bought these units how long ago for the purpose of the kūpuna, and we just want to get them in those homes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mr. Hanano, you have any comments?

MR. HANANO: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Yes. We recognize that, Councilmember Paltin, and we will, you know, expedite, you know, this process as...as fast as we can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is...is there a possibility to pass this out, and have a CD...a FD1 version?

MR. HANANO: That would be basically up to the body to...to decide, you know, if they want to do that. We do have some questions about, you know, the bill as presented, but, you know, ultimately, it's up to the body to...to decide that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because if the last time we talked about it was last year, and this is the middle of June, that's how long our people been waiting to come back to Lāhainā,

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to get into their own place, to go on with their life. That's how long their lives have been hold. Plus, since August 2023, and...it's...it's a lot of stress, you know, not having a permanent place to live, especially for the kūpuna. We've had people be moved around, be unfamiliar with their surroundings, break their hips, like plenty stories of that I'm hearing. So, I would have think that six months would have been time, but apparently not.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Paltin and Mr. Hanano, we have...in the audience we have Jolie Jenkins, who is the CDBG Coordinator [sic]. And...clarification, Mr. Hanano. Is...could I ask Jolie to come down...Jenkins to come down? So, this bill does not prevent anyone from renting any home that's available today, right? The intent of the bill is not to stop that...just for clarification.

MR. HANANO: Right. As far as I understand, it's not...it's not...like as...as it current...as the law currently stands, it does not prevent anyone from moving forward as far as, you know, moving into the housing. I think it...what the bill is trying to do as far as, you know, the way I understand it, is exempt the process for grant...approving grants from, you know, certain situations, which would be, you know, the...I guess the project that Councilmember Paltin is...is talking about.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the individual that we're on communication with, this isn't going to stop that individual from moving into a unit?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Jenkins, please identify yourself. Sorry. Thanks for joining us.

MS. JENKINS: Hi. Good morning, Council Chair, Councilmembers. My name's Jolie Jenkins, CDBG Program Manager. That is correct. This bill wouldn't affect the anticipated move-in date for that last tenant in Maui Lani Terrace F102. It's an amendment to a property management contract that is stalling that tenant from moving in. But we...it should be passed to Finance today, so it should...it's almost there. This bill was originally created before the move-in of any tenants, just because we'd have to get each lease approved. Moving forward, we still would like to see this bill passed, as we would have to--when the one-year lease is up, we would have to come back and get it approved as well, and it's just trying to make sure we're all using our time wisely. And we don't want to overburden the agenda with something you are all very familiar with, especially if it's to renew a lease with the same tenant. As I said before, we only have one unit left that is without a tenant, but it's...we have an anticipated move-in date of August 1st, and that should be okay, and planned going to Council for that last approval. But I think it should be considered since we have to come again for each renewed lease...in addition to just keeping the privacy of those tenants, as they are all low mod, and also displaced by the wildfire.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. If it...if it doesn't prevent or delay that last individual, then I'm okay with deferring it.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Mimi Desjardins?

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Chair. So, we anticipated that you would have a discussion on this bill today. Our office has signed off on it as to form and legality. It is true that the bill got amended in between...you folks have already discussed this bill, so it's been amended in between. Those amendments, in my opinion, could be made. If you wanted to take the bill up today, they could be made before first reading, just substitute in the new version. I totally understand, Mr. Hanano has some concerns. However, I do want you to know, our department does believe that as written, it is legal and...and clear. But we don't mind working with OCS if he has an idea that he thinks might be clearer...but just to be very clear, we think the bill is fine the way that it is. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much for that clarification, Ms. Jenkins, because of Member Paltin's concern for that tenant that's ready to move in. So, this would not impact that tenant...potential tenant.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That...that's my only concern. How the rest of the body decides on this, I don't...I don't have a concern.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, whatever you guys want to do is fine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That...that was my only concern.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, by passing a bill like this then, what this would do is that when it comes up for renewal, this body does not have to approve every single lease coming forward, correct? That's what you said in your test...okay. All right, Members. So, with your permission, I would like to defer this so that our OCS attorney and Corp. Counsel can work on this, and be sure that the concerns that were found and expressed will get repair...not repaired, but fixed, or amended...and then we'll bring this bill back, right? So, this is not stopping --

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

ACTION: DEFER.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. All right. I'm going to defer this. And thank you--I see Mr. Remi, but--Director Mitchell in the audience. Thanks for sitting with us. As well as Ms. Jenkins, thank you very much, and we'll be seeing you again. Thank you. I'm going to defer this. Thank you.

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ITEM 20(5): FEDERAL DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT FUNDING

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, the last item that we have on the agenda, which is a Rule 7(B) regarding the Federal Disaster Recovery Grant funding. So, this is important to all of us. I see Managing Director in the audience. I see--oh...oh, John Smith is here. Thank you. And Patience, would you like to join us here on the floor? So, this is a big accomplishment for all of you because this...HUD approved the action plan for the CDBG actions forward for--as it would affect West Maui, and the County of Maui. So, at this time, we will have to ask...ask the Managing Director if you'd to take over, and present to us the action plan, and--so that we can have discussion today. I'm going to defer this item, no action, but I really am grateful that you have taken it this far because it was a lot of work. So, we did hear it in this Committee before the action plan was approved, but please do explain to us where we are, and implementation, and...and how we're going to proceed.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members, for allowing us to be here today. I really appreciate to get the opportunity. As the BFED Chair mentioned, we, you know, did recently get approval from HUD on the action plan, which is not just great for us, it's actually great for the community because that's who this money is going to benefit. And it's truly due to the...testament to a lot of hard work by our community members, who are providing input, and direction, and feedback to our staff, or, you know, spending the long hours preparing that. We had, you know, consultant assistance and others. And then, of course, to our elected officials, which includes this body, for all of your help and support along the way, including providing us--which I...I think, at least from...from what I know, is somewhat unheard of, is the legislative body helping to provide funding upfront to get us ahead of the process so that we can be to where we are today so quick. So, we really appreciate your guys' support in that, and trusting us with those resources to be able to help our community. I...I think I'll just very briefly kind of update on some of the other Federal funding things we have going on, and then we'll talk a little bit more about the DR piece. Our team has been in discussions. You know, we've come to the...the body before regarding the EPA money that the Congress allocated, and so we're still in discussions with EPA and the Department of Health regarding allocations from that fund and, you know, we'll...we'll be glad to come back in future meetings to provide the fruits of those discussions on what ultimately, you know, will be able to be committed to the County of Maui. You know, we're still working through the public assistance process for reimbursement of expenditures already incurred, as well as future project costs. Our estimates for total eligible damage costs still are around the 200 million mark. We have about 35 million obligated to date, the Federal share of that being about 31.4 million, and our local cost-share being about 3-1/2 million. And then the other major funding source, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. We are continuing to work with the...the State. We were notified of one of our projects being selected as a priority project, which was basically an emergency generator project, but we continue to push forward additional projects for their consideration, as well as to be listed as alternates in case any of the other prioritized projects through the State fall through...then we'll be in a position to be able to be ready, and stand in, and accept those funds if we're awarded that. And then to the CDBG-DR program, the final action plan, you know, as we mentioned, was approved by HUD. We did receive the

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grant agreement recently, and we're going through that now, and the...kind of one of the final steps to be able to start securing the money will be executing that grant agreement. So, we're in the process of going through all that right now, and hope to get through that shortly. The total allocation for the CDBG-DR program was 1.639 billion, approximately. The final action plan includes over 903 million dedicated to housing, 25 million to public services, 400 million to infrastructure, 15 million to economic revitalization, 213...a little over 213 million for mitigation set-aside, and then about \$82 million for the administrative costs. We're...we're looking forward--we recently selected a consultant crew, who will be coming on board to assist us, and as soon as we get some of those things finalized in terms of cont...contractual details and whatnot, I'm sure we'll be back to the...the Council so you can meet the team, and then understand kind of some of the next steps ahead in terms of that. As far as an overview, I don't know--John or Patience, is there anything else you think we need to add before kind of diving into questions?

MR. SMITH: Thanks, Josiah. No, I think...I think you gave a good overview of the funding. We're here to answer questions if you have any in terms of how all of those funding sources sort of work together, and then how reimbursements will work as we move forward with this program. We are excited to get started with the...we've been talking about it for over a year now. Once that grant agreement is executed, then we can officially-officially start, but everything is looking really good in terms of executing that agreement, so we're excited about that. Just met with some HUD representatives last week, and they are also excited for us to get started with this work. So, we know it's a long time coming. This is the long-term recovery. This is where it's...it gets really hard in terms of how we spend the money, and how we work to rebuild our town, but we're excited to do it. So, I'm happy to answer any questions in terms of the action plan, the funding, et cetera. So, we're...we're here. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Ms. Kahula, do you want to say anything?

MS. KAHULA: I'll wait for questions to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you'll wait for questions?

MS. KAHULA: Oh, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, at this time then, is there any public testimony?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 20(5) . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we currently do not have any individuals signed up to testify on this item. We will do a last call at this time. Oh, Chair, there is an individual who is raising their hand --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MR. KRUEGER: -- on Teams. It's the individual logged in as The Royal House of Hawai'i.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAI'I: Aloha. As a Native Hawaiian and a royal patent heir of Hewahewa Helu 2327, Apana 2, where the new roundabout in Kihei is, and where the new Hilton is in Kihei, there wasn't any discussion with any of the descendants or the heirs of Hewahewa on the undivided family lifetime estate on the entire ahupua'a of Kaonoulu. With all the decisions being passed, are any of the descendants of that royal patent being contacted, and...because I'm pretty sure, by law, isn't everybody supposed to be doing due diligence to find the descendants of the royal patents? And also, all Hawai'i is all allodial-titled royal-patented, so all the...all those people that got gifted the lands in the Māhele, and all the descendants are the ones who are supposed to be governing and deciding what happens on their lands. And if any of these funds--and how are any of these funds, projects, anything, donations, et cetera...what is that called? Yeah. How are these funds and everything like that benefiting any of the descendants of the royal patents? Is it benefiting the descendants of the royal patents, or is it just...or is it supporting the illegal squatter side, you know what I mean? And all the landowners in Hawai'i are illegal landowners, and we'll have to round up all the heirs of the original land commission awards and all of that, and all the beneficiaries of every single ahupua'a. And please follow my papa's Kingdom laws, Papa Kamehameha III, and follow both laws. Mahalo.

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

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there are currently no other individuals signed up to testify on this item. We'll do a last call. If there is anybody who would like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a brief countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, with your permission, I'm going to close public testimony on this item, and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 20(5) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right. Members, so at this time, I'm going to open up questions from the Members, and three minutes each. I'm going to start with Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I guess my concern for this first round is the 900-some odd for the housing, and the 400 million for the infrastructure. And my understanding is you're going off the House Maui sheet. Has it been broken down into how much of it will be for the single-family reconstruction, multifamily rental housing,

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single-family new construction, and...and this list of pan...planned programs, or how...how will those decisions be made? What is the opportunity for community input, and when will we know the path forward on that? Like my understanding of the House Maui breakdown is where we should concentrate our infrastructure needs...and maybe with the former person at the State, we had it...it was arranged in that way, but if...any kind of information you can give on the 900 and the 400 about our path forward with that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Chair. I'll start, and then I'll ask if Josiah and Patience want to add in. As far as the breakdown for the 900--do you have that? Oh. Give me one second. So, each category that you mentioned has a set-aside breakdown within the 900 million...so for single-family, multifamily, and then our...our programs that are related to housing. So, in the action plan, it's detailed within that 900 how much each category gets, and that's a broad stroke at the housing where we tend to focus the dollars. And then within that, we have what...what's been defined in the action plan as...as we know as...as the burn zone, right? So, if a project was within that area that burned down, and we know that there were, for example, 11 multifamily projects that burned down. So, all of those projects, just by default, by the nature of the disaster, are going to have some eligibility for this funding. In terms of duplication of benefits, and how we process that--how much money they get, or are eligible for--that process goes back and forth with us in the application. So, what we'll do is say, okay, how much insurance did you have, how much PA dollars--that's the money from FEMA--how much money did you get for that project, and then how many other sources of funds, maybe from the State or from nonprofits, are you getting? And then there'll be a remainder. The remainder is...is the dollar amount . . .(timer sounds). . . where we look to focus these dollars. We'll...we'll prioritize, of course, those in the disaster first. So, I'll stop there, and see if you have any questions on that response, and if Josiah or Patience want to add to my response.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think my time for asking is up. It's only time for answering right now.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. And then I don't know if Patience got it up there, but I pulled it online. The Single-Family Homeowner Reconstruction Program allocation amount, about 298 million--sorry, I got to scroll through while we're talking here--Multifamily Rental Housing Reconstruction, about 235 million; Multifamily Rental Housing New Construction, 185 million; Single-Family New Construction, 92.5 million; first...oh, okay. And then...well, then we talk about the first-time homebuyer opportunity as a part of that with...included in that program. Yeah. And then that's...that makes up the 900 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I can tell we need to extend this to five minutes, yeah? Three is too short, right? Okay. Two more minutes, Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I did want to focus in on the single-family home reconstruction, the 298 million. It feels a little bit like our pilot program in partnership with Hawai'i Community Lending and Lāhainā Community Land Trust is doing just that. Are there other ideas of how to go forward with that 290...298 million, or a successful pilot is what you need?

MR. NISHITA: Well, I'll...I'll start, and if they have anything to add. One of the things is, like through the Deferred Payment Loan Program and other programs, they're hitting AMI levels that are above, I guess, the initial eligibility threshold for the CDBG-DR fund. So, they...they are hitting kind of the gap group that won't initially be eligible. And then, you know, once we can meet the need of those in the lower AMI categories, there may be an opportunity to...to go on. But one of the strategies too, of kind of pre-funding some of these programs, is to get them started and stood up so that, you know, if there is funding available in DR to be able to roll into it, we're not standing up new things, there's already infrastructure and capacity in place.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you guys have the data organized in terms of single-family residents that lost their thing, what their AMIs are, so that you know, like this chunk falls within our CDBG-DR monies, this chunk does not? Do you have--like what sort of data on the people that we're trying to help do you have organized already? And like even in multi-families, if individual residents meet the criteria, but not 50 percent of the multi-family meets the criteria, do you have that kind of data on the people...our residents that we're trying to help, like how many people meet the eligibility, and how many do not?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, I mean, ultimately, people are going to have to go through the intake and eligibility process. So, I mean, their situation and whatnot can change over time. I don't have the numbers offhand, but I do know we had estimates regarding, you know, how much individuals or households could be helped and whatnot. I don't know if John has anything to add.

MR. SMITH: Yeah. We have...we have all kinds of data. Sorting through the data is...is the difficult part of it. So, we're working with like...folks like Hawai'i Community Lending, and those that are already processing the data as well. So, we're teaming with them, combining it with our data, looking at eligibility as a whole, and that way, by the time people come in for intake and eligibility, we'll al...already have a very good understanding of...of where they're going to stand in the program. So, we're working through that right now in terms of the data.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I'm going to go to Chair Lee, then Member Kama, and then head back down to Member Sinenci.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, you're in the process of organizing the information. Because...do you have...at this point in time, you know the amount of money you intend to spend for single-family and multifamily. How does that translate to units? How many single-family units, and how many multi-family units?

MR. SMITH: Give me a second, Chair. We...it's in the action plan, but I don't have the numbers off the top of my head. We'll come right back to you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Or you can give me the page number.

MR. SMITH: We're...we're looking.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Then...so, because...because you came up with this breakdown, and you have numbers to match, you must have some basis for identifying those amounts. So, what is that basis?

MR. SMITH: One more second here. We took...we took all the data from the disaster, all of the homes that burned, compared it with ownership versus nonownership. So, we have those numbers where we start. We look at the total cost of what does it actually take to build this kind of house per unit, we add all that up, and then that's the basis for where those numbers per program come from. So, we can --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Can you...okay. I'm sorry, John. I just have limited time. Okay. Give me totals then. How many units?

MR. SMITH: I don't want to say it without...I don't have it on memory, and I'm looking right now. I can...and I can follow-up in writing to you, but I...just give us a second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. SMITH: I wasn't prepared to answer that question off the top of my head.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay. Because it's important to us, especially with regard to housing...because the people in Lāhainā want to go back to Lāhainā. They don't want to go live in Kula, and they don't want to live in Pukalani, they want to live in Lāhainā. So, you must have come up with a number of--4,000, let's say--4,000. And that's what, you know, you'd be shooting for, and that's what we'll be shooting for, right?

MR. SMITH: Yes, exactly. And I'm sorry I don't have the exact numbers on me, but we did take that number, we looked at it. And the particular problem is, we were able to help as many homeowners...actual homeowners within that pot that we could. And that's why we started to get a little bit more creative with how do we help the rental market...because over 75 percent of those actually aren't owners.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum.

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MR. SMITH: So, we're...the whole plan is to increase the...the housing stock within that area so that people actually have a place to go to. We're working with FEMA right now, and the State, on all of those folks that are housed temporarily on a comprehensive plan to permanency from where they are now, in that temporary situation, all the way to when these are actually built out. We know that plan is going to take a few years to implement, but that's...that's what we're working on, and that's the numbers that we're diving into. Which one is that? Single-family...just single-family owners is about 250 units we plan to build within that area.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And multifamily? I mean--okay, wait a minute. You know, we had like 2,000 properties burnt down.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, right. This is just the single-family owners.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. And you...you have to remember, they're going to have to meet HUD eligibility guidelines. So, just because, you know, your property burned down doesn't mean that--like, you could have been a multimillionaire, or whatever the case is, and you're not going to qualify for the HUD CDBG-DR assistance.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, Member Paltin is saying 4,000 --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Units.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- units burnt down.

MR. NISHITA: So, in the Program 2, they...they talked about the single-family reconstruction. The multifamily rental housing reconstruction, I think it's...target number of units, 634; multifamily rental housing new construction, target number of units, 370...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, a little over a thousand?

MR. NISHITA: -- single-family --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

MR. NISHITA: -- new construction --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- target number of homes, 115.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: In the rough area of 1,100 units? So, the...the idea is--do you know, of all the people whose properties burnt down--and we know that only 20 percent live there, 80 percent rented out the units, yeah? So, are they planning to...those who lost their homes, are they planning to continue renting . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . or are they going to live there? Do we have that breakdown?

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MR. SMITH: Well, I don't think we have that breakdown.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. And there is a First-Time Homebuyer Program in the...the action plan which can help transition renters to homeownership. You know, ultimately...I mean, this is what's part of the intake and eligibility process, is to determine each individual and household's circumstances, to determine what program is best for them, or what they may qualify for.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I ask another question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One...one quick question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Quick question. How many people coming back to Lāhainā have jobs? Because, you...you know, you talk about first-time homebuyers, but many of them won't have jobs. So, do you have any idea of the first-time homebuyers number?

MR. NISHITA: Well...Chair. Specifically to first-time homebuyers, I mean, that's going to be determined as a part of the intake and eligibility process, like what program they could qualify for. So, once that intake and eligibility occurs, we'd be able to have the data as to what, you know, income is available to those individuals. Overall, as a County, our employment numbers are fairly low...but specific to each individual, that's really where the case management comes into play with the intake and eligibility.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama, followed by Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, John and...and Josiah. I really do appreciate all the work that you folks have put into this. It's...I think at the time of the fire, it was a monumental task to be able to deal with that, and now I think you...coming down to...to the wire, it's even more so. But thank you. So, my question is, your consultant--have you hired the consultant yet, or do you have a list of consultants, and is it just one consultant?

MR. SMITH: Chair? So, Recovery has a couple different consultants working on...on various plans within the recovery. The CDBG-DR program is in the process of bringing a new consultant that's...specifies in HUD DR funds and how to manage them. So, right now, that consultant is being brought on board. They are not under contract today, but they--we--they will be soon. We're...we're well into that. We put out an RFP, we interviewed all the firms that do this across the...the country, and we picked what we think is the best one to help us with this task. So, they're coming under contract right now. They're actually on Maui this week to finalize that contract.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Can you tell us who they are?

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MR. SMITH: Oh, the name is Horne, H-O-R-N-E. Thank you. Sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And do they have any ties any which way to...to Hawai'i, or Lāhainā?

MR. SMITH: Yes. So, part of the --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I mean --

MR. SMITH: -- requirement of the RFP was that they had to have local presence across the board. So, while they bring the national experience with HUD DR funds, and all the other disaster communities that have had these same funds across the country, which is what we needed, they bring that experience. But we made it --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MR. SMITH: -- mandatory that their subs be local. So, they have several local firms that fall under them to help them with things like engineering, architecture, communications, et cetera. And we...we'll...we'll bring the team. We'll be happy to bring the team --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay.

MR. SMITH: -- and their subs to give a presentation once they're under contract.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay, good. So, before, when you folks were going out and looking at putting the plan together, you had a whole lot of community meetings to inform the public, and to get their input. Do you anticipate having more community meetings similar to what you did before the action plan, and now that the action plan's actually going to be implemented?

MR. SMITH: Yes. I think community meetings have just become a part of recovery...and will be, as far as I can see into the future. Just went to one last night, actually, and Councilmember Paltin was there. But yes. We will continue to engage with the community along the way, both in our standard community...community meetings, and then when we find that there's people that we need to reach out to that we maybe are missing, we'll adjust and pivot to make sure that...especially for the intake and eligibility piece, that we've reached all --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. SMITH: -- of those that can be eligible for this fund. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so, you know, we talk about that a lot, yeah, eligibility, and sometimes people don't fit. And...but is there a way to figure out how to make them fit?

MR. SMITH: Yes. That's a great question. And just like when FEMA was here, now we've got HUD, there's lots and lots of rules that come along with the Federal regulations.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. SMITH: But what we've already worked with them on, and it's reflected in this action plan, is how we can be flexible with this fund --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. SMITH: -- and when it's inflexible, can we go back to the drawing board and ask to change things? HUD's assured us that we can do that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Absolutely.

MR. SMITH: So, we...we're taking our...our best shot at it with this action plan and everything that we've outlined today. We're going to run with this. I'd say probably at least six months of this is going to move forward, and if we run into something that's just simply not working, we'll pivot, we'll go back to HUD, we'll come back to you folks and say, this is the one thing that's not working and that we'll need to change. I don't want to predetermine that because we think we have --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MR. SMITH: -- a good plan, but we do have that --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. SMITH: -- flexibility in the plan.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, good. So, what...what is your anticipated completion of the implementation of the plan?

MR. SMITH: Well, the...the grant itself . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . has a six-year term. So --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. SMITH: -- that six-year clock starts when we get the action plan approved, so that just started.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. SMITH: And so, we expect the bare minimum to be six years. Most other --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. SMITH: -- programs that have this size of a fund, the...the programs --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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MR. SMITH: -- themselves last 10 to 15 years.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum. Okay. Okay. Okay, I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you so much, John.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Oh.

MR. NISHITA: Chair, and if can just add --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: -- one thing. Just to make sure everybody understands the full context, is that the total unmet need is around \$7 billion, I think, that was identified. So, while the...you know, we're very grateful, and these resources are going to be put to good use and help a lot of people, it's still just a small piece of overall, what the needs are. So, you know, as...as we're kind of going through everything, and all the work that will take place, and a lot of the good programs and whatnot, it...it shouldn't be looked like this is the end all be all because there's still additional need on top of this. I just wanted to make...make sure that that was clear. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you very much. Okay. Member Sinenci --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- then Member U'u-Hodgins next.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Director, Mr. Smith, and Patience. Thank you for being here. Director, you mentioned first-time homeowners. Was there a number that you quoted for first-time homeowners?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, sorry. I ended up --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Was it 100?

MR. NISHITA: -- closing it out. . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: 100...I know the last one you said was 115?

MR. SMITH: Yeah, that's the right number.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That was the number?

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then...so, my question is, will those first-time homeowners have the option to rent with the option to purchase, kind of like a rent-to-own model?

MR. SMITH: We're developing that program with the consultant that I just mentioned. So, we--how that program is shaped is going to build on the experience that we've already gained from other...other first-time home programs that we've developed in the past in the County. So, we're going to look at what works, and then we're going to adjust those numbers and that pathway so that we can meet that 115 mark.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So, thank you. So, you guys are...are considering that option?

MR. SMITH: We'll consider all options to...to help people become homeowners. We know that that's very important for our community. We...we want to flip the dime...or flip the script, I should say, on homeownership percentage. That's one of our overarching goals is, we don't want a community that is 80 or 90 percent renters, we want it to be owners. So...and that's why that program even exists.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. And then you...you mentioned that you just started the action plan. So, you won't become...come online until--when you anticipate coming online?

MR. SMITH: Well, the...Managing Director mentioned it. It's the grant agreement that we're processing right now that actually allows us to access the funds. So, we have an agreement for the administrative costs, but the large chunk of fund is tied directly to the agreement between the Mayor and HUD. We have the agreement, we're going through it right now with Corporation Counsel, who's sitting right next to me. And assuming that we can legally work through that, we'll sign it, they'll sign it, and then we have access to the funds. We expect that to happen in the next few weeks.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Great. And then my other question was, can...can the CDBG-DR funds be used for...specific to some of the historic designation areas along Front Street, those --

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- those areas?

MR. SMITH: So, our economic revitalization funds, our hazard mitigation funds, and some of the infrastructure funds that are in that area can be used within the Historic District.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Great. All right. Thank you, Chair. I'll yield to my fellow Councilmembers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member U'u-Hodgins, then Member Cook to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I appreciate, Mr. Smith, what you said about rent and homeownership. I assume most people are renting by choice...I mean, by circumstance and not by choice. So, I hope we can use this as a pilot, and figure out how we can implement it countywide. But my questions are regarding the unmet need. Managing Director, you said it was 7 billion. So, where are the primary areas of deficit, and how are we going to make up that delta?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Of course, you know, nobody really likes to talk about it, I think, but, of course, the wildfire settlement will be, you know, a piece of that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum. That's 4, so now --

MR. NISHITA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- we're at 4...5.6.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. You know, ultimately, I think that's why the CDBG-DR funds get prioritized first to like most vulnerable, low-income, those most in need --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- and then we can build out from there, making sure that the individuals with the highest amount of need and most difficult circumstances get the, you...you know, assistance. But it is going to be a combination of continued State assistance, County assistance, and individuals too--private philanthropy, nonprofit organizations--continuing to provide support to the community. And, you know, it...it...the...the makeup of unmet need isn't just, like housing, or a physical building.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. NISHITA: It includes like, you know, mental health support, you know, economic revitalization activities, things like that, that we'll have to continue to be invested into to really bring everything back as it was.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And so, I would assume it'd be difficult to put a cost on the intangible...the intangible things. So, for the tangible things, where do we see the primary deficit in funding? Is it roads, is it infrastructure, is it homes? What...

MR. NISHITA: Well...well, I think...I mean, I'll let John and Patience speak to this too, if...if, you know, they have different thoughts or whatever. I think for me, the number one thing is housing. And, of course, there's a lot of ancillary related things to housing...you

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know, infrastructure, and, you know, ability to utilize natural resources, and things like that for housing. And then beyond that, like you can't have housing if people don't have jobs, and --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- you know, whatnot. So, it...it continues to cascade on. But to me, I mean the number one priority, which is reflected as a part of how we made the allocations, is in housing, and making sure that people have a safe and secure place to...to sleep at night --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- in order so that they can continue to take that next steps.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum. And we have a hierarchy in which we'll be addressing all of these issues? Besides like...like you mentioned mental health. But you need to be mentally healthy to have a job, and then you need to, you know, have a job to have a home...so all of it, I don't disagree, snowballs. We...we have a hierarchy, I'm assuming?

MR. NISHITA: I mean, you can kind of see how we're identifying the priorities based on, you know, funding allocations.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: I...I would say that things just have to be worked on concurrently. I mean --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Agreed.

MR. NISHITA: -- we just don't have...our people don't have the time to, you know, wait for the housing thing to be done to be able to move on to the economic thing, or to move --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- on to the infrastructure thing or whatever. So, I mean, we're going to need to continue to work on programs concurrently. And this is where the coordination and collaboration that--you know, seeing other areas in action, it's truly different what's happening here in regards to like how we're able to work with the nonprofit organizations, and private philanthropy, and whatnot, where we're...have a much more coordinated effort. Although --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- improvement is definitely always needed, and can always --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

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MR. NISHITA: -- be done.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: But seeing what's happening in other jurisdictions and other...other areas, that collaboration, coordination in making sure that resources are being put appropriately, and then hitting--and we're not duplicating things --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- does go a long way.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Mr. Smith, did you have something?

MR. SMITH: Sure. In terms of prioritization, and in terms of just numbers, if you...if you look at our overall allocation, and how we've got it split up on the pie chart or...or in the action plan, and then you look at the unmet need, over 55 percent of what we are spending on DR is just housing.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum. Um-hum.

MR. SMITH: So, in terms of how it's prioritized. And then 25 percent, over 25 percent is just . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . infrastructure, and that's infrastructure to support housing. So, in terms of how we're prioritizing, you can see that in the numbers there too, and that's on page 45 in our action plan.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I just have one more question, and then I'll be pau. The Council approved a RFP for the West Maui Infrastructure and Road Master Plan, which I understand they met with you folks, and now it's on the back burner...or you're going to wait until all the things are done. But tell me the benefits of waiting. Why are we going to wait to figure out what we're going to do for roadways and infrastructure?

MR. SMITH: Well, I would say we're not waiting, and we do find that study useful, but we are moving forward concurrently, like Josiah is saying, with...with all of these things.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. SMITH: Just the way that that particular study works out, it fits more nicely later this year than it does right now with our efforts. So, there's efforts ongoing that are complementary to that effort, in...in particular with roads and infrastructure. One of the biggest things that we've learned about our rules and regs is that when we lose a town like this, catastrophically, and then you look at our rules and our regs, and you say, okay, let's build it back.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

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MR. SMITH: The--it doesn't fit. Like the rules and the regs just don't fit building a Lāhainā. And what we heard from the community is, we want our town back. So, right now, what we're working through is things like the street design standards that we have on the books --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. SMITH: -- in terms of like how do we modify that, and allow the Planning Director and the Public Works Director to say yes to the things that the community wants, but still fit the standard? So, that's the work that we're doing today, and that's some of the workshops that's coming up, actually next week, in Lāhainā. We'll...we'll get that set, and then we're going to come back to that roadmap, but that doesn't mean the roadmap work has stopped...has stopped. Because we also know that things like connectivity in those really tight neighborhoods are really, really important. Public Works is going full force on that today. So, it's all happening concurrently, but painting that picture, that will fit in nicely later next year.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Cook, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, all, for your work. It's really exciting to get to this spot. I can see--I think when we had \$81 million for Administration, and I can...that's...it seemed overwhelming...seemed astronomical at first, but for you to be dealing with the Federal regs, State regs, local county, all of it, navigating everything, multitasking, it's...it sounds appropriate. So, anyway, I have three brief questions. The six year, is that to encumber the funds, or to spend all the funds?

MR. SMITH: Encumber.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, the economic revitalization, and housing, and infrastructure, is it...is like desalinization a potential for Lāhainā? This is broad strokes, simply that we have water is one of the major constraints. And there are many unknown variables--climate, all kind of aspects--so I don't really need an answer on that. I just wanted to kind of throw that out there, whether that is how broad we're thinking, or is that...doesn't come into play with this funding?

MR. SMITH: Well, in terms of infrastructure, and water in particular, I think pretty much everything's on the table because we can't build a housing stock back unless we have the water. And so, we've prioritized water as...if it helps housing, then it's going to be...have some eligibility for this particular disaster. So, I can say that as a broad

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stroke. Now, as far as desalinization, or...or where the specific projects are, we're going to work with Water Supply, and then look a little bit more holistically at water and water uses, such as R-1, and how we can reduce the burden on the water system so that we can build more houses.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks. And that--potentially, economic revitalization and other facets of this funding, besides housing, could come into play. So, okay. Your...your paint can example of the CDBG funds filling the bucket...basically, from my understanding, it's like the funding of last resort. So, is this...it sounds like there will be refunding people who have already built, or already done things. I don't know how to explain this. It's like if somebody gets their house built, and they end up in debt, would they qualify potentially for --

MR. SMITH: Yeah. So --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- funding?

MR. SMITH: -- there is the poss...so, you...you always got to start with eligibility, and what the program was intended for, and the population it's intended to...to meet. So, if an eligible person is able to rebuild a home now, which a few of them are in the process of--they finish their home, and then we start the program. We did open the door in this action plan to be able to give some reimbursement for that project so that they won't be in the level of debt that they're in now. That doesn't mean it's just going to pay for the entire house, but that is part of the program.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I think that touches also upon the fact--it's like the amount of housing planning to build. It's...it's not like all brand-new homes. That money is going to potentially be diverse...spread out around a variety of applications to various owners?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. The...the...the portfolio of housing options, it...it's...it's across the board. So, whether it's single families, ADUs is another one that we're...it's part of the plan. So, if we...maybe you don't qualify to be part of the program to get a house, but you qualify to add an ADU on your lot, to increase that, that's also part of the program.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Awesome. And then how do the rental homes fit into the AMI requirements, insofar as the...it's not going to be the tenants, it's going to be the landowner who's choosing to reconstruct?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. It's the project it...itself. And I think you folks are all familiar with like a 201H project, or any project kind of like that that's...that's meant towards an LMI community, then those are the more eligible projects for us to fund.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, it's an exciting thing. I'm...I'm cheering you on. And I don't have any more questions, and I'm grateful for you coming today. If you have any comments, that's fine.

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MR. NISHITA: Chair, the only...only other thing I want to add is that--and I...I like Chair Lee bringing this up holistically in the sense of like all the Federal funding sources that we're seeking. Because, you know, CDBG-DR is a big chunk of it, but some of the things you talk about--like, you know, desalinization or...or other types of like water source development projects--you...you know, could be eligible, and also . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . part of requests for like EPA funding, for hazard mitigation funding, and...and other sources too. So, when we're looking at, you know, meeting the overall unmet need and stretching the dollars as much as we can, it's like going into programs that are available too, to meet projects so that we can apply these dollars elsewhere. So, there's...there's other opportunities, too. And the only other thing I want to mention is, when you talked about the Administration portion of it. If you think the County just passed about...the Council just passed about a \$1.6 billion budget, which is roughly about the same, we have 3,100 employees roughly administering that 1.6 million. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, if you think about it in that sense, you're getting a steal . . .*(laughing)*. . . for this, and Patience is doing the work of about 675 employees, I guess, under that calculation. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. That's a...that's a good analogy. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Mr. Smith, do you have something else to say before I move on?

MR. SMITH: No, I just wanted to second that with Patience's effort behind the scenes that you've--I know that we talked a lot, but she's a workhorse, and it's awesome to have her on the team. But it's not just her. We're building capacity. So, I think we have about...I think we have ten and we have four more coming just on her team. And then on the Recovery staff side, we have another ten. So, we are building that capacity, bring on these consultants so that we can handle this effort. But that's a really good analogy, just in terms of the budget. And then the only thing I would add is, like you got to remember, we're stretching this out over six to ten years as well. It's not just a one-year thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. Next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Johnson. Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Okay. I'll come back to you. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department, for joining us today. I know you're super busy, and I really appreciate your time with us today. But I'm kind of the last in line, so a lot of my questions were asked and answered, so I appreciate that. I...you know, I look at the...you know, these monies--this is just a statement--but there's so many strings attached to who's eligible, how do you...how do we reach these people? But there's one thing in the plan that really kind of stand apart in my mind, was the resilience set aside. And it sounded kind of vague. It was so unusual for this kind of report because everything is so specific. So, I...I'd to...maybe if you guys can speak about what...what the resilience set aside...set-aside monies can be done? And then that's kind of where I...I . . .*(inaudible)*. . . respond to that, and I...I'll have a second follow-up, probably.

MR. SMITH: I'll start, and then, Josiah or Patience, if you want to jump in. So, at...in every disaster, the...HUD and FEMA too, they...they...and that's why they have these

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resilience or mitigation funds. So, the requirement is basically so that we can come back stronger, and...in...in case another disaster hits. So, the...the mitigation funds is a really broad category. In this turn...in this particular disaster, obviously it's a fire, so we would focus in funds on more resilient building products, such as fire-resistant roofs, or siding, and...and stuff...stuff like that. So, that's an easy one to explain what that money can help with. And we can add that money into like our housing program so that we can build back something better than just a standard house.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. SMITH: That...that's one example.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. SMITH: The other would--I could think of is because it's a coastal community, and there are a lot of hazards at the ocean itself, there's some ways that we could use that fund to increase, say, Open Space to do some work, where we would move utilities away from the ocean...things like that, that are related to mitigation and resilience. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That's...thanks for that clarification. Because like I said, there's...there's a lot when you read these kinds of monies. It's not just, oh, you have 1.6 billion, here you go. No, there's so much restrictions. So, I'm going to kind of give a scenario, and you guys can tell me if this would fit. Any of the Minatoya properties, did they burn down in the fire or have been damaged by the fire, do you guys know of them?

MR. SMITH: Apparently at least one. I don't know off the top of my head, but--Josiah --

MR. NISHITA: Yeah.

MR. SMITH: -- do you know?

MR. NISHITA: Well, I'm --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's all I need, just...just --

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Offhand, I'm only aware of one.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: I'm...I'm not sure if there's others. Well, yeah, not destroyed though, but --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Just for examples' sake. Okay. Just for examples' sake, let's say the...that that particular property got damaged or burned down. Can they...if they were to rent within that AMI that is required by a lot of these funds, can they access that money, or any of these...you know, any...any of these monies? There's so many pots.

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MR. NISHITA: I guess...is your question if the Minatoya property transitioned from TVR usage to like a long-term low-income rental project?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Right.

MR. NISHITA: I...I mean, I...I don't know. I guess...I guess theoretically, I mean, we would have to go through the intake and eligibility process for it. It probably would depend a lot on like ownership, and whatnot as well. The...you know, I think for a lot of the...the multifamily reconstruction efforts, you...you know, we're looking at projects that, you know, would have served a community benefit. I think, you know, definitely want to look at projects that had already served the needs, like pre-fire, and whatnot as well.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. So, let's say the County...you know, we...we were just discussing the...that the County has bought and received some units with CDBG-DR money, or putting people in them. Let's say a Minatoya property comes up for sale. You could buy that...the County could buy that property using our money, and then using CDBG money to assist, or is that...is that scenario feasible --

MR. NISHITA: And I'll let John and Patience --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- if the County can . . . *(inaudible)* . . . it?

MR. NISHITA: -- correct me if I'm misstating anything. But, you know, in the action plan specific to housing, there isn't a like buy...buy-out provision, or whatever. It's specific to, you know, the single-family reconstruction, new construction, multifamily reconstruction, new construction. And so, it...it's not to say, I guess, that...I...I don't know if in the future, HUD would be open to consideration of that if that's what the community wanted. I...I don't know the determination on that, but --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- I guess, as I see it, in terms of our current action plan approved, that likely wouldn't be included. But I'll defer to John and Patience if --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, I think --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I understand it.

MR. SMITH: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Well, I just think something creative like that, we might want to do it outside of the DR fund stream because of the strings attached to it, but it's not to say that as an

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overall recovery strategy, we wouldn't help with that effort. I think the other thing to think about, in terms of how we get creative with the DR funds to help housing, is just paying attention to the infrastructure dollars, and how those infrastructure lines --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- that we can build with this funds not just helps a single housing project, but the whole area. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Chair, was that my bell?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry, did I hear a bell?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we did.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, I have one question, and then we'll see if anybody else wants to ask another question. For businesses like Front Street or harbor, which is State, but that's 30 million, and Front Street is--I don't even know what that dollar amount is--how can those--or is it even...will those kinds of damages, or people that experienced the wildfire, not be eligible for these...these kinds of DR funds?

MR. SMITH: Well, for the commercial areas, we know that things like undergrounding of utilities is really important. Upgrading our stormwater infrastructure is really important. The street itself, and how that interacts with the private property and the potential road-widening requirements that we have on the books. So, in terms of those businesses coming back, and our ability to help local business, we would focus in on what are the requirements from the County on the public side, and how can we help make those projects happen to reduce the burden for them to come back? So, that's one strategy, in terms of helping from an economic revitalization standpoint. And then in terms of the State and the harbor, I...I understand they do have funding for the repairs, but that's something that we could discuss in the future because it is a public asset. And so, if --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. SMITH: -- if there's a need there, we could talk about that in the future.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: And then I think, Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, go ahead.

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MR. NISHITA: -- the...the only other thing I...I would add is like things...especially infrastructure or whatnot, damaged by the fire could be eligible for public assistance. So, while, you know, you may not be tapping into one of the other buckets, like the harbor and...and other...you know, like the streets and whatnot, like we have a PA project in for road damage and things like that. So, you can still get access to other Federal funding sources to help pay to restore things outside of the CDBG-DR program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. One last question. So, I'm going to guess that these monies are not grants per se, that we would have to front the money and it's reimbursed. And I wonder if part of your team--you have Finance, and--and what are our plans to be able to be sure we don't run out of money?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. So, the...the fund itself will act like a line of credit to us. So, it is technically a reimbursed expense as we go along. But the amount of time between when we, you know, spend the money and get reimbursed is just a couple weeks. So, it doesn't act like a normal reimbursement in terms of how we're used to something like that. Like we don't have to spend the money, submit, wait to see if we get approved, and then maybe, in a couple years, we'll get a check or something like that. That's not how this works. The way it will work in practice is, we will predetermine and pre-vet every single dollar with HUD, and then we'll submit for reimbursement through their program. And then that process has already been pre-vetted, so that it goes really quickly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good.

MR. SMITH: And...and we are building our capacity on the financial side--and in fact, we're doing interviews for that position as well--that will join our team, and join Patience and team. So, we're building up the capacity internally. And the consultant that we picked, Horne, they're...they are originally a financial firm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the concern about internal controls, when we get our audits, so you have --

MR. SMITH: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- thought through all of that?

MR. SMITH: We have to, per HUD's requirements. So, and...I mean, we will have our own internal auditor too, as part of the team. So, yes, 100 percent.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that's good to hear. And I'm glad to hear that the reimbursement will come that quickly because that's a lot of money to be out, you know, that will impact the rest of the community.

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MR. NISHITA: And Chair, if I may just add one thing. We have been in communication with Finance just to, you know, ensure that there's sufficient liquidity, you know, through our investment portfolio and whatnot to...to make sure that we can, you know, float those during that time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, very good. Because we don't want to have it on our audit coming back, you know, as the CDBG funds becoming a problem. Okay. Anybody else have any questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I...one thing that I had heard a lot through this last hour is about the intake and the eligibility...or the intake process. And I was wondering if you had any breakdown for...like say, somebody was watching this meeting, like when that intake process will start, where it will be, who will be doing it? I know there's been mention at the community meetings, like try to get your financial documents together, but like what are the steps going from here to there so people can...like, you know, you can say how much to get your financial documents together, but until it's real--like for me, I would wait until the last moment, you know? But like what is the benefits of getting your financial documents together? When can they sign up? Like, is there going to be a line? How many people are going to be intaking them? What agencies, and so on, and so forth?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. So, we're going to morph the recovery center into the intake center. So, everybody's familiar with FEMA, and how that's worked. You'll see them--and I think you just got the announcement--some of them are moving out of the recovery center, and then our DR staff are moving in. And that'll...we'll be setting it up in July, and it'll be ready by early August, in terms of physically coming to the center and going through the intake process. And the idea is like to not make it onerous on everyone, but to...like we were talking about early, making sure that we have all of our data in...in order, making sure that we have all of the procedures in place for eligibility, making sure that our staff is trained in terms of how that intake process works, and then making sure that it's private. So, we...we'll have a general intake side, and then we'll have more private offices so that...because it's...we're talking about financial information, that'll be sensitive to...to that community. We'll also have the ability to intake on Central too. So, if you don't...don't live on the West Side, we'll have a spot here. We're working out the logistics of that now. So, that...that's a lot of the work that we're doing between now and August.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Will CNHA and HCL be partners in the intake process as well?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. So, CNHA is already helping us manage the recovery center in Lāhainā, and we'll...we'll keep them on to do that through another grant, so they'll have a part in it. And then HCL is also a partner, along with the Hawai'i Community Foundation, and others. So, you know, behind the scenes also, we're making sure that we don't duplicate benefits, and that we reach the right constituent first, and that we don't put somebody in a program, then it's all of a sudden you're eligible for another program. So, we're making sure that that doesn't happen. So, when people come in, it's a clear process.

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Like, okay, you're eligible for DR, here you go, this is your path forward. Okay, you're not eligible for DR, here's HCL, here's some other options for you on the nonprofit side.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is there an opportunity for KHAKO in Central to be the intake place, since people are familiar with it as well?

MR. SMITH: We're working out those details right now. I don't want to announce it until it's set, but yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I mean, I think West Maui, Central, and then maybe South Maui is majority of where people ended up.

MR. SMITH: Yeah. So, most likely, it will be those...those two centers. We haven't talked about an actual center in South Maui. We were thinking that Central would be enough because everybody has to come to town anyway, but we can talk about that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then is there any start date for like when people can go to the intake center, or like, you know, knowing that may spur some people to get their paperwork better ready?

MR. SMITH: We'll be making announcements on when that start date will come. We haven't set it yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you have like a estimate?

MR. SMITH: Well, we would love to start by the two-year anniversary.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Not making promises because there's...I don't have the grant agreement yet, so...or we don't have the grant agreement yet. But once we have that, then we can get more serious about setting those deadlines.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if...if people target the two-year anniversary, start getting your paperwork together, then they'll be ready. Is there like a line? How many people do you think you can service on day one?

MR. SMITH: Well, we'll...we'll be ready for those that show up. But there'll be online processes too, so it won't be just you have to do everything in-person. So, we're setting that up as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the folks that moved away?

MR. SMITH: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. All right. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have questions? All right. Very good. Thank you very much for all your hard work. It's amazing how much you have achieved in such a short time. And would you like any closing remarks before we defer this item?

MR. NISHITA: Just thank you very much, Chair and Members. We just really appreciate all your guys' support and willingness to work with us, and, you know, never be afraid to call or text us if something's coming up, or you got some ideas, or questions, or anything. It's actually...you know, it's really helpful for us in terms of trying to stay ahead of, you know, where the community needs us to be. So, you know, appreciate the...the collaboration between the Administration and Council, and hope to continue that into the future. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry. In terms of that last comment that Mr. Nishita made...and Mr. Smith might know, it was one of the things at last night's meeting. In terms of hazard mitigation and the new Fire Code, they've got six inspectors, but we also have Department of Public Works and Department of Parks and Recreation that manage County properties. And if we expect our residents to follow the new Fire Code, we need to lead the way. The Fire Department did say all the supervisors in Public Works and Parks and Rec have been notified. Nobody seems to have made sure that it tricked down to the bottom level, and that they have the resources and support they need to be in alignment with the new Fire Code. So, that's a place to start for feedback that you want. I just wanted to make sure you're aware of that one.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, so much to do. All right. Does Mimi Desjardins have any closing comments? You've been sitting with us. Okay. All right. Members, thank you very, very much. This meeting was very important, and to hear about our action plan. We look forward to hearing you back once you finalize the Horne implementation agreement, and...because I think that's going to be the next step, right?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. We'll bring the whole team, and give you folks an overview of how things will go, and we'll have dates set, and et cetera. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. SMITH: -- I think it'll be more into July.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. And we look forward to see the local companies that Horne will be working with.

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MR. SMITH: Yeah. We'll bring...we'll make sure they're here so you can see the whole team, and we'll probably have...

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

MR. SMITH: Yeah. We'll bring our staff as well. So, they...they won't want to talk, but --

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

MR. SMITH: -- but they'll come.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, Members. So, at this time, it is 12:01, and this...I'm going to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: AL, KRF)

ACTION: DEFER.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And this meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 12:01 p.m.

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Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 63 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 15th day of July 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Logan Tsuji