

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

MINUTES

April 8, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:03 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (Out 10:42 a.m.)
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member (Out 9:50 a.m.)
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member

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

Residency Area Office (RAO):

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

ADMIN.: Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, Administrator, Maui Emergency Management Agency
Peter “Kono” Davis, Chief, Operations Coordination Section, Maui Emergency Management Agency
Kaponōʻai Molitau, Director, Department of ʻŌiwi Resources
Kekai Robinson, Deputy Director, Department of ʻŌiwi Resources

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Janet Six, Principal Archaeologist, Department of 'Ōiwi Resources
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor

OTHERS: Lee Anderson, Maui Wedding and Event Association
James "Kimo" Apana, Royal Order of Kamehameha
Kaneali'i Williams
James Langford
Jasee Law
Others (11)

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It's now 9:03 a.m. Today is April the 8th, and I'd like to thank everybody for making the time for...to be here. At this time I want to say that this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chambers, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. This morning--do we have Member Kama? Oh, there. All right. Vice-Chair Kama, good morning.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair (*echoing*). Aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is she okay?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Am I okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. You're...you were like --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- singing to us. Okay. Good morning. Next --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Next, we have Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning, Chair, good morning, Councilmembers. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office, and I'm alone on my side of the office. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good morning, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office. Mahalo. Happy to be here in person.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good morning. Next, we have Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everyone.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, here at my home office, I’m here by myself. No testifiers in Hāna. And as I stated, I will jump off in a little bit to catch the ferry over to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To Hāna.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Were you going to leave about 10:00, did you say? 10:00? Yeah, okay. Who is excused is Member Cook, as well as Chair Lee. So, thank you, everybody, and welcome to the meeting. Today, from the Office of the Mayor we have Lesley Milner, Budget Director; Emergency Management Agency, Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, Administrator; Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, Kapono‘ai Molitau, Director; Deputy Director Kekai Robinson; from the Department of Corporation Counsel we have Kristina Toshikiyo. And our hardworking Committee Staff, from Office of Counsel Services, Pauline Martins, thank you very much; as well as Yvette Bouthillier; Kirsten Szabo and James Krueger, Legislative Analysts; Jarret Pascual, Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analysts; Peter Hanano, our Legislative Attorney; and Deputy Director of Corp. Counsel [sic], Richelle Kawasaki; Lei Dinneen is our Council Services Assistant Clerk in the lobby. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's meeting. And we have only one item on the agenda today, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the County of Maui. Members, I will be taking testimony after the opening comments from the departments who are with us today. So, we’re going to continue deliberations on Fiscal Year ‘26 Budget, and here from Emergency Management Agency and Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, in that order. And then we’ll take public testimony, and we’ll proceed with discussions for the departments in that order. We will adjourn by 1:00 today, or earlier if...because we are traveling to Lāna‘i for the Residency Area meeting, which will convene at 6:00 this evening at the ILWU Hall on Lāna‘i. At this time I would like to invite the Maui County Emergency Management Administrator, Amos Hewett, to provide opening remarks and introduce any personnel you have with you today.

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

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Aloha mai kākou. Today, I'm joined by my second-in-command, Kona Davis, he's second-in-command for the Agency. My name is Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, the Administrator for Maui Emergency Management Agency. Aloha, Chair, Honored Councilmembers. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to present my budget for Fiscal Year 2026. Over the past year, the Maui Emergency Management Agency has gained valuable insights and reaffirmed key aspects of our agency, mission and path forward through numerous after-action reports and strategic assessments. Several common findings have emerged that highlight our most pressing needs--the necessity for adequate staffing to respond effectively during emergency escalations; the need for clear, robust and effective plans, procedures, and programs; the importance of comprehensive training and exercises to ensure that staff and response partners are qualified and prepared; the critical need for community engagement to enhance information-sharing, capacity building, and overall preparedness. During the past year, MEMA successfully developed a five-year strategic plan and a two-year integrated preparedness plan. These documents outline our vision and approach, which require your continued support to execute and implement effectively. I am deeply grateful for the tremendous support you provided in FY '25, including your approval of expansion positions within the agency. As we continue to build these...upon these efforts, I respectfully request your ongoing support to fund the 22 positions proposed in FY '25, along with the additional...the addition of three new positions that are critical to our mission. Additionally, we are requesting funding to support the Reserve Corps, enabling...enabling us to recall up to nine experienced personnel to assist the emergency operation center or in the field throughout Maui Nui. We have also experienced a significant increase in overtime and travel expenses directly related to our efforts to educate, train, certify, and empower our team members to excel in their roles. This investment is necessary to ensure our workforce remains effective and capable of handling emergencies of all scales. With the addition of the Public Information Officer and Community Outreach Specialist, and the anticipated addition of the Public Affairs Officer, we are strategically positioning ourselves to enhance public information education efforts. A key initiative in this regard is the community resiliency workshop, which will be conducted throughout the County. This proactive approach to preparedness will require resources, including educational materials, media projects, digital content, and when necessary, ven...venue rentals. By investing in these efforts, we aim to strengthen community engagement and resilience, fostering a more informed and prepared public. The foundational emergency plans established in FY '25, such as the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, or CEMP, and the Continuity of Operation Plans, or COOP, have laid the groundwork for enhancing our preparedness and response capabilities. Several additional plans were also approved during FY '25, forming a robust framework for future operations. However, there is still important work to be done. Moving into FY '26, we must continue developing and exercising critical plans to ensure comprehensive readiness. This requires ongoing training through various methodologies, including table talk exercises, functional exercise, and full-scale exercises. While we have experienced personnel capable of conducting these trainings, we anticipate the need for additional support to sustain and

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expand these efforts. One significant change we face is the uncertainty of grant funding from the Emergency Management Performance Grant, Homeland Security grants, and additional Federal grants, like the HMGP. Reduced or inconsistent funding from these sources could impact MEMA's ability to provide essential training and...and exercises that have been instrumental to our success, and remain critical to our mission. Your continued support is essential as we strive to build upon the foundation of work established in FY '25, and ensure that our preparedness efforts remain effective, sustainable, and forward-looking. With your partnership, MEMA will continue to address all aspects of emergency management comprehensively and sustainably, ensuring a safer and more resilient community for all. Mahalo for your time, consideration, and unwavering support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. And so, at this time then, I'd like to ask the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources to do your presentation.

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae, welina mai ke aloha iā 'oukou a pau, aloha kākou. My name is Kapono'ai Molitau, I am the honored person to be able to continue to lead and be the po'o of this Department, 'Ōiwi Resources. This year...this is our first walk-through for the 2026 Budget hearing, and we are...are very thankful and grateful for this opportunity to...to open with opening remarks. And the opening remarks are...are in regards to our platform for this year, and it is in regards to the term kahua. As we know, that the kahua is foundational platform that allows for everything to be built upon if it's done correctly. And so, those are...are part of our core values that we...we move through this year, with...with kahua, and we'll break it down in...into those letters real quickly. The "K" standing for kuleana, where we're committed to upholding and denouncing (*phonetic*) the rights, responsibility, and stewardships of 'Ōiwi Resources. This value informs our policy development, resource management, and leadership approach to ensure accountability and long-term sustainability. The "A" is for the word 'a'apo, which means we actively listen and respond to the evolving needs of our community. 'A'apo guides our stakeholders engagement strategies, ensuring that our actions are rooted in responsiveness, empathy and relevance. The "H" is for ho'omanawanui, we approach our journey with patience and perseverance. This principal reinforces a long-term perspective supporting resilience in our planning, partnership, and implementation efforts. The "U" is for the word 'u'ina. We strive for quick, intelligent, and decisive action. 'U'ina sharpens our operational agility, enabling us to adapt to emerging...emerging challenges and opportunities while maintaining clarity of purpose. And the "A" is for the word 'auamo. We carry our kuleana with integrity and intention. 'Auamo ensures we stay grounded in our commission...in our mission, embracing both the privilege and responsibility of our collective...our collective work. We look forward to being able to share with all of you our Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposal. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Department. So, at this time then, I'm going to ask for public testimony. Do we have any testifiers?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .

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MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. The first testifier is Lee Anderson, to be followed by Kimo Apana.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Lee Anderson. Hi. Welcome.

MS. ANDERSON: Thank you so much. Aloha, Chair and Members of the Council. My name is Lee Anderson, I'm the chef/owner at Sugar Beach Events, we're a wedding and event venue in Kihei. I'm also a member of the board of the Maui Wedding and Event Association, which has been newly-formed. And I've been here 11 years at Sugar Beach Events, and I've been on Maui for 20 years doing wedding and event catering. Our Maui Wedding and Event Association, despite being less than a year old, represents over 100 members, and thousands of employees who are dedicated to revitalizing the industry...the wedding and event industry. We weathered the storm of COVID-19, but the aftermath of the fires has left us in a pretty dire situation. Our industry, once a \$1.5 billion industry--yes, billion-dollar industry--for the...for Hawai'i and Maui is now really struggling. Personally, my business has seen a decline in sales over 70 percent. I had to let go of 80 percent of my staff just to stay afloat. This is not just my story, this is everybody's story in the Maui Wedding and Event Association, and all of our members. The perception that Maui is not ready to welcome visitors back is a significant barrier. We need your support to change the narrative. Our request for funding is not just about survival, it's about reigniting an industry that fuels so many others. When a wedding or an event takes place, it supports 10 to 20 different businesses directly, and countless other businesses indirectly, including hotels, tours, restaurants, local shops, artisans...all the types of businesses owned by Maui residents that bring beauty and support to an event. These are the following ones, which you probably don't even realize--coordinators, florists, venues, photographers, videographers, musicians, caterers--excuse me--hair and makeup artists, performers, officiants, bar services, décor, furniture, tent rentals, transportation, bakers, photo booths, lighting, sound, calligraphers, sign painters, wedding dress attendants, wedding dress menders and makers, shave ice companies, coconut carvers, sand sculptors--those are just some of the companies and the business that we represent. These are the type of visitors we want on the island. These wedding events bring in substantial amounts of revenue to so many different companies. We have spent the last year meeting...meeting with and asking the many tourism and hospitality agencies for marketing assistance to get the word out, and for some reason, it just hasn't been happening. We need funding to attend conferences on the mainland to represent and promote Maui once again as a premier destination. This pivotal moment for us, with your support . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we can build and ensure that the wedding and event industry continues to be a vibrant part of Maui's economy. Thank you for considering our request for funding, and for your continued commitment to our community. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Does anybody have questions for Lee Anderson? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Anderson, for your testimony. I had a couple clarifying questions. You said to attend conferences, but when it was described to us by Ms. Lallo, it was for an industry summit on Maui. Do you know the location that...that was intended to take place and the time frame?

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MS. ANDERSON: Yes. So, there are a couple of different things that we're working on and things that we had asked for. One is for having an on-island conference, Engage Summit, which is a massive luxury wedding summit that is held internationally. And I have been in contact with the founders of the summit to bring them here. It is a very heavy lift financially, and we need help to do that. They have --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The question was --

MS. ANDERSON: -- too many people staying.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- where and when?

MS. ANDERSON: We're not sure where. We're hoping like the Four Seasons will assist us. We're hoping Wailea area, possibly the West Side. We just have to get all the partners in place, but we have to have the financial in order to really find out if we can make it happen.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How much of your wedding industry would you estimate takes place in West Maui in the summer?

MS. ANDERSON: Oh, my gosh. I...I'm...it's been so long since we've had such a great season on the West Side, I'm not sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the reason I ask is, I'm trying to raise awareness because only it seems the recovery people know, but starting June, they're going to begin the permanent debris transport, which is like, you know, 50 trucks...round trips a day. And so, I mean, when you're saying we're ready for people to come back...maybe not this summer on the West Side because probably, without knowing it, they also...we're having states for canoe regattas, junior lifeguards, five of the regattas on the West Side with all that debris transport from sunup to sundown.

MS. ANDERSON: I can tell you, the Engage Summit we're trying to get...to bring to Maui, that's probably going to be early 2027 or late 2026. I...I know with weddings and events, they usually book a year or two years out. So, the help we're asking for now, it really won't start to show up in our industry for at least another year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then could there be a portion of that summit that educates the wedding industry about our existing laws, and like...I mean, number of times my kids have been asked to move while shelling because --

MS. ANDERSON: A hundred percent.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- they're in a photo.

MS. ANDERSON: Absolutely. Yeah. And I think the one really good important part of what we do as an association. Like I said, we've been around for less than a year now. We

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have over 100 members, and we're working with some kūpuna to really educate our internal team. The board members...all the members are going to go through a little bit of cultural education to make sure we're really aware of what the needs are, and what is best for Hawai'i and for Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Oh, Member Johnson, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your testimony, I really appreciate it. I want to clarify some questions because the idea that there's a lot of the...that the numbers...the money that comes into the...into the state through weddings is pretty substantial. So, have you reached out to some of those, I guess, big movers and shakers within the industry to get funds from those folks who will be benefiting directly from the industry? You know...so, I'm curious that...if you've asked some of those kinds of folks for funds.

MS. ANDERSON: Yes, sir. I know we have more testimony coming on Wednesday, the President and Vice President --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MS. ANDERSON: -- of our organization will be here. They will probably have a little more information than I do. I'm a board member working with political action. We have been to HTA, MHLA...all of the acronyms, for the last year, asking for help. And somehow that hasn't translated to the Council that we've been out there actively asking and really needing help. So, now we're here.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I didn't...I appreciate that, that's part of the process. I...I was...I surely recommend that. But what about the folks that...like that...the folks who are actually making money off of the...the weddings? You know, I'm sure the hotels would be...you know, they...they get financial benefit from these weddings, why aren't they kicking in a little bit of funds? Just a big laundry list of people, like you mentioned in your testimony, that do make money off of weddings, why are they not coming to the table to kick in funds for this?

MS. ANDERSON: That's a very good question. I wish I had an answer for you, but it is a question we have asked over and over. And...and also, keep --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ANDERSON: -- in mind, too...I'm sorry, just to...just to piggyback on that a little bit. All of the businesses that we represent, they're small businesses. We do have some resorts within our association, absolutely. We have DMCs--Destination Management Companies--on-island, but most of the businesses are small businesses. So, at this point, it's hard for us to keep going day-by-day, let alone give us...us give more money and effort and time when we don't have it ourselves.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, I...I'm familiar with some small business did quite well off the...off the wedding industry, so hopefully they can, you know, be partners in that. Thanks for your response. Thank you, Chair.

MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, I have one question for you.

MS. ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you getting support from the visitor industry entities?

MS. ANDERSON: Financial support?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. ANDERSON: Not as of yet. No, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're not getting any help from Maui...Maui Visitors Bureau, or HTA, or...

MS. ANDERSON: None of the acronyms have...we had spoken with HT...HTA, I've met with Mufi Hannemann. Last year we flew over, had a meeting with the whole team there. They were going to include us in some of the California extensions they were doing, we...that just hasn't come to fruition yet. So, we've been...we've been out there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha. Mahalo --

MS. ANDERSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for your testimony this morning. In your folks'...in your association's messaging out to promote --

MS. ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- your industry, are you careful to ensure that when you say "we" that your we is your association, and not all of Maui saying we are ready for tourists to come back?

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MS. ANDERSON: Yes. To my knowledge, if you take a look at our webpage, our Instagram, you will see that everything is wedding and event...Maui Wedding and Event Association-specific.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, when you say we, you're careful that you're not trying to speak for the entire Island of Maui.

MS. ANDERSON: We are not trying to speak for the island.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. ANDERSON: We...we are saying we need you. We, as an association, need you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Maybe our association needs you.

MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or our industry needs you.

MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because we can be...

MS. ANDERSON: Absolutely. I absolutely see that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Appreciate that.

MS. ANDERSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony.

MS. ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much for being here.

MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. And we do have other people who are coming Wednesday, so I'll make sure and share this information with them as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

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MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Kimo Apana, to be followed by Kane...Kaneali'i Williams.

MR. APANA: Good morning, Budget Chair Yuki Mura [sic]. Ha, ha...nah. . . .(laughing). . . That's a inside joke.

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

MR. APANA: Our former Mayor used to call her all types of names.

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

MR. APANA: Anyway...and good morning also, Councilmembers. You know, it feels so good to be back home. Yeah. Anyway, I'm here this morning, my name is James "Kimo" Apana. I'm here on behalf of 'Aimoku Kawika Kamai of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, Maui Kahekili Chapter. I'm here to ask you for your help so that we may be able to continue our mission to preserve, protect, and promote all things Hawaiian. You might know we have a hale or a building near the harbor, it's called Hale Nanea. Over the years we have put in tons of sweat equity--leveling the ground, putting in lights, fixing the surroundings, we did all sewer--we did many things. But this past year, our inspector came and said you know what? It's time you change your entire roof. This patching every now and then will not last. So, I'm here today to ask for some help. And I want to say what some of things why you should consider our request. The Royal Order is more than just a bunch of people wearing capes marching around. We are here to promote all things Hawaiian, preserve and protect. We have helped in many areas... maybe bringing the students in to...to learn and understand cooking, especially imu. A lot of young people have never seen it. So, we allow them to help us dig the imu, get the rocks, lay it out...everything, so that the next generation is well...well-knowledgeable about this tradition, otherwise disappears. We bring in young Hawaiian boys that have a hard time, and we bring them in and try to mentor them. We have chants and dances; we open our...our Hale to hula hālaus; we rent it out very inexpensive to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, they have no place to go, so we allow them to use the building for near nothing. Our rental is much, much cheaper than anybody else on this island because it's really expensive for people to have a baby lū'au...it's very expensive. So, we try to accommodate all these things. And how we can do it? We volunteer. We fix the place, we paint the place, we cut the grass...but fixing the roof by ourselves is way beyond our means. Majority of our members are in their 70s--excuse me. But...so, we had a few people come in and give us a estimate of what needs to be done, and that is the...the dollars I'm requesting. It's somewhere in the area of 80,000, but they said we don't know, you know, you cannot hold...you cannot hold us to this price. We don't know if what's under this roof, that there might be a hidden cost, and we not sure what aplice...a price of plyboard will be two months from now. So, be prepared. . . .(timer sounds). . . Questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 30 seconds. So, you're asking for...

MR. APANA: 100,000.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. For the roof. Member Kama has a question, and Member Paltin.

MR. APANA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Mr. Apana. So, it's true that you don't know what's under the roof, but do you think that 100,000 would actually...I mean, I know you're saying it may be 80, but it could be more, and you're just adding another \$20,000, hopefully, to cover what you don't know that's under the roof, yeah?

MR. APANA: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But do you think that's sufficient? And have you actually had a real roofer go and actually go on top of the roof, and walk it, and kind of, you know, feel --

MR. APANA: Yeah. Well --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- for that.

MR. APANA: -- we did have the...several...several different companies come, and the average is about 80,000. We feel that it should be enough, but if there is any extra, it all returns back to the County, and we don't --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh.

MR. APANA: -- pocket the money. So, if you're...if you're asking me if you guys should pad it to ensure that it gets done, I would say certainly, it's good to be on the safe side. What we don't use, we will return. And I just want to say--especially to you, Tasha--over the years, you have really taken care us because fortunately, we are in your District, and you have the...the heart to support us. So, I want to say it personally, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: You're welcome. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mayor Apana. I just wanted to clarify, you're not...so you're coming to it...us with this request, you're not currently in the Mayor's budget.

MR. APANA: Not that I know of.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...

MR. APANA: And I think because we didn't get our...our estimates back from the companies in time. I mean, we...I.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then...

MR. APANA: For whatever reason, we just didn't make the Mayor's section.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The other question I had was, you probably know better than me, but we heard a lot about grants and things like that being on a reimbursement basis. Is that something that you're aware of, and...and it would work within your structure?

MR. APANA: Yes. I mean, if the County continues their...their policy--they used to give partial in the beginning because we need to pay the contractors down. So, I mean...how I said it, in my time. I'm not sure what the policy is now. If you bought us the...the three phases, we'd give you the initial money because it's just a pass-through to the contractors. We don't touch it...not much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you think you would finish within this fiscal year period that we're talking about, or --

MR. APANA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- have you --

MR. APANA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I don't know, approached --

MR. APANA: The contractors told me as soon as you ready, we ready to go. Oh, I just want to add one more thing--especially for you, Tasha. You know, the...it's padded with about 20,000 because the original quote was, they take over the hall for one month or so. And we requested that they cover the roof daily because we have the hall scheduled to be, I guess, used by the community. And we don't want to call somebody and say, your wedding...done, we going fix the roof. So, we trying to accommodate those that we made commitments to so that no one...no one's life is interrupted by this thing that we really need to do. So, they going to cover it, uncover it...and they told us that's an extra cost, and I understand, but that's what we need to do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and my other question, I don't know...I don't know the answer because we haven't asked the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources yet, but they run some grants through their program...I'm not exactly sure what they're for. And then I see...it looks like they have 156,000 in professional services they might not have used. So, have you spoke to the Department of 'Ōiwi, maybe no need wait until Fiscal Year '26?

MR. APANA: No...no. The roof is leaking today.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

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MR. APANA: I mean we patch it all the time, they said.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, did you speak with them? They might have some monies.

MR. APANA: My...my job is to come here and ask, your job is to figure out where you guys get it from.

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

MR. APANA: And --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean --

MR. APANA: -- he is a --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if you ask him now --

MR. APANA: -- member of the Royal Order.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- might not need to wait until...because this isn't good until June. So, if you...

MR. APANA: No. We...we won't be ready until July 1st.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Okay.

MR. APANA: All right. So, we need to submit our request in June to be active July.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Okay.

MR. APANA: And we want to do it in the summer months, if possible.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. APANA: Less chance of rain.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Thank you.

MR. APANA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody else have...okay. Former Mayor James "Kimo" Apana.

MR. APANA: I...I just want to make one comment. It's a lot spookier from here. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you very much.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Than when you were sitting here.

MR. APANA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you, Kimo. All right. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Kaneali'i Williams, to be followed by James Langford on Teams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Aloha kākou. My name is Kaneali'i Williams. I'm here to testify about the Ha'ikū Fire Station project. I only found out this morning that...via the news, *Maui Now*, that it's moving forward. I kind of want to touch on that a little bit because I--I want to start by saying I'm not anti-fire station, but due diligence has not been done in the process for this project. I am one of the many heirs of Nalopi Land Commission Award 336 for a patent 2194 in East Kuiaha, where this project is planned to go through our family's kuleana parcel as part of the larger fire station. We're not the only 'ohana that's directly impacted by it, but also the U'u family, their Land Commission Award 4959B is directly next to the fire station plans. For our particular 'ohana, the waterline is planned to come through our property, and trace through the road, and go all the way back towards the Hāna Highway. The environmental impact statement was not...was finished, I believe, last summer. We were not connected until October, the following...that time. We were contacted a week before their deadline to finish the Ka Pa'akai analysis, and we were rushed to do that, but we made it very clear that we were not going to allow that project to come through our land without our consent, and without negotiation because it is our property. Sorry, I'm trying to speak calmly and not angrily. Part of the plans was that there was not going to be a monitor for the project, but those lands are culturally sensitive. There's archeological structures on the lands, there's plenty pōhaku and structures, especially on my 'ohana's land, which I myself had cleared the Guinea grass that has been there for many years, starting since 2021. That's how I know an archeological survey has never been done over there because nobody was there to uncover the land to do an archeological survey. The Ka Pa'akai analysis has not been returned to us for review, and that's part of the process of the Ka Pa'akai analysis is that we have to review what was stated, and make sure it was truthful, and all the information that goes forward is stated as what we said it was. That included the negotiation, that included that they were to do an archaeological survey. We have not had contact since. We're waiting for that to continue. Like I said, we're not...we're not anti-fire station, but the problem is consent...there has not been consent. You can replan the waterline to go through Hāna Highway, that's...that's up to the project, but we're not going to allow it to come through our land. Especially to protect the net worth revenue...or the net worth of all the properties in Ha'ikū where we don't get a single dollar out of the project. We just get pushed aside as the kānaka when the majority of the population of Ha'ikū is not kānaka. The majority of the population in Ha'ikū has not come to help us on our 'āina, to take care of the 'āina, but the project wants to come through our 'āina for the community. We are the ones constantly asked, where's the aloha? This is a good time for us to ask where's the aloha because we have not received it. My lawyers have been put on...have been notified about this since the

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time that we were initially contacted, they're aware of this situation. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Some of them work at the Federal level, some of them are listening right now. I just want to put that out, you folks have been put on notice, and that's all I wanted to say today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Williams, for being here.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anyone have questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Williams. I just wanted to clarify. So, I'm not sure where the...the fire station on the parcel is meant to be built, but, you know where it is, and that portion where it's meant to be built is not on your family's land?

MR. WILLIAMS: So, the...the building location is...what I understand is supposed to be owned by the County, that is at the intersection of Hāna Highway and East Kuiaha Road. On--trying to wrap my brain--on the Wailuku side and on the mauka side of the highway. Mauka of that...immediately mauka of that parcel is the U'u family's kuleana parcel, which is very--they're not here to testify, and I cannot speak on behalf of them because I'm not a lineal descendant of the U'u family--but what I do know is that the boundaries are touching, right? And the plan, like I mentioned earlier, stated that it does not need a monitor. I used to work as a cultural monitor for Nā 'Aikāne o Maui, Inc. during...for part of the fire cleanups. I know our 'āina in East Kuiaha requires a cultural monitor for these projects. And because...again, they are culturally sensitive areas, there's...our kūpuna live there next to theirs as well. There is potential burials being dug up. So, their...their parcel is right next to the building of the location. Ours is then mauka of it. But in order for the...the project building also is...includes the water corridor that's supposed to come up East Kuiaha Road, down into Ha'ikū Road, and through our kuleana parcel. And so, that's where our 'ohana comes in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And to clarify, there are alternate ways the waterline could come that wouldn't go through your parcel?

MR. WILLIAMS: Hāna Highway is one option, and then that would also require a whole completely replanning and permitting process, I believe, because the plans are changing completely. So, I don't know what that looks like, that's not my...my job, but...and, you know, if the U'u family still doesn't want that fire station, we're still going to support them because we are the 'ohanas of East Kuiaha. It's our ahupua'a.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, in the Ka Pa'akai analysis, have you had any conversation with the Fire Department to do that?

MR. WILLIAMS: We haven't...we haven't had any contact except with...let me...I think it's Keala Pono is the...the contracted...for the Ka Pa'akai. We have not been brought to the table. The only communications was through via email with the organization that did

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the Ka Pa‘akai. And again, we haven’t received the final report from them back to review it. So, that part of the checklist has not been done either.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I...I do know that the Fire Department came the other day and said they’re not getting the 15 million in Federal funds, so that is a factor as well. But thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. All right. Aloha, Mr. Williams, mahalo for your testimony. I just looked at the *Maui Now* article--I’m sorry . . .*(inaudible)*. . . yeah. It doesn’t mention the Federal funding that wasn’t approved on the discussion that we had yesterday. Anyway, in the article, there’s a final EA...or EIS. So, again, it...the final EA didn’t include the Ka Pa‘akai analysis that you’re...mentioned?

MR. WILLIAMS: No. The final EIS, according to that article, was finished in summer 2024.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. WILLIAMS: We were not contacted until October 2024 for the Ka Pa‘akai.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. WILLIAMS: So...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And...

MR. WILLIAMS: And we’ve been there since 2021. Like you folks would know, I’ve shown up a few times to testify, and talk about our water rights and things like that. No contact was made by...for the Ka Pa‘akai since this whole time until October of last year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. It says June 20 of 2024. And then as far as the map of your folks’ ‘āina, was that sent to the Department?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. The maps of the Land Commission Award, the maps of the royal patent title was submitted, additional maps were provided to give them more context...for example, house site that use to be there, and we know that sometimes house sites might be sites of burials, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

MR. WILLIAMS: The kūpuna resided there, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

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MR. WILLIAMS: And it's very close to where the water pipeline would be. And so, that...that was one of the red flags for us, just for being...being told that a monitor was not required, that...major red flag for us.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo again. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I was going to clarify because you just said my name. I'm not a lineal descendant of the U'u 'ohana. Although I do carry that name, it is not mine, and we've talked about this before.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Which is why he said, you know, they're not here today. I am not able to speak for the U'u 'ohana, but I will definitely let my family know, who is actual U'u. So, I appreciate you coming today.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for the clarification. Made me wonder. Yeah. Okay. Any other questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mahalo nui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is James Langford, to be followed by Janet Six.

MR. LANGFORD: Aloha. Hello?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you.

MR. LANGFORD: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you.

MR. LANGFORD: Hello?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Proceed.

MR. LANGFORD: Oh, aloha, Chair. Nice...nice to see you. I'm...hi. I would like to testify, yes, but I'm uncertain what you folks are focused on. Yesterday there was a request to rewrite Title 19, the Code of the...of the Planning Department, that they suggested it would take a year. I've provided a new Charter for the County to work directly with the Governor, and I rewrote the Title 19 and all of the Code yesterday. It doesn't really take

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a year to do it, and it's been submitted to the County Clerk via email. But I can test...I can put it up here for you folks. It would handle things like the U'u royal claims. My family is above the U'u royal claims all of them. And so, I will speak for them, and Bruce U'u and I can come and testify in person to that fact. So, what I'd like the Council to do is to review the rewrite of the Charter, and review the Title 19. And there are written demands in there as well. It's been submitted to the Attorney General's office, and the Governor is very receptive to working with my Charter. So, what I'm asking is, did you folks receive all that...that I had trouble getting in yesterday. I was being blocked by the...or two days ago, blocked by the County Clerk's office apparently, and that's been documented and presented to the Department of Justice for corruption. So, is there...are you...were you folks able to get that rewrite requested by Tom Cook and Alice Lee yesterday? I did complete it in entirety, it's about 90 some pages, and it rewrites the entire Building Code, and brings it up to current data.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We do not receive that. So, please proceed with your testimony. Three minutes.

MR. LANGFORD: May I upload? So, I'm testifying that I've rewritten the system to identify corruption that has led to institutional murder, and I replaced that system in alignment so that none of you are in harm's way from --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Langford --

MR. LANGFORD: -- the corruption that happens . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we're talking about our Fiscal 2026 budget. We are not talking about --

MR. LANGFORD: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this order, or Charter, or we don't want you to threaten people.

MR. LANGFORD: Oh. I rewrote that and submitted a budget request in writing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Did anybody have any questions for the testifier? Seeing none.

MR. LANGFORD: I do need to know, and have the correspondence replied to. Because if your emails and County Clerk's office aren't working, then there's no way for people to submit testimony and written testimony formally. So, in that case, I...I directly contacted the Governor and the Hawai'i AG Office, as I have direct contact to both of them.

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

MR. LANGFORD: Okay. See you later.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Janet Six.

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MS. SIX: Hello. Can you folks hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. SIX: Hi. I'm the County Archaeologist. I just wanted to provide a little bit of context on the Ha'ikū Fire Station proposed. I had done a site visit a couple of years back with then Planning...Long-Range Planning person Annalise Kehler. An Archeological Inventory Survey was done in 2010. That is 15 years old, so SHPD may want more information. And there was a documented historic rock wall. So, I just wanted to let the testifier know that an AIS was done. If they are uncomfortable with SHPD's determination, they can ask for a redetermination and ask for monitoring, but I just wanted to let them know that an Archeological Inventory Survey was completed and accepted in 2010. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Thank you for...oh, you disappeared. Anybody have questions for the--are you still there, Ms. Six? Yeah. Hang on.

MS. SIX: I'm here...I'm here. Yeah.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Dr. Six. Mahalo for your testimony. So, I see the AIS as Appendix C-2 and a cultural impact assessment report on...in Appendix D. I'm just looking at all of this for the first time because it was in the...the link was attached to the *Maui Now* article. So, both of those were done in 2010?

MS. SIX: And I believe the project has changed. When I did this site visit, it was for...on behalf of the Fire Department. They asked me to go. And I know at one point they were going to have a helicopter landing pad, and that's been changed. So, if the footprint has changed considerably in the last 15 years, they may want a supplemental AIS testing. Like I said, there was a historic rock wall, I saw some of those pōhaku the gentleman was talking about. Again, the footprint on the larger parcel is nominal, and it is where there is already a house. So, just wanted to provide some context.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Dr. Six. And the rock wall suggested a housing platform where 'ohana would bury their...their loved ones?

MS. SIX: No. I'm going to tell you what it says. It says terrace and retaining wall--again, I did not do the interpretation, I can just tell you what it says--the site is in fair-to-good condition, and functions as a retaining wall and a garden terrace. Though the site is constructed in traditional manner, which is dry-stacked with salt, it's believed that the feature associated with the current or possible former residence. The age of the site is estimated to be 50 to 60 years old, circa the 1950s. Now, that doesn't mean they didn't take something apart to build it. It does not look burial-ish to me, it does look garden-ish, but that doesn't mean...again, what happened in 1950 we don't

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know...because there was no 60 regulations until 1976. But from my expertise, looking at that retaining wall which was dry stacked, it did look to be more garden-ish than burial. But as the gentleman said, whenever you have kuleana lands, you could have burials. And if...if they want to revisit and ask SHPD to change in determination to have archeological monitors there, I would support that. But again, the AIS was done 15 years ago, so SHPD may decide to ask for supplemental testing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Dr. Six.

MS. SIX: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any other questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much, Dr. Six. Nice to see you. Next testifier.

MS. SIX: You, too.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. That's all the individuals signed up to testify. If anyone in the audience or on Teams would like to testify, please come up to the podium or raise your hand on Teams. I do see an individual coming down to the podium.

MR. LAW: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for working for the County of Maui. Aloha kākou. Aloha kakahiaka. Aloha Akakū. My name...ko'u inoa Jasee Law from Waiakoa ahupua'a Kula Uka. Mahalo, Director Molitau and Deputy Director Robinson from the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. I heard through a little birdie that you were instructional in translating the budget into 'Ōlelo Hawaiian this year, which was the first time in 100 years. So, this is indeed a new chapter of the...the Kingdom of Hawai'i. And I saw in the budget that the...it was...looks like it's a little bit over \$1.9 million, and I would like to see a 100 percent increase in the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources' budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. All right. Members, with your permission I'm going to...oh, last call, please. Oh, I see another hand up.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, apologies. Mr. Langford has already --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, at this time with your permission, Members, I'd like to close public testimony and receive written testimony. Thank you.

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. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...all right. So, we're at bare quorum, so if anybody needs to leave, let me know because we're going to lose quorum. So, at this time then, I'd like to ask questions...or have the Members ask questions of the departments, starting with MEMA...and we'll do a first round of three minutes, a second round of two minutes. And...let's see. Their responses are initial letter and responses number 20...oh, I'm sorry...15 in Granicus, and departmental question, we don't have their responses yet, is in 73. So, that would be MEMA. Okay. First...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, Member Sinenci is still on, I'll yield to him so he gets an opportunity --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. I don't see him.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- before he has to go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is Member Sinenci on?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, Councilmember Sinenci no longer appears to be online at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. He was. He had to catch the ferry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Paltin, you're first, followed by Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, and then U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. My first question, I did not see the Administrator position on the salary sheet that we got from the Salary Commission. How is your salary set?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. I'm...I believe that salary sheet reflects all of the appointed positions, and I am under HGEA Union position...civil service position.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. The next question I have was regarding the emergency funds. You know, we had a itemized list in the aftermath of the fire of how the monies were spent. Do you know the rules and regulations or procedures of how that money can be spent? Like is there a...a protocol? Some of the expenses were interesting. So, is there a...like a standard that's followed on how emergency funds can be spent, or a protocol?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I think I understand the question. What my experience has been, since taking over the agency, is related to funds...or related to expenditures related to the fire. I would say that there is any...there isn't any clear protocols and procedures in...in the way those funds were spent, which is kind of partly why there's a necessary need for a financial component to MEMA. Because recovery costs and all of

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the actions related to identifying those procedures and managing those procedures for a disaster is complicated. And even with our consultant supporting us in kind of identifying all those costs--and then qualifying those costs, if you will--still requires clearer procedures...which the solution for me is having a finance chief to assist in building out those procedures.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean...okay. Would...would it...I mean, I'm not sure the answer, but could you work with the Auditor right now to...to build out a procedure or protocol on how emergency...how and what emergency funds could be used for?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And was this a part of your to-do list for now and into Fiscal Year '26? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, figuring out the whole financials of the agency related to disaster and recovery costs is involved and complex. Once again, discussing these issues with our...our consultant, who is addressing some of the cost-recovery measures. I don't have a clear pathway related to how we go about doing that. I...I need some expertise, some support, to...once again, it's within this finance chief position to help us lead the efforts. We have consultant, Tetra Tech, working on various plans that kind of touch cost recovery, but not as a...in a collective, complete way.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Johnson, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins, then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Okay. Good morning, everybody. I...I'll just jump in on my very simple question, it's in regards to the U.S. Department of Transportation special project grant, I guess...the planning initiative. It looks like there's a \$2.7 million increase. And for the life of me, I don't really understand what the planning initiative would do. Doing AI-derived images system? Maybe you can just kind of expand on...on what that...that project will be doing.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, MEMA has partnered...has applied for a protect grant with the Department of Transportation. It is to analyze the evacuation concerns for West Maui more in-detail. They do have additional software to what we have. One of the key partners is NEC from Japan, who has extensive experience in evacuations and disasters. And so, we are...we applied for the grant, and we are awaiting award. But it is to support our work in analyzing evacuation routes and evacuation planning Countywide, but I believe the...that particular grant is for West Maui. And that work will support us --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- for the Countywide analysis.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. You know, I...sometimes I...I like to see the actual things being built, or things actually happening. And sometimes, software is so expensive. Can you tell me a little bit about any plans in regards to resiliency hubs? You know, that sounds something like I...I...we could really use if the boats stop running or, you know, tsunamis, or anything really terrible happened. Are we ready with the finances to start working on resiliency hubs?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, there's three models that we are exploring related to community resiliency hubs. We are partnering with Vibrant Hawai'i in...on the Big Island of Hawai'i, who has experience with community resiliency hubs. Their model is community-based with no location. HI-EMA is...has a resiliency center solution, which is a large facility. There are...we're in conversations for five of those centers in Maui County. At this point, it's...this...that's the discussion, but it looks like a resiliency center armory-size footprint . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . is in discussion. Related to the smaller community resiliency hub footprints, those are still under discussion, I'm not sure if they fit in the bigger picture. We've been doing a lot of community resiliency hub discussions with various partners and entities to find out what actually works. We --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- will partner with--East Maui comes to mind--with what --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- those communities actually need, versus what the community resiliency model, the hub model, was initially offered. So, trying to find a way to what that actually means with...with all of our communities is still ongoing. I know --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and receive or support the HI-EMA resiliency center, as well as the Vibrant Hawai'i model of the building...educated-prepared communities. The model in the middle with the smaller footprint is still ongoing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks for the updates. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, next we have Member U'u-Hodgins--oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Sorry about that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No worries. Mahalo, Administrator and team. Okay. So, my first two questions are regarding Molokai and Lāna'i. So, does the 10,000 grant to VOAD include support services or advocacy for Molokai and Lāna'i?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes. So, I've yet to follow-up with VOAD. I know they have some organizational challenges, but yes, it would be.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And then would you please update us on the status of the isolated areas specialized for Hāna, Molokai, and Lānaʻi where they house, and is there sufficient funding for their office space and daily operations?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, the East Maui position has been filled, as well as Lānaʻi. A Molokai staff specialist, I believe, has accepted the position, and starts on May 15th. Related to facilities at this point, there's conversations about office spaces, and what works and what makes sense for them. Right now, Lānaʻi and East Maui are allowed to work from home. They are equipped with...oh, East Maui's equipped with a vehicle and technology to work from home. There are some places that we're looking for to secure--nothing concrete yet. Conversations as well on Lānaʻi as well that I need to follow-up regarding facility. There are two vehicles that have been...are been purchased and ordered, I believe, and funded via a Homeland Security grant that will be going to Lānaʻi and Molokai, as well as technology to support them working remotely until we can find long-term solutions for office space.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And then would you share with us the status update on the strategic planning.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Strategic plan?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, the strategic plan was submitted last week, and the integrated preparedness plan.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: To...to the...to all of us?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: To County Clerk.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Did I get it too?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: To the County Clerk on Friday, I believe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think they wanted me to take that up in my Committee when we finish the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. That's why Member Paltin...oh, man, I missed it. Mahalo for that update. I have a question, Chair. Are you going to do two rounds?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second round, two minutes. Yep.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Okay, I'll just start then. My next set of questions are relating to your goals and objectives. I see that they're all new goals and objectives. Would you share with us how those new goals and objectives were developed?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we utilized, I think, six . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . different reports, including MEMA's after-action, FSRI's investigation, 2018 Hurricane Lane, as well...as well as Police and Fire's after-actions, as well as the long-term recovery plan for Lāhainā that has common themes. That drove the development of the goals and objectives. As well as we are following emergency management accreditation program, and they have creative goal categories that we are also using to organize the strategic plan and the way our agency functions.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Great. I...I think the new goals and objectives are great, and then I have two follow-up questions for round two. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you guys for being with us today. I wanted to talk to you folks about your Genasys stuff because I'm so excited. When we were out at Pā'ia and Makawao, we talked about this soon to come online. So, my question is...and really, I could have asked Fire and Police but you kind of took rein in those meetings as it relates to Genasys. I gather when it hits the fan, you guys run command. So, are you guys going to be going out to the other communities and explaining what an evacuation process may look like, how everything should work, like we did in Pā'ia, like we did in Makawao?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we've done different...various community meetings, which have done...presented the evacuation information like we did for you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, by the way.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: You're welcome. We are...with our public information folks--two out of the three public information folks now on board --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- you'll see a way more involved and engaged MEMA related to public education and public information. So, you'll see those way more, and to assist the community in learning about every...every tool in...in MEMA. We are developing a community resiliency workshop that is also another educational opportunity for us to go throughout the community and look at community preparedness and resilience in a more detailed way, and really be able to answer the questions that our community need...need answered. We are expected to--which reflects on the advertisement budget increase. It --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- we're doing...we want to be able to do alerts and warnings videos --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- where people can easily reference all the time because it is a complicated system.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, to answer your question, yes, we are wanting to...we have been doing presentations, we expect to do more presentations --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and engage the public in a more detailed way.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Awesome. Thank you. And then can you tell me the difference between a public affairs officer and a community outreach specialist? I know one we don't have the language for just yet, and the E/P is for...or expanded position is for community outreach specialist. And they seem like similar but different, and I'm wondering if you can talk to me about the difference.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, the public affairs officer, for me, basically is the lead of that section, and that person is looking at the general strategy to share information and education across the board--how do we receive and manage community concerns, how do we address even the bigger, broader disaster communications . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . integration. The community outreach specialist is one that focuses on vulnerable populations.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: There's a lot of work to do there too. There's a lot of different tools, different partners that we don't understand capabilities of yet, and how to interact, engage during disaster. So, the community outreach specialist will...will be busy, and that person is specifically looking at those populations and the tools that help us connect.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, we have Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, my...my first question for our Director is, in the key activity goals and measures, goal number two, this is on page 179. It says, strengthen whole community response. There are several measures regarding updating

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the public. For the first measurement of the number of community members reached is an estimate of 50,000. How does MEMA intend to achieve that goal?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, with the addition of the information education positions, that'll allow us to realistically engage the community to upgrade those numbers. We are participating the four bigger events of the year, which includes our expo this Saturday, as well as the Molokai Resource Fair --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- Pineapple Festival, and Taro Festival.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: We also will be participating in the Maui County Fair, as well as we have --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uhm.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- an event tonight --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- at Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center. We look to continuously get, and be a part of, and participate in all kinds of --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Wonderful.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- outreach programs to ensure that the subscriptions of MEMA alerts and Genasys alerts are all increased, and in our social media site as well. Based on the community resiliency hub--excuse me--community resiliency workshop plan as well --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- I think reaching 50,000 is definitely reasonable within the next year.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Absolutely. So, for the measurement regarding engage vulnerable populations, who are the identified underserved and at-risk groups? How and where will those outreach activities be conducted?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, you know, the underserved reflect ones that don't have adequate access to services, as well as those that have negative outcomes...large or negative outcomes potentially. We are reaching out...we've reached out to various partners, like the Office of Aging, as well as Maui Rapid Response, Holomua Outreach, and other partners. We're engaged in trying to find solutions on how to support them

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in an effort to connect before, and during, and after a disaster. Our effort there, with our outreach specialist, we just began. We'll grow and increase activity-wise. Right now, there's a lot for us to still do.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: How do you intend to reach out to those who are disabled in their homes, who don't go to programs where you'd be able to get their attention.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Hopefully, we identify the partners that would . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . help us to find solutions for that, and then engage them...engage with them consistently.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Do you know who the partners would be?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, one of the main partners would be Office of Aging. Regarding disabilities...geez, we're a part of a weekly, or bi-weekly, or bi-monthly task force. And I forget the name, I apologize, I don't know the name of the organization right off the top of my head.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I heard the bell, Chair. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I just have a...maybe clarification for...actually, the Budget Office. The initial question that was asked to you, I think what they were asking is why wasn't your name, or your position, on this list that the--I think that's what you meant--on...the Salary Commission had revisions to a lot of the salaries in the management of the County of Maui, and that your particular position was not listed. So, this is, I think, a question for the Budget Office.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was just asking because he's tasked with the safety of our County, and it doesn't seem equitable for his roles, and responsibilities, and his salary compared to the updated salaries. And the updated salaries would allow us to recruit highly-qualified people. And in his role as Administrator, I believe he's highly-qualified, but I think he may be making less than what he could have made if he just retired and stayed home as a battalion chief. And so, I think if we want to continue to recruit and retain highly-qualified people, that parity needs to occur.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you for your explanation, but I'm going back to Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The Emergency Management Administrator position does not have a salary that is set by the Salary Commission. It is an EM-7 position, and I believe in light of the decisions by the Salary Commission, the Mayor intends to take a look at the EM positions as well, and possibly make some salary changes there. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see. I guess we'll hear more, is that what you're saying?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And Director...so, we have seen a lot of success of you filling positions in MEMA, and quite effectively. And I wonder if you would like to share what you have done, as most of the departments that come before us talk about the difficulties that they have had with filling positions. And you have...you have probably both sides, but I've seen you act pretty quickly. So, what is your experience that you can share?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I try, try, and try again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I would say that I...I attempt to understand the perspective of DPS, and in that I want to be able to, you know, follow their procedure regarding classifications, position descriptions, and minimum qualifications. I...I think they have narrow perspective, or have not realized that the agency and the profession has evolved. It's my job, as an Administrator, to provide that information to them, to align additional careers that make up emergency management, that maybe was not previously understood as part of emergency management. I provide recommendations on how...what skillsets that would be transferable into emergency management, as well as recommendation to include operational experience versus administrative experience only. That would...that was kind of a big problem as well. I...we kind of...like the information section, they would try and qualify based on staff specialist emergency management experience when the skillset is not necessary emergency management, the skillset is communications. And so, we want to be...we engage in those conversations to...to, you know, understand exactly what we're trying...who we're trying to staff with what qualifications and what skillsets. And, you know, we keep meeting often. That's helped.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Interesting, right? You have figured out how to work kind of with the system and around the system, and I...I just wonder...we kind of hear something very similar, maybe not as effective as you have described, and you make me wonder, how do we...how do we revamp our...our whole system with...with Department of Personnel Services. Because I think if you would have just been like a lot of the other departments, you would have been stuck, and you wouldn't have the number of people that you have hired as of today. Okay. So, that's another side conversation that I would like to have with you. So, you have your function, that you have great...in the elevator, you also have a poster that you're having on April the 12th. . . .(timer sounds). . . And I got an email from a person who said, what if they can't attend that? Do you have alternate ways of reaching the community?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I believe that email was related to Genasys as well. Yeah. That --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah...yeah. It was.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, I responded to that email --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and that person can definitely contact me. I did provide initial instructions to his question. We're going to be out in the public, but I...to his question--his or her question, I'm sorry--we can directly address that over the phone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, there's other ways that people can communicate regarding Genasys --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- besides going to that function?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Exactly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's...that's it for me. Now we're going for round two. Member Paltin, and Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and then Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I'm not sure if this is for the Budget Director or for the Administrator, but I was wondering if we could get an updated copy of Budget Details 6-3 through 6-5. In Workday, there's at least eight positions filled, or have bodies in them, that are not reflected in the Budget Details, so it's weird looking at outdated information to go forward. And then I heard you working with HI-EMA and Vibrant Hawai'i, but the resiliency hubs are money from Maui County is under the Office of the Mayor. Is that the correct place if you're working with Vibrant Hawai'i and HI-EMA? I didn't hear you mention that you're working with the Office of the Mayor.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I'm sorry. I...I am as well. I know that the community resiliency hubs kind of project before I became the Administrator was with OED, and so I am working with OED, Josh Cooper specifically, on the understanding and implementation of community resiliency hubs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does it make sense for the money to be under the Mayor, or under you folks? And then if resiliency hubs become a physical location in the remote locations, could that be a physical location for the staff to be stationed at...in all districts, actually, but Hāna, Lāna'i, Molokai?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, the...the OED model --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: OED is basically nonfunctional, they don't have a leader. The leader is doing three jobs, not one of which is great.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- for that model...that model of community resiliency hub would not suffice for a staff specialist . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . location. You know, the idea of the community resiliency hub in...in that model is for the community to gather. The footprint is small, the footprint is uncomfortable. Is the community actually going to come to the containers, 40-foot containers, to meet in the middle of a parking lot? Probably not.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it seems like maybe we should put it under yours because that's the wrong model.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, that...you know, we're engaging with them to find out what...how we do it, and I am not sure exactly how to do it. Once again, that's kind of why we gauging these different partners who have done it. And...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They're kind of a leaderless agency that's prone to political shifting, whereas you're hired, not political, and specialized in emergency management. So, it...it seems like the resiliency hub is in the hand of amateurs right now.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, I'm open to it. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Main thing, you're open. Thank you. I heard the bell. I got a couple more questions, but I'll yield.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. How interesting. Member Johnson, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered. I just appreciate everything the Department's been doing. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins, and Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. So, the rest of my questions are related to the goals and objectives. For goal two, objective one, number of community members reached through public awareness campaigns and educational resources, estimating 50,000 for this next fiscal year. Can you share with us how you plan to measure or count that 50,000?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we do have a way to measure the subscribers of MEMA alerts, and currently, the number is somewhere around 22,000. And so, we are confirming that we can do that with Genasys Protect as well. And so, we'll be able to...after educational campaigns are delivered, we...we check those numbers, and we monitor the increase. That's one of the ways.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. I'm one of the 22,000. Goal two, objective four, engage vulnerable populations. Number of outreach activities conducted for underserved and at-risk groups. So, kind of dovetailing off of what Member Kama was asking about. As you likely know, news articles after the LA fire show that they also suffered from not having adequate evacuation preparedness for seniors and folks with disabilities. I looked through the goals and objectives, and I didn't see anything a little more tangible to give MEMA and...and the County a way to measure, you know, like if it's being improved...I mean, other...other than like outreach activities. So, like maybe under goal four, enhance public information alerts and warning systems, if there

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was like a specific one for like seniors and folks with disabilities or, you know, like specifically targeting that group that we know need the most help.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for that. So, I think all of our efforts . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . to include measurables and activities that show progress is related to people in position. So, right now we have ideas, we kind of know partners are over there, we kind of say that'll...we'll do that, and we'll do that too.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: But really, for us to really be able to engage effectively and actually do anything of real value, it's related to having people really finding out the solutions. People offer us solutions and ideas, and at...at this point, their solutions and their ideas versus actual tangible actions with our...which is why the...why I pushed so hard on the staffing side. Because I cannot engage or...or do anything of value for our community if I don't have people.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: It's going to be stuck in as an idea, and that's just not good enough. And that's why I push hard with DPS. And hopefully, we'll be making quick progress because we have at least two positions filled, and one being the community outreach specialist that will engage the populations, and hopefully have something tangible the next time we talk.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief. Mahalo, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I'm going to pick up off my last line of questioning. Some of the issues I heard from the temporary administrator before you was that he had difficulties getting information out to the public, it would have to go through so many hoops. It would go through them, and then the Mayor's office, and then maybe hopefully out to the community eventually. With your hiring of your own community outreach specialist and public officer...information person, are we hoping to skip some of that steps, and we can have very important information immediately? This was actually in response to Kula's water issue back in the...back in the day post-fire.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That's a great question. So, I have not experienced any kind of delay --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- in any information sharing. To my knowledge, if I'm hearing your question correctly, we...when we activate--if we're talking about activation, when we activate, County Communications comes in --

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- and they...we align messaging in our alerts and warnings with them, and we marry the messages.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: With our public information officer in the agency now, that would just provide an additional layer of...of effort and work related to aligning the message. At some point in time, if it is deemed necessary, MEMA potentially would be handling all of the...all of the messaging.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: That's under...in the works with County Comms and whatever makes sense --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- is to get accurate, consistent messaging out in a timely manner. Whatever way that is accomplished is what we would be pursuing.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I hope so.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I like that answer. Thank you. That's all for me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair, I have no other questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I just...on personnel, I'm going to talk to you after. Because what you're describing is, you figured out how to work around the system, and with success, right? And we have a big problem...I...I just want to say, we have a really big problem for the County of Maui, not only you, but with every department that comes before us and the challenges that we face with personnel. So, I have no further questions, you just added to my frustration of the reality of where we are and how serious our problems are. The last round of questions--and then I'm going to take a recess--I think...Member Paltin, you had a question. Two minutes. You have one question for one minute.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. One of them was answered, I think, under Member Rawlins-Fernandez, but glad to see that the alerts are a go and that, you know, we have 160,000, we can only go up population. But plenty times during emergencies, the cell phone goes out. So, what is Plan B? And I might have had some of the questions on the written about the sirens and all of that, but I didn't get those answers yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. It hasn't come.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, if I'm...let me try and swing for this one. So, related to alerts and warnings, all of the tools include EAS, the public siren, MEMA alerts, Genasys Protect...they all have limitations. Because of power disruption, cell service disruptions, all of them have a limitation. And so, they all work together to overcome any one of the disruptions. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . The main component that we are really, really trying to bolster now is the radio, our radio broadcast piece. We've...are meeting with partners, our radio stations that...there are 20-plus radio stations that receive EAS, those radio stations are on our MEMA page now. We are looking to support a primary broadcast partner with potentially supporting their stations with alternate power, which allow them to run radio broadcasts for us 24/7, and overcome the disruption as well. We are looking at various grants to support generators for our primary partner. But the radio station is...would be that key piece that we've been missing, and we are trying to improve.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If I can just make a comment. I'm a...a --

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Harry Kim.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Harry Kim. This is Harry Kim from Hawai'i County Civil Defense, you know, it was just standard after even every monthly test. And so, you know, it's not about a tsunami siren, it really is an all-hazard siren, and the siren is just to get you to turn on the radio.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And last time the siren sounded in Lahaina and we turned on the radio, there was Hawaiian music playing. So, we got a lot of ground to cover but, you know, Hawai'i has plenty emergencies regularly with the volcano, and things like that. So, just more, I guess, practice but...you know, the way he would talk on the radio, or whatever it was, the issue, he was just super monotoned, like the dry-eyes guy. And I think...I think that was helpful, you know, like we came to rely on that...like oh, sirens, turn on the radio, what Harry Kim going tell us, you know? So, if...if we can get Maui to that same level. I don't know if Hawai'i County is still doing it since I left, I think they get Talmadge Magno or something, but that was one thing he did really well. I mean, he did a lot, but that was one thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bless his soul, yeah...yeah. Okay. Anybody else have any questions. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I don't know if our Chief can achieve that monotonous tone, but you can try, Chief. I think the rest...I just have two questions, and I think we'll discuss them more in DRIP Committee. Goal three, objective three, average time to mobilize and deploy critical...critical response resources during emergencies is four hours in...is what you're estimating for FY' 26. My question is, what is best management, and do you know why it's taking time to fill the public affairs officer? And then serious question, are you preparing for the Mayor's boat regatta? Because we...what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They not hosting this year, they get bye.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay. Well, that gives you a year-and-a-half to practice because we're going to win.

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

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yes. I forgot the question.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: We are training.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. That's the correct answer. Average time taken to mobilize and deploy critical services. Four hours was best management, and then public affairs officer.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, public affairs officer, let me attack that one real quick. I don't believe that there's a public affairs officer title in the County and State, to...to my knowledge. That's what...that's what was told to me. So...however, there is a community engagement officer . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . that is...comes from Hawai'i Civil Defense. And so, they would...this position description is the same. So, I said, can we just use the community engagement position description that is already classified in Civil Defense from Hawai'i County, and I don't have an answer yet. To...related to the four-hour timeline, those are estimations based on, you know, working as a volunteer after the fire, being part of the Fire Department, and what is a reasonable goal to be able to establish critical resources, mobilize critical logistical resources to support media pod, it's an estimation at this point. Some of those services will be provided quicker than four hours, but just to give my team something to look at and go okay, that's what we're going to achieve to do is what that is.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member U'u-Hodgins, you have any further questions?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I do not. Thank you so much for being with us today.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama, you have any further questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, Chair, I do not. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I do not. Probably the one thing that you will have to share with me is...that how you're able to fill all these positions without going through the...well, you were trying to go through with...I mean, with Personnel Services. So, if you have a comment? Then I'm going to close this, and move on to the next Department.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Did you say you want me to comment?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If...if you can...share.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I...I...once again, we have regular meetings with them. I mean...so, it's just really holding them accountable to our agreements. We set...we're setting monthly agreements, weekly agreements, to address each situation on a timeline. And I also did field positions via the State Workforce Development program, as well as the internship with Maui College and West O'ahu. I do have an intern working with us from West O'ahu right. I do have a intern that came from Maui College that now is funded through the State Workforce Program. But I...I guess the...the advice would be that you...you have to keep pushing, cannot let it go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No further questions. Members, with your permission, I'm going to thank the Department of Emergency Management and ask for 'O'iwi Resource to come up next. Thank you very much. And so, I'm going to have a--is ten-minute recess okay? So, let's go...10:40, what is it? 10:41, so 10:46 [sic], we will be back. I'm sorry, 10:56...10:56. . . .(laughing). . . Let's go. Okay. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:42 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:59 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . (gavel) . . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Members, we now have the 'O'iwi Resource Department before us. We have some Members who must leave, so I'm going to guess that we have one round of questions for three minutes, and we are going to be done, I think, unless...if Members want to have more, but...so at this time, I'd like to start off with Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. We had aloha, Department. Mahalo, Director, Deputy Director and team. We...we did have a...a lot of discussion in

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KA'A Committee. But I guess...just to expound on a couple things. For the 250,000 for story board, would you please explain what the story board is here in this context?

MR. MOLITAU: Aloha mai, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Good morning kākou. Aloha kakahiaka. So, from what I understand is, the story board is for the area of Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, in reference to making sure that we can get started on developing the...the entire story board of the history of that space. And so, that was what the funding is...is allocated for.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What is a story board, for the public?

MR. MOLITAU: Oh. Okay. Kala mai.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Whatever you like.

MR. MOLITAU: So, the historical context of the 'āina Mokuhinia, Moku'ula, and the surrounding parcels of the...what we call the Lahaina cultural corridor, which is...it's being coined as. And so, it would be a...a series of mo'olelo boards that would be in and around that particular vicinity.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, it'll be like physical storyboards --

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae. It'll be physical --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- or...and also digital on the website.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah. I believe we can develop it any way which allows for our public to have access to. So, physical story boards on-site, as well as actual abilities to access it via on the Internet. or via QR code reader, et cetera.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the 250 is for the...the contracting professional services to do this, or like is it like the software, or...

MR. MOLITAU: I believe it will be two-fold. It would be contracting services out to be able to put together, as well as I'm...I'm sure or certain that are story board softwares [sic] that are available for us to look at.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then for . . .(inaudible). . . in the explanation of external factors on page 577, is there a space to include play space community partnership for collaboration before local, State, and Federal agency collaboration and cooperation?

MR. MOLITAU: Kala mai. Can you repeat the question again?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In the explanation of external factors on page 577, is there--in the Program Budget--is there a space to include play space community

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partnership for collaboration before local, State, and Federal agency collaboration and cooperation?

MR. MOLITAU: Is there a space to include local partnership between State and Federal --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Community...yeah, community partnership.

MR. MOLITAU: Yes. There is space for that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then in the explanation of the external factors, same. The Department only makes reference to preserving and protecting the destruction of culturally-sensitive sites from the August 8, 2023 wildfires. Is it safe to say that Department's main focus will be centralized around the August 8th fires, what makes the . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . destruction of the culturally-sensitive sites of the fires priority over other culturally-sensitive sites across Maui County that have been destroyed?

MR. MOLITAU: That is a great question. I do believe when we were talking in regards to Lahaina Central, that entire area from the...from library all the way up to...to Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, there a lot of different cultural-sensitive spaces that need to be referenced. In regards to places like Kamehameha III, Pākalā, up and down that particular vicinity of the shoreline. We're looking at also the Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, space because it is one of those areas that have been EO'd over to...to the Mayor's office, and also now over to the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources that will be part of our main focus going into Fiscal Year 2026, to develop a future story board, also to develop the working area in and around it of what that cultural kuleana will look like. Does that exempt any other spaces? No. When we're talking about cultural spaces of significance, we're also looking at all of Maui Nui, not only Lahaina in general, but also Molokai, Lāna'i as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have then Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Do you want to go with me or Member Johnson? Me? Oh we went down this way.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I'm sorry I was all thrown off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry...I'm sorry. I was going to go this way.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'm happy to go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Sorry, Member Johnson.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I forgot he sits before her. For whatever reason, it's throwing me all off. Thank you so much for being with us today. I wanted to talk to you folks about your materials and supplies for the funding of the construction of the iwi kūpuna vault and burial site. Do we have a location picked out for the...for this place? Not that you have to share it, but --

MR. MOLITAU: Currently --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- yes or no.

MR. MOLITAU: -- yes. For the areas of Kaulahao, for the areas of Hāmākuapoko, for the areas of those sites in general, I could...I could just say yes today. There are sites that are picked out for them. I think one of the interesting factors that we're talking about, supplies, we...we got to wait because vault systems take a while to develop --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I see.

MR. MOLITAU: -- and because of the need of...of concrete.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: And so, that's where we're at currently.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Concrete is super expensive right now. Is \$40,000 sufficient to do multiple sites?

MR. MOLITAU: Not quite sure because I'm not, but that's what we budgeted for. We will probably have to look at what that total is, going into this particular year. We do know that...again, we have two that are finished, and we have two more that are being requested. So, hopefully, those two are within the current budget. And then the other two, I'm not sure exactly what it's going to cost.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. And then I just really have one more question. So, I see you have an expansion position for a chief Hawaiian cultural specialist. Are you not that? In my opinion, you are exactly that.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo....mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Is it just too much to do Director and that?

MR. MOLITAU: When we...when we were looking at the entirety of a Department of Ōiwi, and we look at what we do division out, we're going to look at three particular pieces of this particular department. So, it's going to be the administrative department, our kipuka, and then one more, our kumu waiola department. And those departments are going to be led by a particular po'o. So, when we're thinking about chief cultural specialist, that is the person that will be able to lead not only the ōlelo Hawai'i components, but also

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lead all the cultural components--with...with the kumu's oversight as well--to be able to oversee all of the kuleana that is at hand. And as we know, just over the course of the eight, nine months that we've been around, this Department is quite busy and quite integrated with our community in regards to caring for iwi kūpuna, in regards to we caring for our Lahaina 'āina. Going over to areas of Molokai, as well as reaching out to Lāna'i very shortly. And then also, knowing that Hāna's part of that. And then thinking about the future of what . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Olowalu might look like. All of those kuleana takes more than just kumu, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you so much. And I know we're only going to do round...one round, so I wanted to thank you so much also for all your help, and donating...or sharing Ms. Six's time with me, and helping to fire-wise and fire protect Pā'ia Town. I appreciate you guys' help so much. Thank you.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo nui.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, Member Kama left the meeting, we're now at bare quorum, we're not going to be making any decisions. So, we'll go around to Member Paltin. Yep. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I guess my first question, in professional services, it seems 165,000 is left over from the strategic planning. Could we encumber that now for Phase II, or utilize it for roofing Hale Nanea, or are there already plans?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo nui. I'm going to go ahead and turn that question over to Budget and Finance.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, during the recess I had a chance to talk with the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. They're currently in the competitive process right now for their grant funds. So, the applications for that are due by April 25th, awards will be made in early May. And if they receive applications that are above what's currently allocated for grants, they can use some of those professional services funds for that as well. So, they could apply for the roof for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That flows right into my next question. Where on...do people go to...to apply for the grants?

MS. ROBINSON: So, on the Maui County website at 'Ōiwi Grants.com...see one? Yes, 'Ōiwi grants. You can go ahead. There is a video webinar, also the application, and also instructions on how to apply for the grant.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And would somebody be reaching out to former Mayor Apana to submit an application? Is it...does it have to be --

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if he's ready July 1st, could it be encumbered, or awarded, and then work out that way?

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah. Thank you, Member Paltin. In the space of Kimo Apana being here, our...our secretary did receive his --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sweet.

MS. ROBINSON: -- yeah, contact info for him and Ali'i Nui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Next question, on the story board. Some folks were speaking with me that they did a presentation . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . on virtual reality. Is that going to be a component of Moku'ula Loko Mokuhinia touring?

MR. MOLITAU: That's...that's new to me. Virtual reality mana'o, but I don't believe that it should be out of the question. I think...I think any and all opportunities of sharing the mo'olelo, Mokuhinia, Moku'ula, as well as the cultural compound of Lahaina, whether it be via that particular medium or others.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you guys...for what the testifier earlier about the Ha'ikū Fire Station, would you guys be able to--if the cultural monitor or archeological folks--would you be able to assist to make sure that...I mean, it seems kind of weird that the Ka Pa'akai analysis happened after the EA was finished. I don't know exactly the order of it, but are you guys able to coordinate with the Fire Department and just make sure that we're not...that we're adhering to the goals and the priorities of you guys' department in relationship to the Fire Station?

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae. Mahalo, for the question. I...I would say that having Dr. Janet Six on our staff, as well as our field archeologist on staff, allows for that particular response time to be a little bit quicker. I do believe that it also allows for the conversation to happen not only with the...the Fire Department, but also with our community. So, knowing that Dr. Janet Six was already heard, I'm sure she's probably figuring out ways to be able to reach out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Director, Deputy Director, and everybody who's joined us. Really appreciate you coming, I know you're very busy. My question is...regards specifically to the 12 months' funding for the grant coordinator. Really curious, if maybe you could explain what they'll be doing, that...reaching for grants. I...I'm...really want to kind of hone in on, will they be working with other departments within the County? But if you want to just give us a overview of the grant...the proposed grant coordinator.

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MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae. Aloha. Mahalo nui for the question, Member Johnson. Yes. Currently our grant coordinator is, and has been, reaching out to other grant coordinators in the departments of Maui County. Currently our grant coordinator's also administrating this particular grant opportunity that is...is being done now. And so, we've just had our first webinar last week...Friday, I believe...and out of that, we'll see how many actual...folks actually apply for this upcoming grant that's available through the Department of 'Ōiwi. Also, the current grant coordinator is also submitting, on behalf of the Department of 'Ōiwi, different grant-funding resources that will help, you know, defer some of our costs and requests moving forward. Is there more to that question?

MS. ROBINSON: She's amazing.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah. She's quite amazing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I just think...go ahead. There's more?

MR. MOLITAU: No, I was just saying that's she's amazingly...makes me look really good.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, a good grant...good grant writer is worth their weight in gold, I always say. Because they, you know, really help us move the pots around and, you know, make...make it...you know, make other revenues, other grants, so important. So, okay. I just wanted to see, you know, kind of the update on it, and it sounds like there's movement in it. And that's wonderful and I support you...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, Chair. No further questions.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Real fast then, the...speaking of grants. The grants that you've applied for, are any of them Federally-funded that are in jeopardy of possibly not getting awarded, or did you already hear?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo nui, Chair. No, they're not.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, even if it's National Parks Service, you...you're not in jeopardy for those, even if it sounds Federal funded-ish? All right. So, Members, anybody else have any more questions? If not, I'll thank the Department. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In the expansion positions, has the position description already been created, and minimum qualifications?

MR. MOLITAU: Yes. Position descriptions have been created. We...we're very happy to note that we're completely full-staffed right now, and it took us a little under a year to get there. And the requests for these particular six to fill for next fiscal year is...is something that we're really looking forward to.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then in one of your responses, you mentioned like we're already having two interns, and there's one Hawaiian language specialist position and all of that. Does it make sense to stagger the funding? Because I think the Chief one, and maybe one of the archeological ones, you said would be a harder-to-fill position. So, does it make sense to have some...like maybe ten, eight, and whatever? And if...if it does, if you could provide that response in writing so that we can plan appropriately.

MR. MOLITAU: Okay. We'll get that response out to you. Yeah. I know that we...we have some more discussions within our own Department, and we can get that out to you this week.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, if the position description and minimum qualification is already created, has it been...does it need a reorg, or has it already been turned over to Personnel Services, and the ball is in their court, so to speak?

MR. MOLITAU: Kekai?

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo. Thank you. So, we have...all of our positions are aligned with civil service jobs that exist in the County system, we just are working very closely with DPS to go ahead and adjust those so that they are appropriate for our Department. There are, I think . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . two positions that require pretty extensive work with DPS, which is the chief of Hawaiian cultural...the Hawaiian cultural specialist, and the archeologist, and the archeological cultural monitor. And so, that's a new hybrid position that is more like an intern's position. So, what we're concerned about is making sure that the County has bold archaeological coverage into the future, and cultural coverage, and that when they work together, culture and archeology, that there is a synergy that is created that is more than the base parts there. So, that's kind of where we're at, but we are working closely with DPS. So, we also already have some of those folks that are excited to be in those positions, and have been reaching out to us. And I think I would credit that to being an exciting new department that the community is...is standing behind, and coming forward to inquire about what's available. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then in your experience in working with Personnel Services, as the ball is in either the Department's court or Personnel's court, is there a time frame for Personnel Services when it's in their court for them to get back to you by, or is it a constant like are you done yet...are you done yet...are you there yet? Or is there a deadline? Like we have 120 days to do such and such, or whatever. Is there anything like that?

MR. MOLITAU: Yes. The discussion is always ongoing. We are very open to the communication of requesting things in a timely manner. However, we know that sometimes in order to go fast, you got to kind of go slow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. One moment. Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: Kala mai. That would be the answer.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I better stop so Member Rawlins-Fernandez can leave.

MR. MOLITAU: Oh, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm going to...thank you very much, Department, for being here. And I'm going to adjourn this meeting so Member Rawlins-Fernandez can leave. All right. Thank you very much for your participation, and waiting for us all morning. And Members, thank you for being here. This meeting is now...I'm going to defer the item, and this meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: TK, TC, AL, SS).

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 11:20 a.m.

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Transcribed by: Cheryl von Kugler

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CERTIFICATION

I, Cheryl von Kugler, hereby certify that pages 1 through 45 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 1st day of May 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Cheryl von Kugler