

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

MINUTES

April 7, 2026

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 10:06 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Kauanoë Batangan, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member (Out 2:56 p.m.; In 3:37 p.m.)
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (In 10:10 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (In 1:38 p.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (In 10:30 a.m.)

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Offices:

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Keomailani Hirata, Council Aide, Molokai Residency Area Office
Chaelin Ryu, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Margaret Willis, Director, Department of Human Concerns
Jessica Crouse, Deputy Director, Department of Human Concerns
Patrick McCall, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Shane Dudoit, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Samuel Marvel, Chief of Planning and Development, Department of Parks and
Recreation
Mary Kielty, Chief of Recreation, Department of Parks and Recreation
Lisa Almeida, Park Permits Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation
Roxanne Pasalo, Administrative Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation
Robert Agapay, Park Maintenance Superintendent, Department of Parks and

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

April 7, 2026

Recreation

Marc Takamori, Director, Department of Transportation
Diane Yogi, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation
Jacky Takakura, Planning Director, Department of Planning
Ana Lillis, Deputy Director, Department of Planning
Connie Gouveia, Business Administrator, Department of Planning

OTHERS: Scott Hopkins, Executive Director, Feed My Sheep, Inc.
Daina Thoren, Program Manager, Best Buddies
JD Wyatt, Executive Director, Ka Lima O Maui
Patrick Saka, Controller, Ka Lima O Maui
Braeden Yap, Ka Lima O Maui
Andrew Hosaka, Ka Lima O Maui
Kevin Kaili, Ka Lima O Maui
Glory Calpito, Ka Lima O Maui
Paige Deponte, Spirit Horse Ranch
Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Jasee Law
Maggie Batangan, Executive Director, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Others (37)

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

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting of April 7, 2026, come to order. It is 10:06 a.m. I'm the Vice-Chair of this Committee, Kauanoe Batangan, and I will be acting as Chair for today's meeting. Thank you to our Committee Chair, Yuki Lei Sugimura, for allowing me the opportunity to practice presiding over a few of these Council meetings before we get into the real controversial stuff. All right. Members, this online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. As a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning, Vice-Chair Batangan. Thank you very much for taking over to Chair this meeting. I'm looking forward to all the departments, and we will watch you work your magic. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha and good morning. We have Staff at the Kihei office, and I'm looking forward to today's meeting.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember Cook. Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's

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

April 7, 2026

no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office, and I'm here and ready to work. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Council Chair Alice Lee will be a few minutes. Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. Streaming live and direct from the Council Chambers. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aloha kākou. Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez also will be a few minutes. Okay. So we'll just mark Member Rawlins-Fernandez as excused. Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aloha. And Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins will also be a few minutes late. All right. Assisting with today's meeting are the BFED Committee Staff and our invited resource persons from the Administration include our Budget Director, Director of Human Concerns, Director of Parks and Recreation, Director of Transportation, Director of Planning, and Deputy Corporation Counsel Wrigglesworth. Everybody, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED Committee meeting. We have one item on the agenda today, that is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2027, Budget for the County of Maui. Members, I will be taking testimony after opening comments today. But before we begin, I would like to recognize Councilmember Shane Sinenci for comments on the East Maui residency area meeting that we had last night.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Vice-Chair Batangan, and mahalo, Members, for driving out to Hāna last night to hear from our East Maui community. There were 29 individuals who testified and there was a lot of oral testimony in support of our local non-profits, including the MEO and MEO transportation, Hale Hulu Mamo Senior Center, and the Hāna Youth Center. Also, there was testimony in support of the Hāna Dialysis Center and the Kīpahulu 'Ohana and the Kīpahulu Community Association. The community asked further support for the Hāna Arts Program, the Festivals of Aloha, and the Taro Fest, which would be hopefully next weekend. The Habitat for Humanity expressed their gratitude and support for continued AHF, affordable housing funding, and there were additional testimony in support of a comprehensive recreation needs assessment plan for East Maui, road maintenance, sidewalks on State highways and general traffic safety, MEMA office space for our new MEMA representative East Maui, and increase Hāna-based community police presence on the highways. We are happy that everyone got home safely and a special mahalo to Kilo's for providing our lū'au dinner last night. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It was very good.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci, and thank you Kilo's. Member Sugimura, did you also want to follow up on that?

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

April 7, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So I wanted to thank everybody who attended last night, all the Members, as well as the community came out strong and such a beautiful voice from Hāna. I wanted to give my special appreciation to awards, I will call it, to Member Tom Cook, I have this for you, a little gift, and what it is it's a branch. Last night he had to move a tree so that our van could go through the road. It might be something that Member Sinenci happens to experience often, but he got out of the van, and he joined community members who actually tried to saw this tree, and there is Mr. Construction Expert, and he basically was trying to encourage them. What was the word you used?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Pivot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Pivot. Let's pivot, and he finally convinced them, and they moved this tree off the road. It was quite a sight. I just wanted to give you an appreciation and what it is is I had to get this branch from my house. It is a Chevron car from my son with a smile, a yellow one, because you have a yellow truck, and an Island Grocery gift card, so thank you very much for going over and beyond. I also wanted to thank Member U'u-Hodgins who drove. Normally, I would be driving Chair Lee, but she sacrificed and didn't come with me, so I had to go find ride myself, but thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, we've got to do it again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. She told me she would never ride with me again. We did not see a cow on the road. In the years past, we saw cows on the road. And so, therefore, she got scared. And so, I think she couldn't handle it. So Chair Lee was not there last night and sacrificed the journey. But I wanted to give Member U'u-Hodgins this pink car, she has, like, a van, but she drove, and she was, like, super amazing going over and going home. It was pretty scary, Member Sinenci, there was a lot of rain at one point, and she had to open her door so she could see. I mean, her windows, and it was pretty scary, so I wanted to give her an award too. So both Tom and Nohe, I appreciate it. I also wanted to thank Keone Hurdle who drove the OCS van over, and I have to hear his stories of what his thoughts were with the heavy rain and the fallen tree. I didn't get to talk to him yet, but...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You missed the tree?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, the tree didn't fall until after you passed it? Oh, anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's why you got to drive fast out. Bumbai one tree fall on you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I've never experienced anything, but thank you, Member Cook, for helping, otherwise we'd still be on the road. So, thank you for allowing me to do this.

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

April 7, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Before we continue, I'd like to recognize Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Chair. Aloha, everyone.

ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BILL 55 (2026), BILL 56 (2026), BILL 57 (2026), BILL 58 (2026), BILL 59 (2026), BILL 60 (2026), BILL 61 (2026), BILL 62 (2026), BILL 63 (2026), BILL 64 (2026), BILL 66 (2026), BILL 67 (2026), and RESOLUTION 26-63)

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, today we will continue our deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, beginning with comments from the Department of Human Concerns, to be followed by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Transportation, and Department of Planning. At this time, I would now like to invite the Department of Human Concerns to provide their opening remarks.

MS. CROUSE: Aloha, Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members. My name is Jessica Crouse, and I am the Deputy Director for the Department of Human Concerns. Joining us this morning is our new Director, Director Willis, who is present in the gallery with us as well. It is a pleasure to be here with you this morning to present the Department's Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The mission of the Department is to support and enhance the social well-being of the citizens of Maui County. In his State of the County address, Mayor Bissen spoke of the koa tree, a symbol of strength and roots that run deep. Like that koa, our budget is designed to provide a wide canopy where residents can thrive. Behind every line item of this budget is a story. A senior receiving a hot meal, an immigrant seeking assistance navigating complex federal systems, or a family with a young child searching for resources and information through the Early Childhood Resource Center. For Fiscal year 2027, our total proposed budget is \$36,979,384. Key highlights of this budget include stabilizing staffing and operations, including requesting two new expansion positions in the Grants Management and Early Childhood divisions, as well as four expansion divisions in the Office on Aging to secure the positions after a loss of State grant funding. Retaining our existing hard-working employees is critical to continuing to provide the assessments, resource referrals, and programmatic oversight that so many kūpuna and their families rely on. The new expansion positions will support increase workloads, ending our current operational needs. We're also focused on strengthening capacity, including additional staff training for employees as well as additional training events for the community, such as larger-scale non-profit volunteer management training and facilitated training events for homeless service providers and the community. Each intended training aims to increase skill, enhance resilience, foster collaboration, and to contribute to the Department's goal to support and maintain a continuum of social services to address the needs of the people of Maui County through County-sponsored programs and partnerships. We also present a focus on increasing community support, including an expansion of 1.35 million to support home and community services for kupuna,

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

April 7, 2026

\$2,315,791 in increased funding for grantees who were previously included in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, representing a 15 percent increase in funding for those programs from Fiscal Year 2026, and \$1,374,765 in funding to support the addition of ten new grants in Fiscal Year 2027. Last, but certainly not least, we are also focused on advancing long-term recovery with a primary focus on the multi-year process of rebuilding the West Maui Senior Center as the Department's capital improvement project. This facility was a significant hub for our Lahaina kūpuna, providing a dedicated space for home-delivered meals, assisted transportation, and social connection. Supported by \$27 million in FEMA public assistance funds identified for Fiscal Year 2027, we are committed to restoring this vital sanctuary to ensure our West Maui seniors will regain a permanent home to gather and thrive in their own community. In closing, this budget is more than a collection of figures, it is our blueprint for a resilient social safety net. By stabilizing our workforce and expanding our reach to the most vulnerable, we ensure that the Department's canopy continues to protect and support our people today and for the generations to follow. Thank you for the opportunity to share this vision with you. The Department will be available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Deputy Director. Next, I would like to invite the Department of Parks and Recreation for the opening remarks.

MR. MCCALL: Good morning, Vice-Chair, Chair. I'd like to thank everybody for the opportunity presented in our budget this morning. Our proposed operating budget for FY27 is \$49.9 million, representing a 15.4 increase over FY26. It's coupled with an ambitious \$75 million capital improvement budget. Our Department priorities include, and the reflecting budget investment with them, maintaining a healthy and safe environment. We're increasing operational funding for ongoing and increasing tree trimming contracts, as well as our portable lavatory and refuse contracts to ensure sanitary and safe conditions. We're also allocating \$500,000 for ADA improvements, \$1.75 million for safe playground replacements, and \$41,000 for a security system to the Central Maui Baseyard, which has been a site of a great deal of vandalism and theft. Our continuing...our second priority is a continuing construction of large CIP. Our budget reflects commitment to the expanding and recreational infrastructure, 2 million in pedestrian lighting at Kalama Park, 5 million towards a countywide court improvements, and funding for West Maui builds as well. We're also allocating 1 million for specialized construction management consultants to ensure these are executed efficiently. Third priority, completing fire mitigation efforts in all districts. The scope of fire mitigation has expanded, and we are investing heavily in specialized equipment, including \$270,000 for a tandem dump truck and a \$190,000 for an excavator, and \$80,000 for the trailers that would accompany those pieces of equipment. Finally, our fourth priority in improving and preventing are the preventative maintenance program. We are funding a new parks facilities maintenance coordinator to inspect facilities and create maintenance schedules. We're also dedicating 250 for ongoing recourts...I mean, sorry, excuse me, for court resurfacing, and parking lot improvements at specific sites. So, overall, in operations, the budgeted \$19.16 million, an increase of roughly 2.3 million includes the previously mentioned tree trimming contracts, the increases in our portable lavatory, and refuse collection. The court improvements for resurfacing is

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

April 7, 2026

currently scheduled for Kaunakakai tennis courts, Hāna Ball Park tennis courts, the War Memorial tennis courts, and also seal coating and paint striping for the War Memorial parking lot that's fronting the gymnasium. We also have an increase to the PALS program of \$130,000 and this increase is for the meals...for the food service, which will make up the difference for the increase of the meals this year that won't be covered by the federal funding. Again, in our equipment, we have our specialized fire mitigation equipment that I mentioned, along with replacement of aging maintenance vehicles, including rotary mowers, which, when down, leave our fields unkept, and therefore we need to keep that stock up. We also have some critical upgrades from equipment, including \$50,000 for a pool boiler at the Kihei Aquatic Center. The ramp mentioned for Cooke Memorial Pool and security system. Our capital improvement projects include \$25 million for Phase II of the South Maui Community Park. The \$7 million to design and construct the...well, the construction of the 12 new Central Maui pickleball courts. The \$10 million combined countywide for infrastructure, 5 million for safety fencing, and 5 million for countywide...those again are the court improvements. The West Maui Recovery towards West Maui Recovery of \$5 million for the rehabilitation of the Lahaina Aquatic Center, as well as 1.2 million for the design phase of the new community center and field house. Our Grants Division, again we are proposing to award \$191,000 to Lahaina Restoration Foundation for their ongoing work, proposing a new grant of \$20,000 for the Molokai Youth Center to assist with urgent facility repairs to the new...to the facility they are moving into, and a small grant to the Kepaniwai Heritage Garden for the Korean pavilion. Finally, I'd like to address the Department vacancies. We currently have 68 vacancies across the Department: 18 in the Administrative program, which includes 17 vacancies in the Permits and Enforcement section, six in the Parks program, 44 in the Recreation program, 18 of those are in our pools, 26 are across the districts. To address these vacancies, we are implementing several strategies. In Permits and Enforcement, we are getting this section reorg and reinstatement of salaries that were cut in FY26 to offset the upward reallocations that we expect to resolve from this reorg. In Recreation, we are actively reallocating the recreation job series and reviewing and updating the minimum qualifications to better attract and retain the qualified staff. In conclusion, I think our budget represents our attempt to preserve our aging facilities, to protect our environment, and also equip our staff to deliver large scale recreational programs across the board. Thank you for the time, and we look forward to your question period later on today.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Director. Department of Transportation, you now have the floor. Staff, can you elevate them, please?

MR. TAKAMORI: Hi.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Good morning.

MR. TAKAMORI: Can you hear me? Okay. Good morning. Good morning, Committee Vice-Chair Batangan, Committee Chair Sugimura, and Committee Members. I'm Marc Takamori, the Director for the Department of Transportation, and with me today, also virtually right now, is Deputy Director Diane Yogi. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's Fiscal Year 2027 budget. So in alignment with the

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

April 7, 2026

Committee's request to focus on budget justifications, the Department's proposal is designed to maintain quarter transit services while addressing escalating operational costs and advancing critical infrastructure recovery. The Department's Fiscal Year 2027 requests reflects several necessary increases to maintain existing service levels and contractual obligations. The Department is seeing a 5 to 5.7 increase across its major service contracts with MEO and Roberts Hawai'i. These are driven by prevailing wage increases, fringe benefits, and rising maintenance costs. The Department has requested an increase of approximately \$1.4 million for core ADA paratransit service to meet growing demand and ensure continued federal compliance. This covers a 5 percent, already, rate increase and additional service hours. Additionally, the budget includes a partial year funding for a new microtransit pilot program to improve service efficiency. The Department's budget also includes a one-time \$850,000 appropriation for MEO vehicle replacements to maintain service reliability and advance sustainability goals. This funding will be used to purchase two vehicles, a 14-passenger electric bus, which represents, we believe, a third zero admission addition to MEO's fleet, and a 14-passenger gas powered bus to replace an existing unit that has been retired due to structural frame corrosion. The Department's CIP portfolio has been expanding throughout the years, going from a more basic transit support into a more complex multi-motor system including now the regional parking management Park Maui program, a maritime ferry planning, and a post-fire recovery. The existing CIP coordinator is currently at its capacity managing transit related projects, including the transportation baseyard maintenance facility. A second coordinator is essential to provide dedicated oversight for these diverse programs ensuring project deadlines are met and federal funding remains in compliance. The Department's top priorities for the upcoming year are focused on long-term sustainability and recovery. For the transportation baseyard maintenance facility, the department will be finalizing the master plan for this critical hub as it moves towards the planning and the design portion. For the ferry program, the Department will be moving forward with its environmental assessment and operations planning. And then for the West Maui Recovery, the Department is working with Management and Public Works on securing a permanent location for the West Maui transit center to replace the transit hub that was lost in the August 2023 wildfires. The Department continues to look for and pursue federal grants and alternative funding sources to offset costs to the County by leveraging secured federal funds and pursuing all available reimbursements for recovery-related expenses. The Department aims to advance Maui transportation goals by remaining a responsible steward of County resources. The Department looks forward to your feedback and is prepared to answer questions regarding those items. Thank you and we will see you in the Council Chambers.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Director, Deputy Director. And finally, we have the Department of Planning.

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. Good morning, Committee Chair Sugimura and Vice-Chair Batangan, and Members. Being officially Director for one week now, I am excited to share our proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget with you, but I need to give the credit where credit is due, which is the Deputy Director here, Ana Lillis, because, as you know, the budget is prepared kind of the previous year, right? And so, I was not that involved, but she

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

April 7, 2026

knows every line on this proposal way better than me. Planning Department is a small part of the overall County budget, about \$10 million. And I've mentioned the Department's mission before, and it's a good framework for the budget, it's just like how people say show me how you spent your time and money and I'll show you what you value. The Department's mission is to help the people of Maui County manage growth and preserve land in an equitable and sustainable manner that balances cultural, environmental, and economic needs. Quality service is provided by seeking efficiency and offering consistent and timely information with integrity and aloha. In total, we are requesting \$10,791,424 for salaries, wages, operations, and equipment. Thankfully, we don't have any CIP, that's all them. This is a 15.8 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2026. We are asking for three expansion positions, two are for permits and projects to help them move a little quicker, and one is for ordinance implementation, especially Ordinance 5909, but there are other ordinances on other projects. These positions along with the other efforts to retain staff increase the A Account request. For the B Account, we're asking for more funding for professional services. Examples of projects we'd like to work on are legal services. drafting for rural updates, space planning for additional office space, community plan updates, research and organization of historic records, consultant services for rewriting County Code, and a rate study. So now, regarding grants, one change is a reduction of grant revenue fund due to last year's \$6.5 million grant for NOAA, and we don't have that in this year's. And the department doesn't administer grants out of the special or revolving funds to the public, so no change there. Also, there are no changes in our pass-through grant funding. Our partners that assist us with the pass-through grant monitor the federal level and have not advised us of risks to funding currently. Okay. For rates and fees, we're following the rate increase schedule from the last five years. Last year's rates were 70 percent of 2018 costs. This year we are requesting 80 percent of cost. We are proposing to do a new rate study next year, so that we can be consistent with Maui County Code 3.01.020, which says, "A cost recovery policy will be implemented by the Planning Department after a comprehensive study has been conducted and a subsequent fee schedule has been included in the annual budget ordinance". Note that previous rate and fee schedules kept the costs low for the smaller permits, and we intend to continue that practice. This would be for the little things like the special management area assessments for exemptions and minor permits, landscaping, signage plan, banners, et cetera. As you've seen from previous presentations and the correspondence regarding this budget request, the Department has a lot of responsibilities from federal to state to county rules. We're here to manage growth and preserve land in an equity and sustainable manner while seeking efficiency, consistency, and timeliness in the work we do. The proposed budget helps us meet our mission, and I thank you for your support of the Department. You have a difficult job deciding what to prioritize, given the limited resources. Thank you. I don't know if you wanted to add anything, Ana? Okay. Thank you very much. And Ana will be here this afternoon, so you can ask her all the hard questions. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, everybody. All right. We will now...well, actually, before we move on to public testimony, thank you, Member Sinenci, I'd like to recognize Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

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

April 7, 2026

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

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. We can now move on to public testimony. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up with Staff, join the online meeting via the Teams link, or call into the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the departments scheduled today. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link and mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star-five to raise and lower your hand, star-six to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At that time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to, or as anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you're in person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. I will now call on testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. Staff, please call the first testifier.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the first individual signed up to testify is Scott Hopkins to be followed by Daina Thoren.

MR. HOPKINS: Greetings, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Chair Sugimura, and all Councilmembers, thank you for your time in reviewing our testimony. I am here testifying in support of the County of Maui's grant to Feed My Sheep as administered through the Department of Human Concerns. I serve Feed My Sheep as the Executive Director, filling in for the very big shoes of Joyce Kawakami, who has worked for many of you throughout the last eight years to make sure that we as...our motto is, people of the community working together to feed the hungry in body, mind, and spirit, and it seems only appropriate that we work with the County as the best representation of our community. So thank you very much. Through my own personal experience, I have recognized the importance of health in my nutrition and my ability to meet the needs of my family, to support myself, and to be a servant to the community. And during my time with Feed My Sheep, I have been eager to share not only the idea of good food but an actual practical example of how people can improve their health, their well-being, and become a better part of this community. To...over the time that I've been here, we've had a chance to see a lot of personal testimonies of people improving their health,

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

April 7, 2026

recovering their ability to participate in the workforce, and in the community at large, and we've attempted to quantify that by an annual health and diet survey. And as we've taken that survey for the last eight years, we've noticed that 80 to 90 percent of those that we serve report improved health, sustained health, and the ability to recover from a variety of different stresses that they're under. And so, Feed My Sheep has received money for the healthy diet program, and in the past two years it's been \$125,000 per year, and we are requesting a modest increase of \$10,000 to go up to \$135,000. The reason for that being predominantly the increase of costs for goods, but we've also seen additional need and demand for our program. Typically, we have committed to serving at least 3,000 unduplicated individuals per year. However, we've exceeded that merely every year we have been involved with the County from the COVID pandemic to wildfires, even recent events have seen a spike in our demand. And so, our hope is to with this request is just to meet that additional cost that we are experiencing. We actually are already covering the additional cost with outside donations, and I'm pleased to report we have a really good support from the community, so individuals, businesses, churches and community groups. We have the support, and we're just asking for that cost to be shared with the County as well. So, thank you very much for your consideration of this increase request and for all the work that the County has done to make sure that we are successful and the people we serve are successful. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions? Member Johnson, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. First off, thanks for doing what you do, it's sorely needed. And unfortunately you said something that I want to clarify on and how the increase has gone up. I know you said you serve 3,000 folks, but how much has gone...how much has it gone up, 3,001, or, like, you know, what's the number?

MR. HOPKINS: Yeah. Thank you for clarifying. So during the fires we actually went up to 9,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wow.

MR. HOPKINS: A little bit above that, in fact. We didn't really have a number that would work well with, you know, that happens, you know, in the middle of the year, so the effects of that lasted quite a while. But, yeah, we almost tripled, more than tripled actually, during that period. And then, you know, since then, we saw another spike in response to the cut for federal funding, so we're still serving, this year, about 4,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So about 4,000, and yet you only asked for 10,000 more. Do you need more?

MR. HOPKINS: I think we...my philosophy has been this seems to be an appropriate amount because the amount of in-kind donations we'll get...really what the County money does is address the gaps in which donated. So we have about \$600,000 of in-kind donations come in, not all that can be used. But it is doing a lot of the work and this is just to make sure that, like, protein items and carbohydrate items are always available because

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

April 7, 2026

without those we do see some problems meeting our health goals.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Last question, real quick. Do you have a grant writer on staff, or who writes your grants, or who does that?

MR. HOPKINS: I'm the one writing the grants right now.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks for your hard work. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. So I actually see now budget, \$135,000 for Feed My Sheep, Inc. for Human Concerns.

MR. HOPKINS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And from that, you're asking for \$10,000 more?

MR. HOPKINS: No. Sorry, that is with the increase. We've submitted through a grant proposal to go from 125 to 135 for this year, so they've already proposed it to you, we're just in support of that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I thought you were...thank you. Thank you. I will tell you that I volunteer with my church, and I do donate peanut butter jelly sandwiches. I have the exact recipe that works.

MR. HOPKINS: Perfect. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any other questions? Thank you. Staff, next testifier please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next individual signed up to testify is Daina Thoren, to be followed by JD Wyatt.

MS. THOREN: Good morning, Councilmembers. Thank you for having me. Aloha, my name is Daina Thoren, I am the Program Manager for Best Buddies, Maui County. Best Buddies is a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships and leadership development for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In Maui County, our program serves 113 participants through seven school-based chapters, one community-based chapter for adults called Best Buddies Citizens. The participants in our programs positively impact the lives of over 1,100 people. We are so grateful for the support that we've received from Maui County, which helped us establish the programs on Maui in 2008. Since then, we have engaged over 2,200 unique participants and programs that promote belonging, leadership, and the development of critical, social and communication skills for youth

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

April 7, 2026

and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as their typical peers. We create and manage these school-community-based chapters, which are volunteer led and facilitate the support, one-to-one appropriate mentoring friendships between participants with and without disabilities. We also deliver group social activities and leadership training opportunities for both students with and without disabilities throughout the year. Best Buddies is the only organization in Hawai'i using this unique peer-to-peer mentoring model that benefits students and community members with and without IDD. Some of the most important lessons students learn are not taught in the classroom. Many students with disabilities struggle with loneliness, social interaction, confidence, and feeling included. Best Buddies provides something unique, consistent, age-appropriate friendships, where students can practice social skills and real welcoming environments. Best Buddies gives students with and without disabilities the chance to connect outside of the classroom and build friendships that can last a lifetime. The consistent support we have received from Maui County has also allowed us to expand our program capacity to serve adults with disabilities in the greater community. Best Buddies is now able to create one-to-one friendships and deliver community-based activities for adults with and without disabilities. I urge you to continue funding Best Buddies programs in Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028 so our programs can continue to make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities across the County. We truly appreciate consideration of our request in support of our programs so that we may continue making Maui a more inclusive place for everyone. Mahalo nui loa. And I have here in my notes, seven school-based chapters, 24 citizen members, and 89 school participants. Does the Committee have any...or Chair, folks have any questions for Best Buddies?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, any questions for the testifier?

MS. THOREN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo for your testimony this morning. It looks like you're slated for \$85,000.

MS. THOREN: That's what I just confirmed with the grant writer.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And that's okay for you guys to operate?

MS. THOREN: Jen, do you want to chime in on that if possible. But that's my understanding, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, any other questions for the testifier. Seeing none. Staff, can you please call the next testifier.

MS. THOREN: Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, the next testifier is JD Wyatt, to be followed by Paige Deponte.

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

April 7, 2026

MR. WYATT: Aloha, Vice-Chair Batangan and Chair Sugimura. My name is JD Wyatt, and I am the Executive Director of Ka Lima O Maui, and I have a group of my staff that is going to testify in our conference room. We're having some IT challenges today, so I'm testifying first from my office as the ultimate backup, but I just wanted to provide testimony today in support of the Parks and Recreation budget. I really appreciate all that you do because this is such a difficult time and tough choices ahead of everyone. But, you know, our contract, Ka Lima O Maui's contract and relationship with Maui County has spanned almost 50 years now, and, you know, we employ over 50 adults with disabilities that do grounds and custodial work at the individual parks, and I think especially after the recent storms, you know, we all realized just how important, you know, our parks safety and cleanliness and sanitation is. So, you know, it's a tough job that Director McCall has with this stuff, they do a great job and we're kind of the...you know, we're out there five days a week with 12 crews, we service over 30 Maui County park sites. And I can tell you, you know, my controller is going to testify more to the numbers that we have, but I want to speak a little bit about our staffing and those that we serve because the...you know, their ability to have a meaningful job and earn income to help support themselves and their families is just key to what Ka Lima programs are all about. And, you know, I'm always impressed. I go out about every couple weeks then kind of check out a site that we're doing just to see how things are going and, you know, our crews are incredibly reliable, the average work span at Ka Lima for our staff is 15 plus years, which is pretty amazing and, you know, their...our crews are up at 4:00 in the morning with headlamps on, you know, starting their day and usually working through until noon. So, you know, it's a tremendous relationship that we have with Parks and Recs. The programs and the staff at Ka Lima do a great job and therefore have the joy of cashing a paycheck and all the self-esteem and great things that go along with that. So, you know, our mission of enhancing lives through self-reliance is very well proven in our relationship with Parks and Recs, and I would just ask for your support for our contract. We've seen a dramatic increase in minimum wage over the last three years, essentially in 2020 from when I started as Executive Director at \$10.10 an hour to the current \$16.00 an hour, so we've naturally had to, you know, ask for, you know, increases in our contract due to just those increases, let alone the insurance, fuel, equipment, all the other increases that we have to incur, you know, to properly work and work safely at the parks. So I appreciate all of you. I thank you for your support from the past and in the future, and just really grateful to have the partnership with Director McCall, and Parks and Recs, and the County. If there's any questions anyone would have, I'd be grateful to answer them.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. WYATT: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, the next testifier is Paige Deponete, to be followed by JD, Ka Lima O Maui. Paige, you have been unmuted on our end, you'll have to unmute your

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

April 7, 2026

camera and mic. Oh, there you go.

MS. DEPONTE: Okay, got it. Aloha, Chair and Members of the Maui County Council. My name is Paige Deponte, Director of Spirit Horse Ranch. I'm here today because after serving the community, we were left out of the DHC funding budget. I did have a conversation with them yesterday, and what I found was it was not because we failed to perform our services exceptionally but because of staff interpretations and what appears to be an uncanny unwillingness to see the impact we create for a fairly new organization. The Spirit Horse Ranch has delivered more than 4,600 trauma-informed care sessions to Maui and Molokai, youth and crisis, wildfire survivors, foster youth, families facing crisis, addiction, violence, suicide ideation and survivors of sexual assault. It's a lot, but we have stood up and been here to serve our community. In fact, we serve professionals that you depend on and the community members who depend on us who are struggling to hold their lives together. Currently, our outcomes statistically have a 98 percent improvement in overall mental and behavioral health. We have shown up for this community, week after week, year after year, and yet we continue to be told that our work does not qualify for support over technicalities. At the same time, Maui is facing one of the most several behavioral health crises in its history. Families are waiting months for services, youth are struggling with anxiety, depression, and suicide ideation. Just yesterday, I heard from a colleague that another therapist has left Maui. Programs like the Spirit Horse Ranch exists because we reach individuals who are falling through the cracks. We had a 13-year-old survivor of sexual assault who has found a place where she can begin to heal without shame. A 16-year-old girl came to us after three suicide attempts. Today she's preparing to attend film school with a full scholarship. A young teen overwhelmed by anxiety after a family crisis is now thriving and was accepted to Seabury Hall with a full scholarship from John Hopkins Institute and is on her way to becoming a doctor. A young man referred by Maui Police Department after being arrested for stealing a car now has a job, is finishing school, and his family is rebuilding a beautiful life together. These are not rare success stories, they are happening week after week because this work is effective.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Staff, I need to ask for some guidance on what to do when we lose connectivity halfway through a testimony.

MS. MACDONALD: I have her time going, so I can pause it. There's 30 seconds remaining. Perhaps we can move on to another testifier --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

MS. MACDONALD: -- and then return back to her.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sounds good to me. Okay. Ms. Paige, if you're able to hear us, know that we will circle back in the hopes that you will have better connectivity, so you will have 30 seconds. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, the next individual signed up to testify is JD Ka Lima O Maui. I think this may be another individual who wanted to testify other than JD who testified

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

April 7, 2026

earlier. Oh...

MR. SAKA: Good morning...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. All right.

MR. SAKA: Vice-Chair Batangan...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, one second. I think we have two people elevated. Ms. Deponte, we'll circle back.

MS. DEPONTE: Yeah, sorry, Spirit Horse Ranch . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. So we'll circle back. We had just called on the next testifier, but we do note that you have 30 seconds remaining and will afford you that time and the Members the ability to ask you questions. But we just called up JD Ka Lima O Maui. And so, I will recognize him now.

MS. DEPONTE: Okay.

MR. SAKA: Good morning, Vice-Chair Batangan, Chair Sugimura, and the Committee Members. My name is Patrick Saka, and I'm the Controller for Ka Lima O Maui. My colleagues and I are here today to request your continued support for grounds and custodial contracts in the upcoming fiscal year. These partnerships are vital to our mission of serving disadvantage customers. Through this work our team members receive essential on the job training for competitive employment while building their self-esteem and self-reliance. To provide perspective on the scale of our County of Maui current impact on these consumers, we have 28 County of Maui parks custodial contracts totaling approximately \$845,000. We have nine County of Maui parks grounds maintenance contracts totaling approximately \$735,000. We maintain two County of Maui Police Department grounds maintenance contracts and two custodial contracts totaling approximately \$233,000. We service one County of Maui Fire Department custodial contract for \$27,000. So in total amount, County of Maui invests about \$1.84 million to support the mission of Ka Lima O Maui. Additionally, we serve approximately 40 private grounds and custodial contracts. In total, our teams provides services at more than 50 locations throughout the island. These contracts are more than just service agreements; they are a bridge to independence for the 53 consumers we serve. We ask for your continued support for these vital services in the fiscal year 2027. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Saka. Members, any questions for the testifier. Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice seeing you, Pat Saka, and I can tell you're the numbers guy. So basically your grants...you basically have grants with Parks Department or the Police Department; is that correct?

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

April 7, 2026

MR. SAKA: And Fire. Contracts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry?

MR. SAKA: Contracts, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have contracts, and do you know the amount that you are receiving from Parks and Police? Oh and Fire. I guess you have three departments.

MR. SAKA: Yeah. So the County, the custodial contracts with the Parks is about \$845,000; the grounds maintenance contracts, \$735,000; the Police Department, \$233,000; and Fire Department, \$27,000, so should total \$1.84 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see what you were giving me. Okay. Thank you very much. It's not with Human Concerns; it's with the individual departments. Thank you.

MR. SAKA: Yes, Parks, Police, and Fire.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Any other questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can we circle back to Ms. Deponte, please?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, she is still muted. There she is.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay, Ms. Deponte, you have 30 seconds.

MS. DEPONTE: Hi, guys. Sorry about that. So these are not rare success stories. They happen all the time, and I can't tell you how many times that I hear someone say to me if we weren't open and available, they would not be here today. So because...if this program disappears, the community will ask a simple question, why would Maui County choose to not support a proven resource helping its own residents heal during one of the most difficult periods since island's history. We also advocate for federal funding. I mean, we've been here for you. So, you know, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . if DHC has questions, they could always come back to me and ask them, you know, like they've done before or adjust the budget. So we're just here to advocate for funding and to not boot us to the side after we've served this community relentlessly. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Ms. Deponte. How much was the funding that you had requested?

MS. DEPONTE: We requested about half of our budget, so \$700,000, and Curtis had some questions on that. I said Curtis, you asked me to adjust my budget before, just ask me to adjust it again. And, you know, he didn't really have an answer for that and, you know, we're a new organization so, you know, we're learning as we go along, but it

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

April 7, 2026

doesn't take away from the work that we've done and the lives that we've saved. I mean, it's incredible work that we're doing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So my question, it's impressive the work that you've been doing. Can you continue to work with less, and if so --

MS. DEPONTE: Yes, of course.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- how is that?

MS. DEPONTE: Well, you know, we've been advocating as well in Washington D.C. pretty intently and are working on a platform for disaster relief funding for research along the lines of economic assisted services, so we are pursuing that. We also have other funders who step up. We have private foundations, we have, you know, various different grants that we are working with and continue. We are working with senators for appropriations, they are now requesting that we work with prisoners, which I would love to do. My whole goal is to, you know, help our community heal and not end up in prison, to heal the trauma before they end up in places where they, you know, are institutionalized for one reason or another.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, thank you. You're looking at a lot of different places. And so, what's the minimum that you could...that Maui County assist you with?

MS. DEPONTE: Well, you know I have some big asks out there, you know, and I know how much Maui County needs the funding, and it's always hard for us to come in. But if they could step up for 25 percent of our budget at least, that would be amazing, you know, and show some support for the lives that we're changing. Our community needs us, they really do.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good. Thank you for your work and your testimony. I appreciate it.

MS. DEPONTE: Thank you for the questions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Any other questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier please.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, the next individual signed up to testify is Debbie Cabebe, to be followed by JD Ka Lima O Maui, I'm assuming there is other people who would like to testify under that.

MS. CABEBE: Good morning, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members. I'm Debbie Cabebe, I'm the Chief Executive Officer for Maui Economic Opportunity. Sorry, I have a little bit of a cold. I'm here today actually just to say thank you. This is my last budget as CEO with MEO, I retire in July, and Maui County has been such a strong supporter of MEO programs over the years. Last year, we assisted over 18,000 individuals, touching more than 57,000 lives throughout Maui County, and Maui County is really a player in that,

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

April 7, 2026

you know, that reach, and we want to thank you for that. We have asked for increases to our core funding to support salary increases, some of them are prevailing wage mandatory increases, some of them are just to make sure we can retain our staff. Also, of course, all operation costs are extremely expensive, so we ask that you support the Mayor's budget. The funding that we asked for is included in there, and we will continue to do the good work that we do. We are a community action agency; we do get federal funding that is questionable at this point. There's two quarters of our CSBG funding that still has not been released. And so, we are trying to make sure that we are planning for the, you know, uncertain times. So, thank you for your support and mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Cabebe. Before I open the floor to questions, are you going to be around? Would you be willing to serve as a resource in case the Members have questions and deliberations?

MS. CABEBE: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, if there are no objections, I would like to designate Ms. Cabebe, as a resource person under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much, Ms. Cabebe.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Staff, next testifier please.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, the last person currently signed up to testify is JD Ka Lima O Maui.

MR. WYATT: Aloha again, Council. I apologize for the confusion. I have four of our staff members that would like to provide testimony that are in the room with me, so we're all in our conference room. You know, I'm not sure how to go about doing that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: This works. So can you just let us...we'll recognize each individual throughout the conference room. Let us know who is up next, we'll recognize them, and you can pass them the mic and the camera.

MR. WYATT: Okay, great. The first testifier, and I'll just tell everyone in the room for Sunshine, is Kevin Kaili, followed by Braeden Yap, followed by Andrew Hosaka, followed by Glory Calpito. But first up is Kevin Kaili. Come up, Kevin.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. You have three minutes...oh, when you get settled.

MR. KAILI: Good morning.

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

April 7, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Good morning, you have three minutes. Thank you very much for being with us.

MR. KAILI: My name is Kevin Kaili. I'm actually from Molokai, but I transferred here to Baldwin High School. And so, for my operation today I do litter for Ka Lima O Maui, for Kihei, Kanahā, pretty much all over Kahului and Wailuku. And then, so far, my goal today was to work together as a team and helping out support any supervisors that are coming out today. And then, so far, I've just been pretty much honored to be able to be with this crew I think so, half a year or so, two and a half years, so...and, but, yeah, today it's been kind of, honorable...I'm so sorry, I'm kind of nervous about this. I think that's about it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, do you have any questions for the testifier? Okay, seeing none. Can you hand the mic and the camera over to the next person. Okay.

MR. YAP: Aloha, my name is Braeden. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I've worked here at Ka Lima O Maui for 11 years as groundskeeper. At times, I didn't know what to do with my life after I finished high school. It was hard to either go college or go to work at a job. I started going college at first, but college didn't agree with me, so my friend Juan Martinez introduced Ka Lima O Maui to me, and I started to work here as a part-timer, but at times I had a hard time waking up on time, being outside on time, and it happened for, like, the past ten years, and then I had a talk with JD. He told me that I had to decide whether I wanted to keep my job, or I had to step up to be on site on time for the trucks and everything, and it's...I worked for grounds for about seven years, and it's been fun working with other people, getting to know them, working as a team together with them, and it's sad seeing that some people had to retire from grounds, seeing them go and everything, missing them and all that, and hopefully that working with them is fun and I like working with other people, getting to know them. It's very good. And thank you very much for having me here with you guys.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you for being with us. Members, do you have any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next individual, please.

MR. HOSAKA: I'm Andrew Hosaka, and I work under the crew that works in Kihei, we do the Kihei doing the Kihei park complex and stuff like that. And it's been good working with the Maui County and stuff like that. I help them with the parks and everything, and also it's good because it gives me an opportunity to work with my brother who is autistic, he technically wouldn't be able to do any...work many places and stuff like that if it wasn't for Ka Lima because, yeah, like I said he's autistic, so he can't communicate very well, but he's a really good worker, so I love that Ka Lima gives him an opportunity to be able to work with Ka Lima and Maui County and the County maintenance and stuff like that to help clean the parks, maintenance, clean the parks and cutting the grass. And also, I've also been part of this...he's been a part of the company, for about I think, over ten years already, and I have been a part of it for about six years. This is my sixth year working there. And, yeah, like I said, it's nice having a company like Ka Lima to help people like my brother and myself to have employment.

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

April 7, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, any questions for the testifier? Okay, seeing none. I believe the next one is your last individual signed up to testify; is that correct?

MS. CALPITO: Aloha, my name is Glory Calpito. I've been working with Ka Lima O Maui for two years. I'm with janitorial. We do Wailuku.

MR. WYATT: Do you like your job?

MS. CALPITO: I do like my job. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, any questions for the testifier? Okay, seeing none. Is there anybody else wishing to testify from under the Ka Lima O Maui?

MR. WYATT: No, I'm so proud of all the staff in this room. They're just wonderful people. Thanks for the opportunity and to give them a voice and share how they feel about their jobs. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. I think we do have a question from Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if it's okay, I'd like to ask JD one real quick question. Are there any openings at Ka Lima O Maui?

MR. WYATT: Yeah. You know, like Director McCall said, we have openings and vacancies as well, so we've been short staffed for quite a while, and we are always, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you have, like, an application? Like, how do people apply, is there a website, do they come in the office, what's the address? Get a plug. Get a plug out here if you can.

MR. WYATT: Thank you, thank you. 127 Mahalani, if you go to our website kalimaomaui.org, if you're a non-disabled adult there's applications online, and for disabled adults, we just need a certification from a physician stating the disability, and then we have vocational training programs, and we can train anyone. We have multiple jobs that we're doing. We're doing secure shredding, we're doing a recycling program with the recycling department for newspaper shredding, we have grounds and custodial, like you know, and then we're always expanding, looking for new growth opportunities for our clientele, so, yeah...244-5502, they can contact me directly.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much for all the work you do. Thank you, Chair, no further questions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Paltin.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. May I please ask a question of Mr. Wyatt as well? Thank you. Mr. Wyatt, would you mind sending us the contracts that you have with departments, like which departments you have and what the contracts scope? I mean, it doesn't have to be formal, but, like, if you're doing janitorial or paper shredding or whatever you're doing for the County, is there any room for additional contracts, or are you limited by collective bargaining and you're at the maximum?

MR. WYATT: Thank you for that question because last year there were some issues regarding that, those have all been resolved for the judiciary. And so, we...the caps that we have, we are in no danger of approaching the caps that we have that we can contract with Maui County. My caps and my controller, we have about 1.8 million in total contracts. Currently, we can be all the way up to three million dollars in those contracts in various activities and services that we provide. So there is plenty of room, and I can definitely send any contracts that you would need.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much, I wish you guys provide a service in West Maui. I really love the quality of work you guys do from back from when I used to work at the beach. If I went to a beach with a Ka Lima O Maui contract I was stoked.

MR. WYATT: Yeah, we're really proud of that work. And while we aren't out there for County parks, we do have some private contracts where we're working with Lāhaināluna School in the firebreak area, and we've done some things, you know, after the fires that were done on a private basis. So if I could ramp up our staffing and, you know, get closer to the capacity that we need, we could get back out on the West side, Councilmember.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, JD. Before we let you go, can I confirm that you know how to transmit the written responses to the Committee, and if not, can I ask Staff to follow up with the testifier on Teams?

MR. WYATT: Yes, absolutely, I do...can do that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much.

MR. WYATT: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Staff, is there anyone else wishing to testify at this time?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently no one else who is signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I see one individual making their way down to the microphone, then we can do last call. All right, Mr. Law, you have three minutes.

MR. LAW: Oh, yeah. Aloha, Chair. Aloha ka 'aha o ke Kalana. Aloha *Akakū* and aloha for all the people in TV land out there. It's Jasee Law, your friendly neighborhood spiderman. Thank you for all the departments for these trying times working with the budget that we're provided. I sure would like to be there when Director of Transportation talks with

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

April 7, 2026

I think it goes through the State guys. I never met the guy in Honolulu, they do a lot of musical chairs and revolving door things, but I'm probably one of the most frequent riders on the public system on Maui, and I really appreciate them getting me around, and I see people that are not physically able as me to walk around. So yeah, keep up the good work, Takamori and your crew. I'd really like to be there when they talk with the federal guys about the funding, and I'm, wondering if I'll ever get a chance to find out how it's going right now. But it seems ironic to me that the United States government, especially the military guys are making the price of gas go up, so are they at the same time increasing the funding for transportation on Maui? And I heard Mr. Takamori say that they are getting a new...a small gas bus, and I was thinking the other day that a diesel bus probably gets better gas mileage, but being a pedestrian I really would not like to smell the fumes when a diesel gas goes by, so I was wondering if there's any way that they could get a biodiesel bus because I think the smell of french fries isn't that bad. And for the...so that's my comments on that one. The Hawaiian word for bus is ka'a 'ōhua...I'm sorry, 'ōhua. And one small snippet for the Department of Human Services, I would like to see an audit for the Salvation Army.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, is there anybody else scheduled or signed up to testify at this time?

MS. MACDONALD: No, Chair. Would you like me to do a last call?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, please.

MS. MACDONALD: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know, or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call, three...two...one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Members, is there any objection to closing oral testimony and accepting written testimony at this time.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Members.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. We will start with two rounds of questions, three minutes for the first round and two minutes each for the second round, beginning with the Department of Human Concerns. Members, for your information and for the public, on Granicus, we have the initial letter and response, HC-1 that is listed as item 26, and then Department questions letters is HC-2, that is filed under item number 72. And then, before we begin, I would just like to note that in order to avoid any conflicts under the Code of Ethics, I will be abstaining from any discussion relating to MEO. Thank you very much. Okay. So we'll start with on this side of the room with Chair Lee.

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

April 7, 2026

Chair Lee, you have...what did I just say...three minutes for the first round of questions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, for any department?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: For the Department of Human Concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Human Concerns. Okay. I do have a question of the new...well, anybody, are you going to be assisting Ka Hale A Ke Ola with the rebuild of the West Maui Resource Center?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question. To date, this Department has had limited conversations with them, but we're certainly supportive, so in areas where it may be determined appropriate for us to assist, we're certainly happy to do so.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I'm hoping that you will take the first step because perhaps I was Director at the time that building was created, developed. And so, I worked very closely with the ED at that time, Charlie Ridings. And so, it's kind of important that maybe you take the initiative rather than wait for them because now we're in budget, if we can help them rebuild the resource center, and I negotiated that land years ago with Amfac, and we got five acres. So there should be enough land there to expand the footprint, the current footprint. So if you wouldn't mind checking with them if they could...even if it's the start with plans, you know, design and planning, something because it's critically needed out there, the resource center, and if we can build a bigger one and a better one, that would be very helpful because you're going to find out that when you try and build resource centers for the houseless, you're going to find a lot of resistance from the neighbors. So we picked that area on purpose, it was in the middle of a cane field, and to my knowledge it's still not surrounded by residences, so a perfect place to rebuild. Okay. So if you don't mind checking and letting us know. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Batangan. Chair Lee, you always have interesting stories about your history. Thank you for sharing that, and I support that. Last night we went to Hāna and heard from Habitat for...well, with the project in Hana for Habitat for Humanity, and as you know, in the Affordable Housing Fund, there's \$10 million, as well as in your budget for Human Concerns, there is 250. So how are you working together or is it not related?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Department?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question. I believe the functions are different. I would have to go back to the actual agreement to verify exactly what services, so I'd be happy to get that back to you in writing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. I also noticed that in our budget, Mayor's proposed budget is a houseless program for \$4 million, 695...\$4.7 million. So what are your plans for those funds, and are you planning on clearing off the growing homeless problems in

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

April 7, 2026

my community on Pūlehu Road?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Department.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question. So committed funds within that category include the safe parking pilot program, case management, homeless services including case management and outreach, the operations and Step Up program that's administered through Ka Hale A Ke Ola, legal services offered through Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, Homeless Outreach for Mental Health Empowerment and Psychosocial Rehab through Mental Health Kōkua and there's 1,275,000 that's identified for arising needs to identify how that may be allocated in the upcoming year to best meet the current situation, especially under our new director's leadership.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I am looking for what is going to happen to Pūlehu Road because I had been reporting to the Mayor's office and Naomi Crozier is amazing. The growing Pūlehu Road homeless problem, which I've been receiving concerns from my community, so I'm wondering what is going to happen because it doesn't look like there have been any needs to help that situation.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you. I can say that these...our risk providers do go out to offer services and assistance and it is challenging when individuals refuse those services. But I know there are ongoing conversations with the County about how to better serve those people and address those concerns.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So is there a plan?

MS. CROUSE: Not to my knowledge yet. There's currently discussion on it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So it's kind of willy-nilly, whatever, whenever, or how does it generate any actions, I guess?

MS. CROUSE: That's a good question. Thank you. Previous iterations of interventions in homeless encampments have involved multiple departments, communications, and planning, so I believe that something's in discussion about how to address that. The actual timing requires coordination across multiple departments, as well as private partners and coordination as well. So I don't know the exact timeline for you now, but I do understand the concern, and I'm happy to note that down so we can try to get more information back to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So can we send a request or letter to the Department asking for more information.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Staff, did you get the question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: As plans proceed.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Will do. Thank you.

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

April 7, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Before you start my time, I just met Director Willis, so we're on a limited time, if I got my answer I'm going to cut you off. I don't mean to be rude, just disclaimer. Okay. You can start my time. So the first question is, I see 30 vacancies, thank you for your answers, 14 of these seem like County funded, and 16 are grant revenue funded. Is there a priority to fill the County funded or grant revenue funded, and if we don't fill the grant revenue funded positions, what happens to that grant revenue?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Department.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question. I would say that the priority is on filling the vacancies as they meet the needs of the operation. So, for example, we have some County vacancies and grant vacancies that are within the Office of Aging program specifically. Some of those grant-funded positions, we don't expect to receive enough grant funding to initiate recruitments for them, so those are on hold. I think there's three positions that fall into that category. The four grant-funded positions that had been previously grant funded are what we're asking for the expansions on. So depending on the unique grants, the cycle, what we're experiencing, that might decide if we fund grants, but whether or not we lose the money is determined by our vacancy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know if your six expansion positions are going to require a reorganization with union consultation?

MS. CROUSE: The four expansion positions that are currently filled will not because those positions already exist and are established. I would have to check on the two new ones we're requesting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can we draft a letter with that question or add that to their letter?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Staff, did you get the question? Can you repeat the question, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If the two expansion positions are going to require a reorganization with or without union consultation? And then, have you filled any of your vacancies with the DM-89 process. And I'm not sure, like some of the dates what the anticipated hire date is based on and what N/A and TBD is reference to. What is...everything in the anticipated hire date column, can you explain, like, how you have the anticipated hire date, and if it's N/A or TBD? What's going on there?

MS. CROUSE: Yes, thank you. So N/A refers to positions that are currently linked with

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

April 7, 2026

insufficient grant funding. TBD, most of those positions are under some form of redescription or review. We have one position that is on hold for the rebuild for the West Maui Senior Center, and we have another position that's going through a reorg process right now to move that position from our immigrant services division to our grants management divisions. And another position that's classified as TBD, we have an existing temporary assignment in place that is working well and meeting the needs for that program. Regarding your question for the hire date, you will notice that some positions include a hire date in the month of April, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . those are positions that we've essentially filled and they've either started or are soon to start, and the ones in May and June are anticipated based on our current hiring patterns and efforts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can I request the answering rating to the one that's on hold and, you know, the other explanations of TBD that you gave, like the specificity of the position ID attached to that answer. And just to clarify, everything that says N/A is insufficiently grant funded? Because I had an N/A P-26038 which looks like a County funded position, Senior Services Program Assistant III, so there should be sufficient funding unless did we cut that funding last year?

MS. CROUSE: Councilmember, I'll have to double-check that particular position, but I'd be happy to include that response with the other question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Awesome, thank you. I might be wrong, it might be my bad, but it's position 26038, Senior Services Program Assistant III. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department, for joining us today. One of the questions that I had asked was basically, please provide a list of all grant applicants who applied for funding from the Department of FY25, '26, '27, including organizations, names, program name, and an amount requested, an amount recommended or approved by the Department, page 10 Budget Ordinance. I noticed in your responses, you guys had...it's number 72 on Granicus. You did have, you know, see the attachment, and I saw the attachment that had some of the information. You had...let me pull that up here. You had the agency name, the program title...this is in Attachment 2. An FY26 award amount, but what I was really wanting to find was what they asked for, so maybe you can elaborate on that.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you, Councilmember for the question. So the attachments that provide the specific breakdowns for Fiscal Years '25 through '27 that include requested and recommended funding is an attachment for HC-02, which hopefully will be ready for transmittal back to you folks today.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I got you. Okay. Thanks for that. So the other question, of course, and then I saw the other Councilmembers' questions were very similar on this, tell us about the update on the Kama'āina Credit grant. You know, we just went out to Hāna. They were talking about the price of gas. Everybody is talking about the price of

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

April 7, 2026

everything. So can you give us an update? Give us some hope.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for the question. The Department received an updated application, including narrative and budget details, from the organization on April 1st, so the Department is in the process of reviewing that now.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How long does it take for a review, would you say?

MS. CROUSE: The staff moved pretty quickly. I have had to use a lot of their time to assist in preparing responses for these questions, so their normal workflow may have been interrupted. But I know that they are doing their best to review as quickly as possible because if there are anything that needs additional clarification or revisions, we have a tight timeline to get that grant routing to meet other deadlines within the County before the end of the fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, if there's anything I can do, or this body can do, I'm volunteering this body, but okay, we're all here to help, right? We all want to help make sure that happens because it's crushing our families. These costs, the affordability is...I've never seen it like this, you know. And yeah, sure, we just talked about the minimum wage going from \$10 to \$16 an hour. But when milk is \$16.00, when everything is going so bananas, there doesn't seem to be that price pain point where we're not...where people just can't simply afford it. We're just draining our bank accounts, and it's really hard for us to live, so that's really top of mind for me. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department, Director, Deputy Director, for being here today. I just...reviewing everything that the Department's doing. I think that your Department is one of the foundational ones for the community and helping just doing a wonderful job helping people. There's always room for more help. That's our issue during the budget now, where we're going to get the money, how we're going to balance it. But I think the money that's being and distributed to your Department is some of the most fundamentally beneficial to the community. One of the things that I'm advocating in my community is the homeless, unhoused wraparound center. The challenges that we collectively are facing, encampments, where can people go? Right now, I won't say there's no place for anybody to go, but it's really marginal options. There is property for sale that's in Kihei close to the police station, makai the highway that has the North-South Collector Road going through it. Just planting that seed, and we'll discuss it more, but it's sort of like how we can incorporate funding from Department of Human Concerns to be able to plan and implement a resource center so that when people are being told, you can't be here, you can't sleep in this bus stop, you can't be on the side of the road, and they have a place to go, and it's a legitimate solution that MPD and everybody else and the Fire Department that is having to constantly deal with this issue and the people who are suffering because what's their options? So I just wanted to give a plug for that to the Administration. It helps with the road, hopefully it helps us plan. I haven't figured out exactly where the funding's coming from and maybe

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

April 7, 2026

you folks can help with that. So is there plans for South Maui for a resource center, currently?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question. I know that there have been discussions going back many years about how to make something like that possible and to bring in those services. I'm not sure if there's a plan for a specific facility yet, so the Department's certainly open to continuing those conversations with you, based on that parcel you have in mind.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. And I won't be so bold as my colleague to volunteer all my colleagues, but I will definitely promise to encourage them to be supportive. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair, and thank you guys for being with us. I'm going to continue the line of questioning that my colleagues have done so as well. So we spend \$4.695 million, right, in our unsheltered services. Thank you for the breakdown, I appreciated that. And we have a little bit over a million for some flex spending. Where do you guys see that's going to go, and how do we measure success because at near \$4.7 million, I don't feel like it's getting any better. And our last director, Takakura, said, show me where you spend your money, and I'll show you what really matters to you. I'll give you an example, Head Start, we spend \$1.4 million. For me, my children and everybody's children is our most vulnerable population. And we're spending 4.7 in homelessness services. Looking at the grants, we have Maui Grassroots Collective and Maui Rescue Mission. We attempted to give them \$500,000, but it wasn't executed because the application differed from legislation intent. So we put in \$500,000 that wasn't used that could have gone to children and making sure our mothers can go to work and our children can be educated when there's five. So where...what can we do because it's not working, and I'm not holding you folks responsible, this is a collective failure, but it's just not working.

MS. WILLIS: Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins, for that comment and for your honesty. I think my priority is going to be trying to tackle the unsheltered homeless issues and all of the things that are impacted by that. And so, all of these things that you guys are talking about today is part of why that money was set aside.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. WILLIS: So that as we discuss where the issues are, and as we discuss what the potential solutions may be, that money is already available and allocated, and we can very quickly get something off the ground.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Cool.

MS. WILLIS: And so, I've been on the job now --

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I know like a whole week.

MS. WILLIS: -- for not even quite a week –

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, I know. Hours.

MS. WILLIS: -- and I still don't have email access –

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh no.

MS. WILLIS: -- so once all that happens, I will start to put some things in motion.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Good.

MS. WILLIS: And my priority will be addressing the unsheltered homelessness.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I appreciate that. I know that's what we talked about less than a month ago. I know you only started this job, you know, a week ago, but this is, you know, our budget for the next year and a continuation of last year's budget when we have \$174 million of Carryover/Savings and this \$500,000 is part of that. But it just kind of bums me out . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . because it could have been used for, like, you know, ensuring our children are educated instead of just sitting there not being used. And again, not your fault. I read why it wasn't used, I just...I don't love it. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U‘u Hodgins. Director, for what it's worth, it took them three and a half weeks to get me internet, phone, and emails when I became a department head. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: She’s still not on the clock yet. Yeah, mahalo for that. Before my question, mahalo for the continued support for the Hāna Dialysis Center and the Hāna Youth Center. Mahalo for that. And I hear Member U‘u-Hodgins because as the Committee Chair for Human Concerns, we get a lot of that from all of the advocates that are out there, the houseless advocates. And I know some of that money was for a water truck delivery to some of the homeless camps, as well as street medicine. So I'm happy that they're...because I've got a list of five or six if you ever want to meet with us, so I can share some of that, those requests to my office and to my committee. And I get it, some of them...some of these advocates need some funding for their operations, so I'm not sure how you can balance the actual, you know, water trucks or street medicines versus the people that are delivering them. So I think that's one of the issues that you may want to address moving forward. One of them in particular was the Project Vision Water Truck and Street Medicine. I don't know if that was two years ago, Deputy, and is that still on the books or that is no longer in the budget? Department

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: For Project Vision.

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

April 7, 2026

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question. I would have to double-check that particular grant to see how that was carried through, and I'd be happy to get back to you in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. And then...and some of these advocates, we're hearing from them at our district meetings as we go. So again, I do want to express the extra funding. Should they...I don't know what happened, if they missed...if they didn't submit applications, if they've already missed the deadline to apply, is there another opportunity for some of these non-profits that are coming to us in the district meetings for them to apply for some funding?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question, Councilmember. The Department held an invitation-to-apply period for our two-year grant cycle in August of 2025, and we use the information we received from those applicants to help develop our proposed budget that's before you today. So in terms of hosting another application round, that's not necessarily on the Department's horizon, but there are a few items, as you'll notice in the budget, that are identified for arising needs, such as what Director Willis was speaking to for homelessness. So depending on the specific funding, depending on the identified need, there may be opportunities in the upcoming budget. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

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

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Staff, can I confirm that you got the question from Member Sinenci that the Department needs to follow up on? Perfect, thank you. Okay. So my turn. Okay, Department. In the past, the Department supported a HUD-aligned Housing First strategy. My understanding is that HUD is now moving away from Housing First as its priority strategy. Does the county intend to retain Housing First as its official policy, or are we following suit?

MS. WILLIS: I will defer to Deputy Director Crouse about history of those conversations with HUD because I have not been party to those conversations at the State level. I think Housing First is an approach. It doesn't necessarily have to be a defining factor.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. I guess maybe I'll give you the follow-up question I was intending so that you know where I was going with this. So if the County is intending to change its policy on Housing First, are there any shifts in contract scopes that we should be aware of in how we rehouse our most vulnerable or, like, our homeless prevention. Is there anything in your budget that will be impacted by a change in philosophic approach to our houseless outreach?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you, Chair, for that question. So, essentially, when we talk about Housing First as a department, what we're looking to do is to increase access to housing options with reduced barriers. So there is a possibility that the federal government may shift their priorities. They've indicated an intention to do so. There's ongoing litigation about some of those changes at the federal level. What the Department looks to do from our perspective is to try to support a system of care that's aligned with that federal framework because that's what helps leverage federal funding into our community. So

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

April 7, 2026

if there are federal shifts at that level that impact those policies, the Department is positioned to adjust with them. Right now, based on our current grants, the funds of County issues don't necessarily directly contradict with changes. However, the Department doesn't know exactly what direction the federal government will move in with some of those decisions, so we will do our best to be as responsive and adaptive as those things come up. I would say that we're lucky to have strong partners in the community who participate and receive and utilize those federal funds who are also tracking those changes on the federal level and doing what they can to be positioned to adjust should changes continue to develop.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. And so, my next question may not be for you, necessarily, so if Director Milner needs to jump in, I would invite her to do so. I guess I'm trying to understand the philosophic split between the houseless outreach done by the Department and the houseless outreach done by the Office of the Mayor, and why we have two different budgets for basically the same purpose. Can you guys help me understand what I'm looking at when I look at the appropriations for DHC and the Office of the Mayor? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Vice-Chair. Yes, we have several EAs in the Mayor's office, as you all know, who focus on different issues. We have Ms. Crozier, who focuses on the houseless issues. The funding in the Mayor's office is used primarily for working with MEMA for hazard mitigation and things like that. It's used to pay for storage of personal items, and that is all coordinated with MEMA, with the Police Department, with Human Concerns and Public Works, Parks. There's a lot of departments involved in those processes. So we have some funding in the Office of the Mayor to help support those initiatives. So I think it's more of a supplement to the work that Human Concerns is funding, but I will let Deputy chime in now. Thank you, Chair.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you. To add to Director Milner's comments, the work that the Department does is primarily focused on supporting direct services within the community, so funding the things like the case management, the outreach, the supportive wraparound services that help people access different housing programs or other resources they may need.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Okay. Members, so that concludes the first round of questioning. I will note it's 11:47. Can I ask what the preference of the body is? Do you guys want to take a quick break now? Do you guys want to finish the second round of questioning so that we can excuse this department. We will then be, you know, reaching around when we normally take our lunch break. Would you like...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My preference is to bang it out and let them go about their business because they got choke stuff to do, and we never come back on recess on time anyway.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Is that the majority opinion? Okay. So then after we dismiss this department, would you like me to break for lunch? Okay. So I'm not going to call up...was it Parks next? So we'll let Parks know that they will be called up after lunch

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

April 7, 2026

so they don't have to be on standby. Okay. All right. Thank you, Members. Does everybody have questions for our second round or is it just certain members? Okay. So I will go down the list in the same order since majority of you have it. If you do not have second round questions, just let me know, and then I can skip over you, okay? Sounds good. All right, Chair Lee, you have two minutes. The second round will be two minutes each.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. It seems that the Department has been more reactionary up until now. So we're asking you to be more, and initiate, don't be afraid to initiate programs. One of the things that I did early on was to try and create a program with regard to the houseless because the County doesn't build homes, doesn't actually build homes and develop projects for the houseless. I think what you need to do is...and I'm sure you will be doing, partnering with as many people as possible to support them who develop the actual structures. But it's also partnering with people who develop or operate programs. So, one of my initiatives, which actually went nowhere, was to try and encourage...I put half a million dollars in the budget for the houseless, encourage the religious organizations to get involved because when you look around and you drive around, you see all these empty parking lots and classrooms and whatnot for almost every church. And they do have a congregation and they do have a mission, and most of them is to help the needy. So because of that, I thought it might be a good idea to help them with some funding, and then they could help maybe just one family or one individual. We have hundreds and hundreds of congregations. If they just helped 100 people, that's a big help. But the resistance . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . had to do with liability. And my thinking is, would you be interested in reviving that idea and instead of worrying about liability with the church, that's where we could help them with the funding, is to cover their insurance costs. Your comments.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question and that story. I will say that in discussions for reissuing a safe parking pilot RFP, the concerns about liability were also very present in those discussions, too, and I think may have served as a barrier for folks who might have had considerations for applying but not. So your comments are well received, and it's certainly something the Department can look further into.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I'm asking a Gabe Johnson question. The proposed budget for the Department already represents a 16.2 percent overall reduction. The reduction is primarily driven by the deletion of one-time appropriation, most significantly the 12 million allocated for the Maui United Way...oh, where's the second page, ALICE initiative for Fiscal Year '26? So why? Was that your question, Gabe? Yeah.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question. We do have that written response that will come in HC-02 as well. But just to give you the quick overview response, part of it is that the Department didn't receive an application to really start reviewing until a few days ago. Another factor is that in initial discussions with the organization, there was an expressed interest in having a longer performance period to potentially give them more time to run the program, spend down the funding. So in the conversations that we've

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

April 7, 2026

been having with them so far, we've been discussing the possibility of a two-year performance period, which would give them that time and also would not necessitate funding in the Fiscal Year '27 budget too. So I have not had a chance yet to review their proposed application they submitted on April 1st. If they did propose to have that two-year structure, that is something the department is supportive of. And then once they're up and running, we can see exactly how that implementation goes, how the needs are met, what future needs might look like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So basically nothing was done because the contract couldn't get...or what was the delay?

MS. CROUSE: So part of it is that we have been waiting to see exactly how Maui United Way would frame their proposed implementation of this program. They have been working hard to develop those relationships in the community to determine who their partners will be, how to exercise it. I believe they've had follow-up conversations with Councilmember Johnson about the intentions of that program, as well, to make sure they're on the right track. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . . Another piece is that because they showed that interest in that longer performance period for two years, a contract executed in Fiscal Year '26 would also extend through Fiscal Year '27, depending on the timeline, possibly beyond two. So if the contract can be executed based on what has just been submitted to the Department, we'll have much more data about how the program is running within the next few months for potential considerations for Fiscal Year '28.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you would have the... sorry, I'm going to just finish it, the buzzer went off. But so you would have the capability, then, of extending or creating a contract that would be '27, '28, even if the funds were in '26?

MS. CROUSE: Yes, because of the volume of funding, the scope of the project and their intended reach and their requests. So we can work with them to do that, and I see Director Milner may want to add.

MS. MILNER: Sorry, thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair. Yes. As long as the funding is encumbered by June 30th, it can extend over the succeeding fiscal years. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Please don't forget to keep track of how many County employees apply for that ALICE and get it. That was part of the requirement. The other question I have, I see a bunch of folks in your Attachment 2 to 13(a) that haven't submitted applications and yet they're awarded funding again in this year's budget. Is that because they still could submit an application and get their award? Has contact been made with them about, you know, we haven't received an application, and the year is winding down. The veterans' ones or one of them, Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association. The other question I had was, you know, we have three leases about to expire and one

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

April 7, 2026

that's been on month-to-month since 2019, is that efficient way to operate? I mean, do you want to, like, do another contract so you don't have to think about it every month or? And what are the plans for Aloha House, Women Helping Women, Maui Aikido, I guess. It says active lease, but it expired June 30th, 2025. So those would be my questions for second round.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you. I'm going to start with the leases and work my way backwards. So specific to the leases, Molokai Occupational Center and Maui Aikido Ki Society, the department has some additional research to do on the current status of that, where those leases have historically been held, what would be needed for future leases. So that's work that we're doing now. The plan for the Aloha House, Inc. and Women Helping Women leases, those lease renewals are in process for each organization currently. The Department is currently working with Corporation Council on the Aloha House lease, and a resolution has been drafted for Women Helping Women that will be transmitted to Council as soon as possible. And then, working the way back to the grants, I would be happy to give you a more specific breakdown of each organization in writing, if you can kindly send me that information.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah. It's Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Maui County Veterans Council, Molokai Veterans Caring for Veterans and West Maui Veterans Club, it says no application received and yet a lot of them are funded in this budget. So I just...I mean, maybe it's a Budget Director question. Has someone touched base? I know our main guy for the West Maui Veterans Center, I think he...I know his property burned down, but he had priorly moved out of state, and I don't know, it was Paul Laub, and I don't know if they had a successor to take that on. But it just seems odd that...are we just assuming they want the money again, even if they haven't put in an application because that's potential savings.

MS. CROUSE: Thank you for that question. I do see a comment in my thread with my staff. So the Ho'olehua program has not contacted the Department. The other three veteran programs have met with the Department in person. Those programs are all, as you know, very small amounts of funding per program. And so, the Department made the determination to carry the funding forward because they already qualify under a more simplified process due to the size of those grants.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Member Paltin, did you still need a follow-up in writing?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess if the Budget Director has any information of the Ho'olehua, if they've been made contact to or, like, why they were continued forward.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, I'm going to use this other mic that they gave me. Thank you, Chair. Generally, the Departments are responsible for reaching out to the organization, so my office hasn't had any contact with them. I know for the veterans organizations, we have traditionally supported them year over year. They moved from Management to Human Concerns. But if we are having issues making contact with

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

April 7, 2026

them or if the entities are no longer existent, we can provide you with that information.
Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, yeah, I support funding the veterans, but if they weren't going to put in an application, I was like, well, no sense.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. So just to clarify, you only need follow-up on the Ho'olehua Project?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Is Member Rawlins-Fernandez on? She might have a...

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I do not believe she is on.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Maybe you can follow up.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So we'll just ask that a status on the Ho'olehua Project be included in the follow-up questions. Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been asked and answered. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Perfect. Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to bring up what Member Sugimura was talking about earlier today, the Pūlehu Road encampment right now. So as we prepare for the kona low storms that is going to hit all of us, including those who are unsheltered, what are we going to do to best prepare for all of those individuals as well and the people that have to drive up and down that area with, you know, 50 cars and 50 people on the side of the road and as they go back and forth when the weather is already really junk and hard to drive on? So what are we going to do in preparation for the kona storm, and what are we going to do for those people who are...it's very unsafe out there.

MS. WILLIS: Thank you, Councilwoman, for that question. The conversations are in process right now with MEMA about what kind of response we can activate.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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

April 7, 2026

MS. WILLIS: There are providers out there and advocates out there now --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay, good.

MS. WILLIS: -- proactively speaking to people in the encampments, helping them prepare to be safe and to shelter in place if needed. And so, those conversations are ongoing and that work is being done.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And then, you know, post-kona storm, when, if they choose not to take shelter and they're still living on the side of the road, what do we do to communicate with the folks that live there and elsewhere that, like, the road is meant for driving, you're living on the side of it, please take caution? Because if you...if somebody hits them, it sucks for... including the driver. So what are we doing to, like, communicate that stuff?

MS. WILLIS: Thank you. That's an excellent question, and it's work that I'm going to be part of the work that I'm going to dig into.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. WILLIS: It's not clear to me yet about who has jurisdictions and all those things. And so. I need to unpack all of that. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Fun for you. Holomua Road is an issue too, but it's quite isolated, whereas, like, Pūlehu Road is in an area that people drive on all the time, so I don't want anybody to get into an accident there. It would, again, suck for everyone. Thank you. Good luck.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U‘u-Hodgins. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And I just got a text from Member Rawlins-Fernandez. She just... her flight was canceled, so she had to drive out with Sarah. So she'll address the Ho‘olehua Homestead when she jumps back on.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I just had a follow-up question. So for houseless programs, are there other opportunities for competitive grant opportunities in the budget, or should we increase your arising needs bucket?

MS. CROUSE: Thank you Councilmember for that question. So currently there is just over a million dollars that's identified as arising need funding for homelessness in Fiscal Year 2027. That money was meant to be overseen by Director Willis. So as she learns more about what the needs are and the opportunities, she will help identify how those funds might become available and which appropriate County process to follow.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thanks for that.

MS. WILLIS: And I reserve the right to come back to this Council if there are amazing plans that emerge from the community and from this group for other needs.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. I do not have any other questions. Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One quick one as a follow-up. So Pūlehu Road is, as you heard, is a huge problem, and I would like to offer the opportunity to meet with you, as well as to develop a plan that's appropriate but also to have a community meeting because of the, as Member U'u-Hodgins described, it is a road that is actively used for the community. It's not hidden away and it's growing. So I'll give you my cell number. You can call me, and I'll meet you at the site. And I would even like to have a community meeting with them or whoever. I can arrange for one in Kula or Pukalani or wherever but to face the problem and for us not to...what I always do is call Naomi Crozier. I'm not too sure who to call in the Department. If you would give me a person, I will, you know, do that instead. But it is kind of serious or very serious, and it's absolutely right. There are people, unfortunately, you know, unprotected and living the way they are for whatever reasons, but we do care about them also. So, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: All right, Members, that concludes our two rounds with the Department of Human Concerns. We have three more departments before us, so what is your pleasure for lunch?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Vice-Chair, before we move on, I just wanted to clarify what Director Willis said that she reserves the right to come back. We're in budget and this is our one chance. I guess, I mean, if the Administration puts down a budget amendment, I just wanted to make sure you're aware we're not...we can't do anything without...after budget, right?

MS. WILLIS: Yeah. I think there's...you know, I'm sure there's administrative ways to, you know, to do additional requests if needed. It would not be just me coming and saying, hi, we need more money. But I just...you know, jokingly, I know that a million dollars sounds like a lot of money, but when we're tackling large-scale issues like this, when we're talking about purchasing land, when we're talking about doing other things, that million dollars will be nowhere near sufficient.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. We're just setting the budget, and we're trying to eliminate all waste so that the Administration would have to give us an amendment and that money would have to come from somewhere. Just, there's not...I mean, because we're setting the taxes and like that, I just wanted to clarify.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Okay. So for our afternoon recess, do you guys want the standard 1:30, or would you guys like to come back slightly earlier

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

April 7, 2026

so we can end slightly earlier? What is the preference for the body? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, Chair, I'm willing to go with the body, but I do have to catch the ferry before the storm comes. I have to leave a little early, sorry. The ferry leaves at three o'clock. I have to leave here at three o'clock. So that's just on me, but I try to listen.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So that being the case, would you all be open to a one o'clock or, I guess, 1:15 resume time? All right. Let me find the notes that tell me how to recess. Okay, Members, if there are no objections, the Chair will recess this meeting to 1:15, later this afternoon. We will utilize the same Microsoft Teams link and connections that we're using right now with in-person viewing available here in the Council Chamber.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No objections? Okay. This meeting is in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 12:07 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:20 p.m.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting of April 7 please come back to order. It is 1:20. Okay. So we have with us the Department of Parks and Recreation. Members, we'll allow for two rounds of questions, three minutes in the first round, two minutes in the second round. Before we begin, I'd like to note that in Granicus, the initial letter and response, PR-1, is listed as item number 29, and the department questions letter is PR-2, listed as item number 74. Since Councilmember Johnson needs to leave to catch the ferry, I would like to start with him, and then we'll work our way down the road this way to my left. All right, Councilmember Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Department. Boy, you brought the big guns today. We need more tables for you guys. You know, I represent Lānaʻi, and I'm just going to start with first off, a big mahalo to you guys from my community. The skate park, the dog park, the repaving of the courts, I mean, the list is long, and I just want to thank you guys. Now into my questions. Capital improvements, can a park such as Entry Park on Lānaʻi use the ADA improvement CIP funds to create a restroom where one doesn't exist, or are there any funds only for improving existing, or are these funds only for improving existing restrooms? And that's on page 931 of the proposed budget. It seems like there's a pot of money for ADA improvements. Can we use that to build a new bathroom, or does it only for existing?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Department?

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. Excuse me. Thank you for that question, Councilmember Johnson. I know we answered that in our responses to you as well. Those funds are not traditionally used for to create new facilities. They are to upgrade the access to those

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

April 7, 2026

facilities.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Fair enough.

MR. MCCALL: And I believe, unless Mr. Marvel has anything to add to that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. You know me, I'm just trying to...I took a shot. Okay. Now I'm going to get on.

MR. MCCALL: I understand, look for money where it is.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. So I'm going to ask about the arborist, which is really important. And I know we were talking a little bit offline but will the arborist expansion position have access to an in-house tree trimming crew or specialized tree trimming equipment, such as a boom truck or a chipper, and what will be their scope of work or job description? Has the department considered providing a crew or equipment as a way to offset the rising contractual costs for tree trimming?

MR. MCCALL: Again, thank you for that question. Yes. We have considered it. We will not be offering a crew or equipment to him in this first phase, him or her, depending on the hiring. We'd like to get them in house first. As you know, this position was kind of passed from department to department and it's being moved over into our Department for next year. We would like to get the arborist in their position, see the scope of work that's necessary, work on our current contracts that we have as well, which is what the previous county arborist has done and has worked with us to do over the years. And then from that, formulate a plan to expand those services in which you're talking about, which will require manpower, trained manpower. Also, some high-end equipment that will be necessary going down that road. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. And just, I heard my time. So do you have the number, the hourly wages for PALS positions? Like, how much are they getting paid, those guys? If you don't, I can move on, but if you want to answer that quickly.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you. The site coordinators make 31.63 per hour. The directors, 27.91. The specialists, 26.04. The leaders, 22.32. And the aides, \$20.00 an hour

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I can't tell you how important it is. Councilmember U'u-Hodgins just previously was talking about our children being our number one priority. And those folks that are taking care of our children are getting paid a livable wage, and I really appreciate that. Thank you, Chair, no further questions.

MR. MCCALL: I thank you for the support you showed several years ago in helping us get that up, and it has made a difference. And the program is recovering and expanding. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Cook.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Welcome all. We got the Parks A-Team here today. Can't thank you all enough for what you do. The size of your Department is intimidating, and you're doing a good job with it. So a couple of questions, and basically we've talked about it before. I'm curious...and some of these questions are based around how long it takes permitting, the delays and the impacts. So my questions are not like, well, why didn't you get it done? It's more like, what are some of the impediments that you experienced, and what are some of the things that we can do to improve the process because when you can get permits, you can do it more cost effectively. So on page 16, implementation of department's capital projects effectively and efficiently, it's...percentage of line-item capital improvement projects contracted for design within six months, it's like 85 percent. Close, so, like, 15 percent on that. Fully designed and permitted and encumbered within 12 months, 80 percent. Number of projects for construction is subsequently completed within the contracting time, 85 percent. So I'm not asking for the granular of each one of those. I'm asking if there is a common denominator or something that is preventing those from being 100 percent. What are the hiccups that you have in your capital improvement projects?

MR. MCCALL: Okay, thank you for that question. And I'll start our answer, and I'll have Mr. Marvel finish the answer as he's kind of the subject area expert there. But I will say that one of the things that we've been able to work on in the last year and a half or so is sort of the cooperation between departments. We're able to reach out to, whether it be Water or Planning or whatnot, and that has helped us in several areas. We do still experience, you know, a lag time. We also have some...some of those permits are not county permits, they're also state permits as well, whether they're with the Department of Health or with SHPD or whatnot with reviews. And even there, we're trying to develop some bridges to sort of expedite some of our projects there. I will tell you, this morning when Director of Planning Department said, thank God we don't have any CIP, I joked with her later, I said, yeah, you should see how hard it is to get a permit from the Department of Planning. But it is...you know, I think we have made strides there, but I think Mr. Marvel can expand on some of the delays. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. MARVEL: Thank you so much for that question, Councilmember. You know, as Pat said, it's really gotten a lot better in the past couple of years. The coordination, especially within the County, has been fantastic. We're seeing quicker turnarounds on things like SMA permit reviews. Building permit reviews are going quite a bit faster than they used to. You know, our goal is always to get to 100 percent of delivering these projects on time, and we're getting there, we're getting a lot closer. I think we'll see those numbers well into the 90 percent this year.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Chair, brief comment. Thank you for that. And I just want to clarify; I'm not looking for any bad guys. I know that all of the departments have their rules and regulations. Principally, I'm thinking some of the rules and some of the criteria for approval is the impediment and it isn't necessarily the people who are doing the review. So I'm glad to hear that there's improvement, and we'll work on that. Thank you for the answers.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member U'u Hodgins.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair, and thank you guys for being with me, with us, I guess. I'm not the only one in the room. Also, thank you so much for always being responsive to all of the 15 million questions I get from my constituents and myself. That really matters because it allows us the opportunity to ensure that our constituents are being heard. In my last community meeting, well, our budget meeting, we heard a lot about Ho‘okipa. I know I was texting Deputy Director about the status of the bathrooms. I wonder if you could just give us an update. I know we were texting, but if you could share it with us since the whole Council heard their concerns about the restrooms. We know that there's a kona storm coming as well, so.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Deputy Director or department.

MR. DUDOIT: Okay. We just got a, let me see, an update this morning at 11:30 that we are waiting delivery of the pumps. It says its estimated time of arrival is seven to 10 days. Project is scheduled for mid to end of next week. And we have the back hole ready to go. We'll conduct our scope of work once VIP gets the pump swapped out. Restrooms should be reopened during the week of April 20th. Both contractors are aware of a hard deadline due to the HHSAA surfing competition.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you so much.

MR. DUDOIT: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: We also heard, as you folks know, about the lack of parking, parking situation, and the tour bus kind of clogging up what little space we have at Ho‘okipa. As I was talking stories with my Councilmembers, I was telling them, like, when I was growing up, Ho‘okipa wasn't like that. It really wasn't a tourist-friendly destination spot. And then all the boys that used to help regulate the beach grew up and had children, and now we have turtles. So what can we do to ensure that, like, locals feel prioritized in not only that park but the other parks as well when it comes to some of the parking concerns we have in all of our beach parks?

MR. DUDOIT: I do feel and we've talked about it and something that needs to be addressed is whether or not we can keep those tour buses out of County facilities, if it's legally possible to do that. But it is something that we...it's been brought to our attention on many occasions. I drive down there twice, three times a week and it is a problem. They walk across the road, there's no...yeah, there's no --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Safe walkway.

MR. DUDOIT: -- safe walkway. They park in the lifeguard stalls --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Right.

MR. DUDOIT: -- and treat our areas in our home like someone shouldn't.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Right.

MR. DUDOIT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, I know. Sometimes people forget to pack their brains on vacation. What else? Oh, the Pā‘ia Community Center. I see we have . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . allocated...can I just ask this real quick question? \$5,000 for the Pā‘ia Community Center? Am I correct on here? I'm reading this on page 929. What are we getting with \$5,000 in a place that needs, like, SMA, new jealousies? I couldn't find...please, not new jealousies. I couldn't find the paper. You don't have to answer that now. I can hold it to my next one, but I just wanted to flag that so we can ask that question. But I heard the bell. I can wait. Oh, unless you have that answer now.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Do you have the answer now, or would you like some time to?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question. We do...I see we do have \$5 million allocated in our six-year plan.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, different zeros. Yeah. Okay, great. Thank you. Oh, yeah, I see it up on top in thousands. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U‘u-Hodgins. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo, Director McCall and staff, for being here this afternoon. I did want to mahalo you, first of all, for your CIP projects in East Maui. I see the Helene Hall. We had dinner there last night, so it's nice to hear that we're going to get some air conditioning finally. And I did want to remind these...the second CIP was Pa‘ani Mai Park playground, and I did want to remind the Members, even though the students didn't come out full force last night to testify, they did send all their letters of support. Our office received all of their letters for the playground. So, mahalo for putting in the playground. Mahalo to Member U‘u-Hodgins, she did put in some monies a couple years ago. They did get a swing set, but they're happy to see more funding in this year's budget, so thank you. Also, mahalo for finishing up the Civic Center, Sam. So when would we expect the certificate of occupancy?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question, Councilmember. We're looking at probably the end of the summer, probably August, to get that C of O, depending on that. We're probably looking at the end of summer, August, for the completion of that C of O.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: Construction will be done probably early summer. That's what we're looking at.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you because, I mean, we're renting space for now, but we can let our landlord know we will be there to August. And then I see...last night we did see some of the paving equipment down by the preschool area. Some community

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

April 7, 2026

members asked if it was going to be done by next week. We have the Taro Festival next weekend.

MR. MARVEL: Thanks. No. We won't be finished with the project by next week, but we do have a plan in place to make sure that the Taro Festival won't be affected by construction.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That we have parking, Director?

MR. MCCALL: I'm going to defer that to Mr. Marvel. I didn't know of the conflict between the two, but Mr. Marvel, we're removing those parking spots too.

MR. MARVEL: We do have a plan in place for the parking.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then the only thing, it's great that we have all the MEO buses . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that's parked down there, but the only thing is that maybe speaking with . . . *(indiscernible)* . . . , we don't have any ADA access down into the park, possibly having MEO go into the park to drop off some of the kūpuna. Okay, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. I'll go to Chair Lee, then Sugimura, then Paltin, and then I'll finish up before we start round two with Member Johnson. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you. Can you hear me okay? I'm in my office because I started coughing again, so I thought I'd spare you the drama. So Mr. McCall, you mentioned, I think you have 68 vacancies; is that correct?

MR. MCCALL: Yes, yes, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, and yet you have a substantial number, is that 75 million for CIP?

MR. MCCALL: Yes. Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So do you think you'll have the resources to be able to spend on that money, to encumber and implement your projects?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you again for that question. I think the good news is the vacancies aren't so much in the planning and development division. In that section, we only have one CIP coordinator opening and working rapidly to fill that. We...most of the vacancies occurring in the breakdown you'll see are in the Permit and Enforcement section. And then also we have a number of...and we're addressing some of those needs also in the recreation series in the Rec services.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, perhaps you may get a phone call from us to find out what are some of your priorities on the CIP so that we, if at all, we can defer a couple of

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

April 7, 2026

them or reduce a couple of them, we might have to do that. I did want to mention to you, I think I communicated by email that I'm working on a bill for an abatement bill for Tante's at the Waiehu Golf Course Restaurant. Are you familiar with that, or is Mr. Dudoit familiar with that? Nobody.

MR. MCCALL: I was not aware of that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. It seems Deputy Corporation Counsel.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. Corporation Counsel is working on one of the things for our concession specialists, is dealing with that, yes. And I believe Corporation Counsel is working on that. I didn't recognize your term, your abatement bill, but okay, now I understand what you're talking about, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, good. And then the final thing I wanted to mention is congratulations on doing a great job, continually doing a great job on Waiehu Golf Course. But there must be some golfer that shouldn't be...you shouldn't let play over there. This person keeps hacking away, and I have to fill all these little holes, all these little pukas, yeah? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .I'm going to start applying for compensation pretty soon. Okay, thank you, Parks.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Before we move on, did Deputy Corporation Counsel want to chime in on the last question?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you, Vice-Chair. I have been working with the Department of Liquor to just ensure that the paperwork's together for them to get their liquor license, which has been one of the holdups for...one of the reasons for the abatement request. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you so much. Appreciate it. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Chair Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you, Vice-Chair. So what I wanted to ask is, of course, the storm, right? My community, there was Kula Gym that got pretty busted up. So in the budget, there's some funding for it. I'm sure this is old news. And what is the new news now that we have Kona Low Storm Two...was it two? No one was impacted. Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: We got one and two with three coming. Thank you for the question, Chair. Yes. Obviously, the budget was turned in prior to the storms. The scope of work on what's going to be required has changed drastically. We've had two site inspections done by various engineering groups at this point, and we're in the process of developing the plan. Right now, on options on the table are, you know, lean from complete replacement to, you know, there's a very small outside chance of being able to repair it. The damages are quite extensive, plus the facility itself will not match up to any code that exists today. I believe it was built in 1930-something, so it's a little older. Yeah.

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

April 7, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So but thanks for reacting to my text messages from my community and the neighbor actually was concerned and sent photos, so.

MR. MCCALL: I was there that night taking the pictures of the flying before the more damage occurred, so we have phase one and phase two of the damages, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah. It's pretty sad. So and it's a historic building, so I'm sure that the --

MR. MCCALL: It's not on the registry. We did check that, so that's a good thing, but it is, obviously, 50 plus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And more to come. So I guess our community, you'll tell us, right, what the next steps are? And then Kepaniwai. So I went to the 'Īao Valley community meeting that was held, and, of course, their focus was not really on Kepaniwai, and it did come up, what about Kepaniwai? And they said, oh, there's nobody from Parks here. So now that you're here, what is your plan?

MR. MCCALL: Okay. Kepaniwai, as you may have seen...and I hope you did not get a close view because the close view is quite dangerous at this point. That's why we have so many barricades out. There was a great deal of undermining of the parking lot along the river, also of pavilions one and two down below. And so, we're doing some, again, structural assessments, and it looks like we may have to remove the pavilions. We will look at what can be done for mitigation, but we have to be very aware of the cultural sensitivity of the spot as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So you will let us know.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In the budget, you also have Kepaniwai Missionary House replacement. So this fiscal year, it's zero, but you had planned for a next fiscal year. So are you putting everything aside for everything with the Heritage Park?

MR. DUDOIT: Councilmember Sugimura. Excuse me. We have not been able to find paperwork in our archives that has anything to do with who's in charge of what's up with Kepaniwai and the Heritage Gardens. We are now in the process of reaching out to these different ethnic groups and who is going to be in charge, and we will start to work on either memorandum of agreement, memorandum of understanding, or leases for these guys. Right now, none of them have anything. There's no entity with a permit to be up there. So I think the first thing we need to do as a County to...and protect us is to get that in place. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So before I move on, I mean, I lost it. We're at the end of my time. But I'll tell you who has reached out to me is the Korean community, the Portuguese with the Portuguese bread group, also the Chinese group, and we just did Hawaiian, amazingly withstood the storm, so that's fabulous, and I guess you were talking to the

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

April 7, 2026

missionary house people. So whatever way that our office can help, please let me know because I can give you the Chinese cultural, the groups that would be appropriate.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that offer, Councilmember. What we'd like to do also is kind of get a general plan for the entire park, regarding those, specifically those structures, and then of course we have to also address the parking lot issues.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you're coming up with a master plan. Your new plans are...okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Before we move on to Member Paltin, I think Member Rawlins-Fernandez has joined us. I don't see her video on, but I thought I saw her logging...oh, hello, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Chair. I made it to Molokai. I'm in my vehicle, alone, and I'll be ready when it's my turn. Mahalo, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My same annual disclaimer applies because limited time. Okay. You can start my clock. In Fiscal Year 2026, we gave \$250,000 for a cost study analysis on rates and fees, but I don't see any change in rates and fees. Was that our rates and fees are perfect?

MR. MCCALL: The request for proposals is recently completed. So the study will be completed by the end of this fiscal year and it'll give us a cost analysis and structure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, perfect. Next question is, do you know how many of your expansion positions or transfer positions, like the arborist, or I think you took a park security officer to a caretaker, how many of those positions are going require a reorganization with union consultation?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. Again, the arborist position I don't believe will require union consultation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But it will require a reorg?

MR. MCCALL: The reorg, no. We'll put that kind of back into our, and I don't think it's...it's going to be very complex. We're going to put that back into our beautification department. We previously had that position.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What about the park security officer that's becoming a park caretaker?

MR. MCCALL: That's already been completed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The reorg has been completed.

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

April 7, 2026

MR. MCCALL: For the Molokai one, yes

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: The union consultation has already been completed for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could you provide a list in writing of which ones the reorg has been completed for and the ones that need a reorg with union consultation of either expansion positions or transfer positions? And then for the Summer PALS program, were you guys able to fill all the positions the past couple years since we did the response.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. The response has been much better. The couple of spots have been a little difficult to fill. I believe the response...and Chief Kielty, you can correct me if I'm wrong, but I think the response from PALS was that it was a little difficult for some positions on the West side but also Lāna'i. But on Lāna'i, we did not have any children applicants either, so that was not as much of an issue. The rest of the island, we were...the rest of the sites, we did pretty well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the other question I had was the Ls and the Ts in your attachment. What does that stand for next to the position numbers, the vacancies? There's a position number L, position number T, do those mean anything?

MR. MCCALL: I will let...there's a limited term, but I'll let our AO, Roxanne Pasalo.

MS. PASALO: So L is for limited term and T is for temporary. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . When they changed over to the new HRIS system, they changed the verbiage, I guess, so it's pretty much the same.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I did want to mention there was a shout-out about, I think, one of your workers last night, Mircale Helekahi.

MR. MCCALL: In Hāna.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Big applause in the whole room. I do see a lot of East Maui vacancies, maybe she can help you with recruiting or something over there because she seems like a very capable person. The whole room, applause for her. They said she should get an award.

MR. MCCALL: Yes. She's done some good work in her short time with us already. We're really happy to have her on board.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Cool. Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, are you ready at this point? Otherwise, I can take my turn, and then you can follow.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'll go after you. Mahalo.

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

April 7, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Department, I want to start off by thanking you for the improvements at the Kahului School Park. It's the only park within walking distance of my house in second increment, and I'd just like to mahalo you for the efforts there. I do have a couple questions. First up is that wages and salaries are proposed to increase by 10.2 percent, while other premium pay is proposed to go up by 1,031.9 percent. Can you give some explanation as to why that might be?

MR. MCCALL: Could I ask where you're referencing that from?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Ah, shucks. Yes, page 601 of the budget narrative where it explains the expenditure summary by character and object. Okay, while you're doing that, I'll move on to my next question.

MR. MCCALL: Yes, please.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'll ask this, one of our Deputy Director, then. Your budget projects that rounds of golf at the Waiehu Golf Course will drop in FY27, but you expect revenues to increase in the next fiscal year. Given that you're not proposing to change rates, how is it that you guys are going to decrease the number of people using the facility but also gain more revenue at the facility?

MR. DUDOIT: I'll have to get back to you on that, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. There are planners responsible for 15 funded master plan projects. The budget narrative notes that there are eight active...or seven active and eight on hold. Can I ask what's causing the projects to be on hold and is there a plan to resolve them? We heard from the member of the community out at Pā'ia that they would like to see a master plan done for Ho'okipa, but before we add more to the queue, I just want to make sure that you have capacity to take on additional master plans?

MR. MCCALL: Mr. Marvel.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah. Thanks for that question. It's really a staffing issue. We have two planner positions and one of them is vacant right now. We're in the process of interviewing and hoping to fill that position. If fully staffed, we'd be able to move forward with everything in our queue right now, which is, as you mentioned, the 15 projects.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. I guess those were my only questions. If you don't have an answer for the premium pay going up by 1,031.9 percent, can I ask that Staff put in writing, and we can transmit that to you guys. It's on page 106 of the budget narrative. I'm sorry, 601 of the budget narrative. Okay. So that concludes my questions. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, are you ready at this point?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. Yes. I can be ready for my round one, and my apologies for my tardiness. Mokulele canceled my flight from Hāna to Molokai, and then we had to drive out in the rain, and then I was able to get on a flight to Molokai,

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

April 7, 2026

so I'm home. I'm still in my vehicle. I will be in my house in a little bit, but I'm still alone. Okay. Aloha, Director McCall, Deputy Director Dudoit, and team. Mahalo for being with us today, and mahalo again for your persistence in securing our Molokai Youth Center for Boys and Girls Club, so we're almost there. So, mahalo to all of you, especially Deputy Director, for your help with that. Our community at Pu'u Hau'oli is excited about the proposal of a playground there. The feedback I immediately got was that what they needed more was a restroom there. The preschool gym, the barn, is currently under renovation and will be for, I think, at least two years. And so, the boys' basketball has been practicing at Pu'u Hau'oli, which is wonderful to have it used structurally. Would it be possible to one, plan for a bathroom, a restroom there, and two, in the meantime, have, like, a porta potty there?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question, Councilmember. The porta potty is something we can definitely look into right away. As you know, the planning for a bathroom at a park will take a little bit more time, but it's something that we can put on our awareness list and start working towards.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, that would be wonderful. Would you...I know having a porta potty there wasn't something anticipated for your budget. So would you need additional funding for professional services or something to have a restroom there, a porta potty?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you again and for that offer. We'll look into it, and we'll definitely get back to you, and if we don't have room for it, we'll definitely come and ask.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, wonderful. And then at the district hearing in Pā'ia, we heard from Ms. Davis about the...what was it, like an assessment at Hāmākualoa. And I don't know if it's like an EIS, or you might be more familiar with what it is, but it was saying that it's been a number of years. Do you have a progress report for us on that?

MR. MCCALL: Yes, I'll have Mr. Marvel on the status of the . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . it's an archeological assessment there.

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question. There is a cultural assessment in progress. My understanding is that it's nearly complete. I know that the consultant is very backlogged with all of the issues going on island-wide, so we are close to the finish line on that and, you know, we should be complete, I would say, in the next few months. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful, next few months, so maybe by the summer, is that...

MR. MARVEL: Maybe by the summer.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll report back to...okay. I'll report back to Ms. Davis. Mahalo for that exciting news. I'm sure she'll be really happy to hear that. Mahalo, Chair. I heard the timer.

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

April 7, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Okay, Members, just by a show of hands, who has questions for round two?

MS. MILNER: Chair? Sorry, I have some more information for you on the thousand percentage. If that's okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sure. Before we move on, Budget Director wants to chime in on a previously unanswered question.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. So the increase in premium pay, as you all know, when the Council makes changes, sort of an across the board cut to the salaries, rather than reflecting that in salaries and wages position by position, it's reflected in premium pay as a flat reduction, and then the department sort of figures out how to deal with that. So when that's reinstated, it's reinstated in premium pay. So the Department has reinstated some of those Council cuts, which is the reason for that large increase. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Budget Director. Okay. So I saw a few hands, but I can't remember who. I'll start with Member Johnson, and then I'll work my way down. Just let me know if I need to skip over you, okay? Member Johnson, two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, sure. Did you happen to send a CIP priority list for the Department?

MR. MCCALL: Yes, Councilmember, we did. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I was looking for it, so since we're out here, you can just maybe answer, what are your two lowest priority ones that use General Funds?

MR. MCCALL: Go ahead.

MR. MARVEL: The two lowest on our list are the Lāna'i Community Field House and the Kenolio...Kenolio Park and Kalama Park Grease Trap replacements. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry, what was the second one? That's worth a shot. I'm glad this is two minutes. No more questions. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: We can do it like their salaries. Just cut 10 percent and then let them figure it out. Member Cook, do you have questions for the second round?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes. Thank you, Chair. So the South Maui Park, really excited about it, the \$25 million, and 232,000 and change was for RM Towill for the design. Did they do the first phase and now they're doing the second phase? Is the park designed for this CIP project?

MR. MCCALL: Go ahead.

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

April 7, 2026

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question. Yes. RM Towill has been the consultant for the, you know, full project. So this \$25 million will develop out the rest of that park all the way to the recycling center.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And what's the timeframe for it? I'm excited about it and supportive. I'm just picking it apart a little bit.

MR. MARVEL: So the design is...I'd say the design is about 90 percent done. We still have to go in for building permits for the restrooms, but we should be shovel-ready by, I'd say, July of next year. So when the funding comes through, we should be pretty close to shovel-ready on the project.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And a chunk of that's going to be site work and that'll take a while. So I can't find any money there. The page 929, CBS 4581, 7.15 million, contingency, countywide park facilities from General Funds. Can I have half of that? Anyway, could you...brief explanation of the expectation of utilizing that? I understand what a contingency is. Is that for everything?

MR. MARVEL: Yeah. So the contingency is just a straight 10 percent of our total budget, so that's why it fluctuates year to year. That's kind of what we found from our past cost of, you know, change orders, you know, or unexpected things come up in the field, so it allows us to address that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is that an annual part of your CIP budget, generally every year you'll have approximately 10 percent. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. MARVEL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And is there any left over from previous years?

MR. MARVEL: No. We always use 100 percent of that contingency. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I don't know, it always sounds pretty definitive. A challenge, I say we just take the 10 percent. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Never say always and never, huh? Thank you for answering my question about Pā'ia Community Center. Had I just looked it up, I could have answered my own question. On page 605, where it says, increased awareness of residents and visitors as well as education levels of staff members in regard to county parks rules and regulations, you have a section here that says average number of citations issued monthly, but all of them are N/A. Why do you guys have it in your budget if you don't do it? Or two, do you guys do it and just don't like keep count? And what kind of citations do you guys typically do? Because you guys have so much vandalism issues. So how does that work?

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

April 7, 2026

MS. ALMEIDA: Thank you for the question. It does not have a number here because this only goes back to 2025 fiscal year and the last number was from 2024. The shift was made...God bless you. The shift was made to align better with the purpose statement of the Department, which is to educate before we enforce. So we didn't want it to look like we were tracking citations. We track personal interactions.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: How's that working out for you guys...in all seriousness.

MS. ALMEIDA: You know, it actually...it's 50-50.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yep. I think some people just don't know, and when they do know, then they comply.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Do better?

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And then what happens when they don't?

MS. ALMEIDA: When they don't.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Citation or police officers, what do you guys do?

MS. ALMEIDA: So we issue either parking citations, or we issue court summons citations, and those will send them to court, depending on what 13.04A.070 says.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. ALMEIDA: And we go from there.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Considering you guys have, like, such a high number in vandalism issues, what do you guys do to help us and help you folks recoup some of that investment that we spend in our parks, looking at our CIP, and then to see somebody, like, damaging the bathrooms or damaging the courts? It's irritating. So what do we do for you folks, and what do we do for us in terms of, like, budget?

MS. ALMEIDA: I'm going to pass the microphone, but I will say that it's an incident report and the threshold amount is through the Police Department. And so, we want to accurately get those numbers. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. MCCALL: Okay. And the second part of that is, you know, when you talked about citations for vandalism, the first step is you have to be there and the vandalism tends to occur, obviously, yeah, when we're not there. And some of our security systems have turned in where we've been able to prosecute.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, good.

MR. MCCALL: Well, good. Yes. And I think that the learning lesson, it's not a great tool for financial recovery because the courts normally let them, you know, to reimburse us in increments.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: You know, “X” number of dollars a year for the next 20 years.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: Kind of thing. But the... I think the community awareness, it's very similar to a discussion we had earlier with Councilmember Cook's company on the Committee on the e-bikes. A lot of the damage done by the e-bikes is done by unsupervised juveniles. And if their parents are made a little bit more aware of what's going on, we might win a little bit, a few more of those battles.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, guys. Thank you all for being here.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U‘u-Hodgins. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Maybe this one is for Deputy Director. Our office received a request from the Ke‘anae community for a park ranger, and I understand...I don't know if the Hāna office has some openings, or we would have to, like you did on Molokai, move a PSO to a PC1?

MR. DUDOIT: Yes. I met down there with Bush and Mice guys and discussed the possibilities of maybe having a PSO in Hāna, but we are still working through it. Hopefully, trying to get somebody that's from the area so the drive is shorter. I'm trying figure out the logistics between that or maybe half PSO, half part park caretaker.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. And then I think part of the request was putting up a gate to the entrance of Honomanū just to...or some no-camping signs. I don't know if that was part of the discussion.

MR. DUDOIT: There are no-camping signs there. We did talk with both non-profit community groups, and we did ask them to hold a town meeting and discuss amongst themselves whether or not they feel they need a gate there or not because I think a lot of guys that are camping there are also from Hāna. So I think it needs to be beefed out between them before it can come to us, and we'll take care of it after that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. We might need a ring after that. Thank you, Deputy. Thank you, Chair.

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

April 7, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Chair Lee, do you have second round questions? Thank you. Committee Chair Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I'm glad to see RM Towill is going to be doing your South Maui Community Park project. So when does that start? And this is what Tom Cook, or Member Cook mentioned.

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question, Chair. We're planning to bid that project in July of 2027, and we'll start construction a couple months after that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. And previously, I've met with the Department regarding axis deer in Keōpūolani Park. It is one of my irritations. But and I hear from the community, and I don't see anything in here for that. So are you going to take money from another department and use it for that?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question and it is an ongoing issue. We've researched multiple options to address it. Recently, I met with Lance De Silva, Department of Land and Natural Resources. They now have the cages that are available, for part of a discussion several years ago and didn't come to fruition. So we're going follow up on that. And so we'll work with them and hopefully that's going to make a dent. I will say, I did enjoy my venison laulau that I had for lunch, though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I will look forward to that. It's about, maybe, four years, so maybe before you, but it is one of the things that I did get notification of and it's still going on. So I think you guys have the solution. No more questions.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. First question. If the eight pool positions are temp seasonal, that would bring your vacant permanent down to 60, right? Is that correct? Because I have eight temp, okay? Thank you. And then the next question, is there a policy about donated stuff? I got a complaint from some constituents that they donated lane lines, the age group kids donated lane lines, and one of the pool guards allegedly relocated them to another pool, and they're wondering if they can get them back. It's been months and they haven't heard.

MR. MCCALL: I can follow up on that. I do know we purchased...if you're talking Lahaina Aquatics, we purchased the lane lines for Lahaina Aquatics Center.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Supposedly these are the rope ones with the buoy. They had, like, three or four of them.

MR. MCCALL: We can follow up with our aquatics division.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Some lifeguard allegedly named Sirena maybe relocated them to another pool.

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

April 7, 2026

MR. MCCALL: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The other question I have is about the MIL travel money. Last night, we heard that the principal was denied the travel money for the football program over there. Do you know anything about that?

MR. MCCALL: Not from the MIL account. That is a problem account that we're dealing with. We have...that account has been collected, and I'll give a brief history here. The...and I don't want to dent into your time, so please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh yeah, let's move on. Okay. The expiring leases and Hawaiian Kamali'i at Ho'aloa Park is on a month-to-month and then there's three other leases that expire in calendar year '26. Is it more beneficial to make the lease on a year-to-year basis or a year's basis rather than month-to-month?

MR. MCCALL: No. The leases, we're currently working to do long-term leases. . . .(timer sounds). . . The issue with the Hawaiian Canoe Club lease right now is they had a letter of understanding with part of their parcel with A&B. And that had to be after we acquired that property. There has to be a subdivision and that has not been completed yet. And as soon as that has been done, then we can complete their lease for the entire piece.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Make it like a longer lease than month-to-month.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then just I don't know, we were not educated, e-bike has to have, like, pedals and stuff. So if it doesn't have the pedals, it's a e-motorcycle.

MR. MCCALL: Motorcycle, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that's already illegal in the roads. Is it illegal in the parks?

MR. MCCALL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But e-bikes are not, or they are too?

MR. MCCALL: If it has a motor, technically it's not supposed to be in the parks.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, like even scooters, electric scooters, anything with a motor.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. The idea is the high speed --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Collision.

MR. MCCALL: -- for an extended period of time makes them more of a risk to the walking public.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. All right. So nothing with a motor, then. It doesn't matter if it's a bike or a motorcycle or whatever.

MR. MCCALL: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Paltin, did you want to have a question transmitted related to the MIL Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. What's the big problem with the MIL Fund?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I think we should transmit it just like that.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. We'll go ahead and respond to that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Cool.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: There's also funds in the OED for student travel. But point of information. But Chair --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. He says there's a big problem.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's find out what it is.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If you allow, I just wanted to follow up on that. The Field House was lowest priority last year, and I thought that cutting it would bump it up. In fact, that's what I recall you guys saying, that it would be a bit of a higher priority because we cut it last year. So is that not true? And then also, what's your third lowest, then?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Department.

MR. MCCALL: I believe the third lowest was Lāna'i Farms.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I object to that, Mr. Director Man.

MR. MCCALL: I will say that the Field House, part of the reason is it is a beautiful batting cage. And I do understand that there are pockets of the Lāna'i community who want it to be even more beautiful and more operative. Right now, with the number of needs in the Parks Department, that's not up there.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So how about...I'm going to pivot for my next question. Do you support exempting park fees for County-led farmer markets that are on County parks?

MR. MCCALL: Our stance for the parks here on Maui, Maui Island, no because they have many options. The issue that, you know, the pilot program we started on Lānaʻi, we'll continue to work with the Department of Ag on that. And any other future proposals, I think it's having the Department of Ag as a coordinating sponsor is a great benefit to us.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So clarifying, Maui, no, but Lānaʻi, maybe Molokai?

MR. MCCALL: We'll definitely look into that. Yes. We're open to discussion for that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So Lānaʻi, yes, Molokai, open to discussion.

MR. MCCALL: Yes. Well, right now we're in the pilot program, and we want to see how that works out on Lānaʻi. All right. I'm not going to let you paint me into a corner on that one, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, you know, rates and fees here. Maybe I'll just make it exempt. We'll look into that. I'll look into as well. All right, thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, did you have any second-round questions?

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

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I didn't pick up on that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm okay, Chair. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Cool. Okay, Members, that concludes our two rounds of questions for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Any closing comments or questions?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I want to thank you all for your work. It's not an easy job, the parks, and I got sensitized last...for the sunset tunes and everything he did and appreciated that. The vandalism and the lack of respect for the parks is amazing and the gift to the community is huge. But anyway, thank you all for your efforts.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess I should have learned my lesson from Member Johnson and just said any closing comments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was his closing comments.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Sugimura.

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

April 7, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I would love to hear from Mary. She's been just sitting there waiting to say something to us.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. But we didn't ask her a question. This is not just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're not sure why she's sitting there.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: We still have two more departments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She's been there forever. Well, she's been an employee before us many times, but just wondering.

MS. KIELTY: We're doing good.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mary.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. What is it that you do that you're doing good? Oh, mic. What division are you...or boss for what?

MS. KIELTY: Rec and support services. So we're doing our best to support our community. With your support, it all works. Right now, we're still doing a lot of clean-up from the last two Konas and now we're getting another, so we're out prepping. The guys have been prepping today, yesterday, and we're hoping for the best.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are too.

MS. KIELTY: But mahalo to all of you for what you do as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, Mary. I wanted to hear from you and then skip one. I'm sorry I didn't get your name, but I will tell you, Director, that he was here first waiting in the lobby for you and all of you to come in.

MR. MCCALL: Just so you don't, Councilmember, couple of years ago when I was brand new, I was first as well. This is...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, sorry. This is...that's not what I meant.

MR. MCCALL: Our superintendent of maintenance, Robert Agapay, and this is his first budget hearings and rounds. So we gave him the relaxants before the meeting, so he's okay now. Robert, go ahead.

MR. AGAPAY: So my name is Rob Agapay. I'm the maintenance superintendent. I'm actually blessed to have managers and supervisors, construction maintenance, beautification, and golf course. All those three guys, they're taking charge of what needs to be done. We're building new restrooms, taking care of storms, working together . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . with rec and P and D. So I'm just honored to be here and in charge of those three guys that have guys that actually love what they're doing.

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

April 7, 2026

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fabulous.

MR. AGAPAY: So if you name all the three, they have their staff, all love what they're doing. So that's why they put a lot of love in the community with what they do, fields, everything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fabulous. Now you're Chair Lee's best friend because you mentioned the golf course. Oh, look at her, look at her. Thumbs up. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair Sugimura. Okay. I don't see anybody else, but since I opened myself up to this, I've got to be equal. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: When can we expect the answers to Parks and Rec 2?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Budget Director?

MS. MILNER: Yes. They'll be transmitted shortly. I just need to talk to Director McCall about one thing. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Perfect, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, members. Okay. Member Sinenci, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry, real quick.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: This is why I asked for an opportunity to practice presiding over a meeting so I can work out the kinks while it's not controversial.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I'm just seeing Rob now, but we did have a testifier last night about the Ka'ahumanu statue and the maintenance of it, but we can chat later. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member U'u-Hodgins. Okay, perfect. All right. Thank you, Department. Members, do you mind if we take like a five-minute recess while we swap out and bring up the Department of Transportation? It will be five minutes. You have until 2:26. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:22 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:26 p.m.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . All right, Members, it is 2:26. We are back in session, on time. Thank you very much. We have with us the Department of Transportation. Before we begin, I just want it noted for both you and the public that our initial letter in response, TD-1, is uploaded as item number 31 on Granicus. And the department

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

April 7, 2026

questions letter and response, TD-2, is uploaded as item number 71. The response to the second letter came in today. So if you checked Granicus prior to this meeting, beginning at 10 o'clock, it was not there, but it has since been uploaded. I wanted to flag that for you. Yeah, number 71. We will do another two rounds of questions, three minutes with the first round, two minutes with the second. But since I believe Member Johnson will have to leave before the second round, if you guys don't mind, I'd like to offer him the five minutes up front. All right, Member Johnson, would you like to kick us off? Five minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Director, and I know...thank you, Department for joining us today. I know...you know, appreciate all the work you guys do. And after looking over your budget, I love the vision. You know, I'll straight up say that. So here's my question. What's the fiscal impact of waiving fixed route fees on the Maui bus for county employees? Do we need to do a code amendment to implement this change in rates and fees for the reduced monthly pass? I think making it free for our workers, that was really, really a good job. So do you guys want to respond?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? Thank you for the question, Member Johnson. We believe that the fiscal impact of leaving fixed-route fees for county employees is expected to be minimal, as employee ridership represents a small fraction of the total Maui bus volume, and would not significantly decrease fare bucks recovery. Regarding the implementation, if the rates and fees schedule within the annual budget ordinance is updated to include the county employees as an eligible category for fare-free transit, the Department would have the authority to implement the change immediately. However, to ensure long-term consistency and permanent legal standing, an amendment to Chapter 11.04 of the Maui County Code is recommended to align the underlying transit statutes with the annual budget fee structure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, it's in rates and fees right now, so that works?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. I think over time we should probably update the back end, but if it's within the rates and fees, that's kind of what our guiding...that's what we use to move forward.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. So what would be the fiscal impact for allowing any students who have validated, who board without fees as part of a reduced monthly pass, regardless of their age?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? Thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Johnson. So we also discussed this internally within our Department. Fiscal impact for allowing all students with a valid ID to ride fare-free regardless of age is expected to be minimal as well. Currently, the Department utilizes the annual budget ordinance rates and fees scheduled to provide fare-free transit for students aged 24 and younger.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. TAKAMORI: So therefore this change would specifically extend the benefit to students

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

April 7, 2026

between the ages of 25 and 54, as those 55 and older are already covered by the senior fare-free policy.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I'd say, let's put that in rates and fees. And my mother got her a bachelor's of nursing when she was in her 50s, so I think there are people out there who this would benefit. Are there any funding...I'm going to pivot now. Are there any funding services available in the Department for grants or contracts for multimodal projects, plans or pilot projects, such as pedestrian visibility, quick builds, feasibility studies for bike and micro-mobility, share programs or e-bikes, micro-mobility safety workshops, and giveaways? Is the Department able to administer such a funding item? We want you to be out there in the community, yeah?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Director.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for the question, Member Johnson. This was one of the questions in our letter. I'm just trying to find it, so I don't miscue it. Do you know what question number this was?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That was my third one. Well, if you can't reach it, then we could always do it in writing if you guys like, and I could probably find it in the answers.

MR. TAKAMORI: Sorry, we have it. So to answer question, question number 18, so while the Department may have the administrative framework to manage multimodal projects and pilot programs, successful implementation is contingent upon filling the currently vacant transportation planner position. So this role is essential for providing the technical oversight and contract management required for initiatives like bike-share, feasibility studies, and safety workshops. As infrastructure such as bike networks and sidewalks falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works, any such project would be conducted in close coordination to ensure efforts complement rather than duplicate existing roadway and sidewalk programs. So filling this key vacancy will allow the Department to effectively lead these programmatic and planning efforts while maintaining a collaborative partnership with Public Works.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, that position could ride the bus for free. It's another way to get them on board. You know, those are the ends of my questions, but as I'm leaving this meeting early to catch the ferry, you know how significant the ferry is, and I want to thank you guys for having three pages in the budget, putting two million dollars in operational costs and all the process that is moving forward. Can you give us an update on the RFP for the environmental review? What's the status? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair. Thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Johnson. So I believe that the solicitation will close, I believe, is it this Friday, April 9th at 4:00 p.m. So Staff is aware that they want to turn it around, review the proposals, and make a selection by Tuesday.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wow. Okay.

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

April 7, 2026

MR. TAKAMORI: So that's a lot for them to go through. So I was joking with them that what if they got, like, 30 proposals? They're going to have a lot of reading to do. But they know that this is important. They know that we're on a timeline, so they're aware of it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. I'll call you on Wednesday. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, would you like to take your normal place in the lineup, or would you like to wait until the end of the round?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I can wait until the end. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Bus stops. Do we have a plan for how many bus stops annually? I mean, is there a...is there a vision and a program for how many that we need, one thing. And then two, how we're going to implement them?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair, thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Cook. The bus stop and shelter program is an ongoing program. We have over 200 bus stops, and we have approximately 50 bus stops that are improved with shelters. I guess the goal is to kind of get all of the stops where it's accessible. So that's kind of why we have a program that I think we asked for 800,000 annually and so that we can continue the planning and design and then we can continue with construction. We're not able to build a lot of shelters, but every year there are improvements. But also, as shelters age or, you know, just kind of listening to comments from the Parks Department and how they have public facilities that are always damaged, we also have shelters that get damaged. And so, I can't really complain to the director of Parks and Rec because they go through a lot more damage than we see. But it's an ongoing thing. We want to continue the program, but we just ask for a limited amount annually just so we can continue the program moving forward.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, thank you. They're difficult to do. I mean, finding the space, having utilities in the way. Anyway, is it something we can help, like when we're approving projects to take bus stops into consideration.

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? Yeah, thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Cook. I would say yes. When you guys are looking at future projects to maybe consider the allocation of having the developers think of locations for bus stop shelters what not. I guess that's more of a question on if you feel that that should fall on the developer to install, or is that something that once they maybe make the sidewalk, they have enough right-of-way space, put down the sidewalk and then we come in later, and we can install the shelter if it works within our current routing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. I'm thinking at a minimum to have it in the design and the place, so spatially, the infrastructure and everything is accommodating for it, and then

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

April 7, 2026

it could be installed by whoever when it was time but taken into the design process early. That's all, Chair, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you guys for your responses too. I'm going to follow up on what Member Cook is asking. I think at least we can have bus stops included into the design implementation and figure out what we can do because then we can be responsible for our own things. I know how difficult it was when I asked if we could get a bus stop on Hāna Highway and basically, you're like, oh no. And I hear you and I understand why it would be very difficult. So if we could pre-plan for that, that'd be great. As far as your bus stops go, how do you guys clean, maintain, and regulate some of your guys' bus stops?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair, thank you. Thank you for the question, Member U'u-Hodgins. We actually have contracts in place where People Who Clean will go out every Monday, Wednesday, Friday to do a quick cleanup of the site, but really their focus is to remove the trash from the trash as well as the recycles. And then at least once a month they will go out and pressure wash the entire bus stop shelter.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And sanitize?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes. And then we do have the ability where we'll get calls from the public stating that something happened in the shelter, and we have to send...we'll do a call-out and have People Who Clean to come out to do a cleaning of the shelter again.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. What do you guys do for safety issues and concerns like on the bus? Is there ever an issue of safety and any disruptive behavior on the bus?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair, thank you. Thank you, Member. We do. I give our contracted drivers are MEO and Roberts...I think there's a lot that goes on in the buses and it's a lot of responsibility for the bus drivers. It's hard for them just to...a lot goes on for the driver, right? They have to drive, they have to keep the passengers safe, they have to stay on time, they have to make certain people pay, I mean, follow the rules, right?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

MR. TAKAMORI: But then you also have people that will come on and disrupt the bus drivers, other people or, yeah. So a lot of times what happens is that the contractor will then call, have dispatch call MPD for assistance.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, because where my children go to school is are the only Kula Kaiapuni schools that we have on this side of the island. So that means we have people from all over town and they got to come Upcountry to come to school. Regular school bus is expensive now. Used to be 15 cents when I had to catch the bus, no longer. So we do have a lot of students that I see that are riding the Maui school

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

April 7, 2026

bus...I'm sorry, the Maui Bus that are like right outside Eddie Tam, and there's usually a big gang of kids and we have all kind activities on the bus. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And I just want to make sure they're safe, you know, because they're not just riding with kids, they're riding with a whole bunch of adults. I have the luxury and my husband has the luxury to pick up our children, but I would be worried if my child was on the bus with a bunch of adults and only one adult responsible for everybody's safety. So, thank you for what you guys are doing. By the way, last night at Hāna, we heard so many good things about MEO transport and same with us, paratransport and MEO transport. So, thank you so much for what you do to support MEO. Thanks.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had a couple questions following up on Member U'u-Hodgins. My office did receive some calls from near the bus hub at the Catholic Charities with some of the patrons kind of going over. Have you received some of those complaints as well?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair. Yes, thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Sinenci. We do get calls that call in from Catholic Charities, Kahului Lani. That's across from the Foodland Center. Yeah. We do get those calls. So I guess I can tell you that within the Kahului Transit Center, we do per our contract with Roberts Hawai'i, we do have a security guard present 24 hours a day. So, again, it's one security guard that's there along with Roberts Hawai'i employees, two dispatchers that are there during when the transit center is open. And then when the transit center closes at night, we close the gates and then the security guard is there that kind of monitors the area overnight. But the security guard area that they monitor is typically right in front of our transit center or within the transit center, not so much in the outside vicinity.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you for that. And then the other calls we've been receiving from some of the FEMA fire victims that live down in South Maui and with the road closure down on South Kihei Road, they're curious about bus routes being changed, added. What can they expect as Public Works fixes the road?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair. Thank you for the question, Member Sinenci. So I guess you're specifically speaking about more South Kihei by Kama'ole II? Is that kind of what you're --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Kind of have to jump up to the highway and then come down.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. So to answer your question, Staff in our office did install temporary bus stops in the vicinity of the Kama'ole II. I guess the unfortunate area...I guess the closest stop to that area is temporary stops on Alanui Keali'i Drive at South Kihei Road. So if you're in front of Kama'ole II, you would have to walk to Alanui Keali'i to catch the temporary stops. So that's where the nearest stop is because we do have to...we can't drive along South Kihei Road where the road is closed for now. And I'm not quite sure

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

April 7, 2026

how long . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that will be closed, so we figured we needed to pivot and do some temporary stops.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I'll forward that information to them. Thank you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Okay. Mark, so are you getting more complaints because of the weather that, you know, like, houseless people or sketchy people are using the bus stops as shelter more often these days? Did you hear my question?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Chair Lee. I guess with the recent rains and upcoming rains, I guess we haven't gotten more complaints of individuals utilizing our shelters, our bus stop shelters as shelters during the rains. We haven't gotten any of those complaints. It's more of people that may have temperamental issues that may be at the hub talking to somebody else that may get out of control at times. And so, security will have to step in.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Okay. I was worried about that because, you know, when I pass through these bus shelters, you know, I see some people who are seemingly intimidating. And so, innocent, you know, kūpuna or other children would be scared to sit at the bus shelter. So I was worried about that. Okay, so the other thing I'm concerned about is a lot of the buses seem to be not even half full most of the time. So how's your ridership these days?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair. Thank you. Thank you for the question. I guess with regards to looking at our...based on total ridership for Fiscal Year 2025, we had a little, over 1.38 million boardings. Based on where we are right now, and if it keeps on going the way it is, we're expecting to see at least a...like, a little over five percent increase in ridership from last year to this year, based on projections.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So how does that come out to be as far as 50 percent filled? Do you have that stat?

MR. TAKAMORI: No, I do not.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm just wondering because if most of them are not full, why wouldn't you use smaller, more efficient buses?

MR. TAKAMORI: I think the question, then, comes down to the availability of us having smaller buses. So we...usually what we do is we have a limited amount of vehicles that are set to be driven every day. And so, we have to plan for what the peak ridership will be. Usually what happens from an operational standpoint is we have one bus that gets assigned for the entire day. So while maybe the first one in the morning might not be full, but maybe the . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . seven o'clock in the morning and the four o'clock

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

April 7, 2026

or five o'clock in the afternoon may be full and then it starts to dwindle. It's the same bus the entire day. If not, then we would --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah, okay, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Committee Chair Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Vice-Chair. So, perfect segue because your base yard, which \$77 million, of course, that's your CIP gross. And right now, we're talking about a million dollars. And how are we doing, and can we help you in any way expedite this? Do you need it? Because we need our buses.

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair, thank you. Thank you, Member Sugimura for the question. I guess from our transportation base yard, we are actively working on...I mean, we're basically finishing up the master plan. We have available funds that we're going to move towards the planning and design phase. We are keeping FTA involved because we plan to apply for additional federal funds for it. But what is holding us back a little bit from getting more electric vehicles is the ability for us to charge them. So coming online soon is we're going to be installing permanent chargers at our Kahului Transit Center. Right now, we're charging some of the buses at Roberts Hawai'i base yard as a temporary solution until we can get hours in at Kahului Transit Center. Then we can actually charge four buses at once overnight. Right now, we utilize at least three out of our four electric buses during the day because we don't have the ability to charge all of them at the same time. We actually started the CIP for electric charging before we actually ordered the buses, but then the buses came in first. So we are trying to close that up. We're working with HECO on getting that project completed. And so, they needed to do some infrastructure upgrades on their side. So they just finished and the storms kind of came in. And so, we're kind of waiting on them to kind of close it out so then we can take over to do our side. But I guess just in the bigger picture is once we can move forward with our actual building of the transportation base yard, then we'll be able to...we're planning in additional electric bus chargers and things like that. So that will also change what our fleet will look like because right now we're heavily diesel-reliant.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So the million dollars that's in the CIP budget for next fiscal year, you are going to use it, then?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Even with this situation. And I think your buses came in earlier because at your blessing, you said the counties gang ordered, I don't know what the right word is, but you did a...

MR. TAKAMORI: Statewide procurement. And so, all the counties ordered . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

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

April 7, 2026

buses at the same time. So the idea was that by doing it as a large procurement, we were technically supposed to get better pricing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Denis Dwyer is still your consultant?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, years. Thank you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does your expansion position require a reorganization with union consultation?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Paltin. It does not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that's awesome. My other question is, you mentioned, I think, MEO, like paratransit, is a 5.7 percent increase and Roberts was five percent, is that difference of 0.7 because the paratransit, like, does additional stuff besides just drive?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair, thank you. Thank you for the question. To clarify, our Maui Bus contracts are five percent. I guess included in my statement was between five and 5.7 percent. The 5.7 percent is for the human services transportation and that's the grant to MEO for their human services. So Maui Buses were asking for five percent increases on fixed route paratransit and commuter on their current, I guess hourly rates on their contracts. And then human services, their request was a 5.7 percent increase.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is that because comparable prevailing wage is based on fixed route commuter, paratransit versus human services? Like, why is it not the same?

MR. TAKAMORI: Great question. So our Maui Bus contracts are set where the maximum per contract allowed is five percent.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So what is your backup plan if, like, you know, nuclear war and whatnot, Strait of Hormuz. Sorry, I didn't mean to make your face look like that.

MR. TAKAMORI: We are actually, I guess that's why it's important that we really consider the five percent or 5.7 percent because while I think a lot of it is prevailing wages, we have been starting to get calls about the fact that fuel prices are extremely expensive and because our buses, like even on the fix route side.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So that 5.7 is your plan B?

MR. TAKAMORI: No. So sorry, it's still five percent. So I think we'll have to, yeah. We're

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

April 7, 2026

locked in, we're good. We are technically locked in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, all right, good enough for me, I guess. And then are you working with DPS to let them know, like as soon as July 1st happens, here's an added perk, if you're a County worker, you don't need a car. You can catch the bus to work or something.

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair. I think that's a great idea. I think yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the West Maui Transit Center, it's not going to be at the Wharf because the Wharf doesn't exist or you guys are going to wait till the Wharf rebuilds, or how does that all work because I think the ownership structure of the Wharf makes it really complex to rebuild at all. And then you have the SMA . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . and the historic district and then shoreline and we're --

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Chair, thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Paltin. I guess what we're...where we are considering for a West Maui Transit is going to be in the vicinity of the Pioneer Mill smokestack area. We do plan to have a...I guess we're working with the Office of Recovery on what they're calling a super stop, and that's going to be, like, on Waine'e. But we're looking at putting an actual hub in the vicinity of the Pioneer Mill area, and then having the ability to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe by the senior center or something. That'd be nice, kind of.

MR. TAKAMORI: Is it by the senior center? It is. It is, yeah, yeah, yeah. It's walking...it will be walking distance, yes, yes. And then also we'll be planning...big vision is planning to have the ability to even have bus chargers overnight so then we can actually have electric buses running out in West Maui. Because right now, if we only have chargers in Central, by the time we get a bus out to West Maui, you're already losing charge, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, I heard the bell. My next round will probably ask about a stop at Hanaka'ō'ō, if that's even a possibility.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'm now at my private residence, and my two minor children are home from school and as well as my husband, Makena Fernandez. Okay. Aloha, Director, and mahalo for being with us today. I wanted to ask a couple questions about the fleet. So the hybrid buses were about three times the amount as non-hybrid, just combustion only? Diesel? Diesel buses. Was it solely because it was hybrid or because of inflation or both or other things?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Director.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I guess I'm trying to think when we went up to solicitation for the various types of buses. I

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

April 7, 2026

think...I think the most recent...the most recent procurements, we just went out to bid for more newer hybrid buses and those actually came out much higher. So I think overall bus costs have increased a lot. I would say that I'm sure if you talk to the Department of Fire, I'm sure their fire engines are extremely expensive as well. But yeah, right now it's...I guess through COVID and supply chain issues, like it's been very interesting. We go into contract, and then we will get these calls stating that they can't hold certain prices because of the fact that everything has increased a lot so quickly. So I think that's what's happening is it's just the time that it's just much...everything is much more expensive.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo for that response. I also understand, like, consolidation, private equity, and just overall greed. So it's costing more for no good reason and it's taking longer because of the consolidation. Okay. So for the older buses, like from 2008, 2010, like, what happens with those buses?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Usually, by the time the buses are getting ready to be retired, a lot of times we'll have our contractors start to take whatever parts could be usable for other vehicles to save. A lot of times our buses are so, like, put through the ringer. They have high mileage and they're just really tired. And so, we don't necessarily put it out to bid for somebody to purchase it. We try to take what we can from it because by that time, there isn't a lot of extra spare parts. So we usually take the parts from it to have spare parts for other buses and then we dispose of them.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Makes sense. Mahalo. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . We heard last night from a testifier that the Hāna School student athletes bus broke down, and I know that our Molokai High School buses are ready to be retired too. They were running since I was in high school, long, long ago. Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I ka wā kahiko. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I think it's my turn. So I guess first up, Director, you mentioned that there might be some Code amendments that need to be done. Will you be drafting those? Or do you need one of the members to sponsor that legislation?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Chair Batangan. I guess it depends on when it would need to be done because we would be able...I guess my Department would be able to work with Corporation Counsel to draft something. I guess it just depends on if Council Services believes that the Code should be changed at the same time that the budget gets approved. Then I would say it may make sense that it falls with you folks. But if not, then we can draft something.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. We'll check with Corporation Counsel and OCS. On our way back from the Pā'ia community hearing, I saw a school bus picking up...okay, so that was last week. I saw a school bus picking up people at a County of Maui bus stop. Is there an issue with the county fleet? Was Roberts using their own vehicles to fix route

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

April 7, 2026

services?

MR. TAKAMORI: Great question.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Or are the private companies conducting pickups at our locations again? There are multiple explanations. I'm just trying to get at why a school bus was picking up people at our bus stop.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. So I guess what I could say about that is that DOE sometimes utilizes our bus stops as possible locations for student pickup and drop-off.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So this was after our budget hearing, which ended at, like, eight o'clock at night. I can't imagine these were students being picked up from school.

MR. TAKAMORI: Did it look like students?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I don't know, it was dark. But I don't think it was just students.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But maybe something to look into.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah. We will look into that. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. One of the complaints that I got at my open house was related to the transit hub. There was a security...several people brought up security issues. You mentioned to Member Sinenci that you have a security guard who is responsible for the hub itself. I had reached out following that community meeting to ask if you could consider adding additional security guards that would patrol the side streets. I do not see anything in the budget, but I'm not sure if I'm just overlooking something and it was included in a different line item. Has the department considered adding additional security to the neighborhoods along like Vevau Street and School Street?

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question. It's not in the budget because I think when you did reach out to the Department or to us, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we...we needed to figure out what that additional costs would be. And I think by then, the budget was already printed. So it's not in the budget, but we do have an estimation...estimated cost of what it would cost to have a security guard present overnight from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. that can control the area of School Street and Vevau Street. I think that comes out to be 170,000.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: One, seven, zero?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. All right. That is my time. Members, by show of hands, who has second round questions?

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: About Hanaka‘ō‘ō having a bus stop.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Member Paltin, two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could we put in, like, a stop at Hanaka‘ō‘ō just because all the time kids are, like, I don't have a ride to practice, and, you know, it's kind of a junior lifeguard location too and like that.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Paltin. If...I believe I know what beach you're talking about, is that the one?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just south of the Hyatt.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Okay. Yeah,. So that's the one. I guess we can look into it. I know that there would be challenges. So usually we would drop off and pick up people alongside of the road.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On the highway or pull in.

MR. TAKAMORI: So yeah, so I think that beach park is on the side of the highway, right? So then I guess the concern would be, is there enough right-of-way for us to pull over and would it be safe enough to have kids and...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, it wouldn't.

MR. TAKAMORI: So then the other question, then, would be if our buses had to turn into the beach park, would we be able to safely get out as well?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not every day, no.

MR. TAKAMORI: So those are some of the things that I guess if...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How about, like, at the Hyatt part of . . . (*indiscernible*) . . . No? They wouldn't let because that's a private property?

MR. TAKAMORI: The little bus stop outside of their facility, I think we actually utilize that for commuter, commuter pickup and drop off. So I think there might not be timing to do that for, like, the West Maui Express bus. But I mean, if we were to consider --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just kicking them out on the Hyatt pullout or something by the Kā'anapali Ali'i public parking.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah, I guess we could look to see if there's enough timing . . .(*timer sounds*). . . on the Lahaina Villager route. But I know that one of the requests that came from your office as well was for us to consider adding back the Aquatic Center to that.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ooh, that would be a good one too.

MR. TAKAMORI: So I know that our transportation program coordinator has that on his plans to add that back in. I think if I come to him to add this other beach park, it may be tight on schedule, but I can let him know that that's something. Is there a priority? Is there a priority?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just 'cause like –

MR. TAKAMORI: Is that a priority?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. The Rec Center and the Aquatic Center definitely because --

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- a lot more activities there. You got, like, swimming, football, boys and girls clubs, skate park, and whenever they rebuild Ka Hale A Ke Ola and like that.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Beach park is just junior guard and canoe.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. So that is on his list of wanting to reinstate. So I will mention this other beach park, but I know that he has on his list to try to get the Aquatic Center back on.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They need exercise. They can walk from Whaler's Village.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Did anybody else have any second round questions? Okay. Thank you for pointing that out. I'm sorry, I missed you. I didn't look at the screen. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just one last question about the ferry. Exciting that it looks like if everything aligns, we may start service for Lānaʻi Q3 of FY27. Do I understand that correctly? Sorry.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah, thank you. Thank you for the question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. I would say more towards the ending of Q3 or beginning of Q4 or within that vicinity.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Exciting. And then for Molokai, when is there an idea of when that would be happening for our island? Like, how many years?

MR. TAKAMORI: I would say probably a year or two after that. But if you put that in writing,

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

April 7, 2026

we can give a better response.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Staff, can you transmit that question? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Vice-Chair. Okay, mahalo. That's all. Mahalo, Director.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, members. All right, I do not see anybody else wanting to do a second round question. So can I...it is 3:08, can I ask for a ten-minute recess? We can swap out departments and then bring up the Department of Planning. Okay. Members, it is 3:08, we will go into recess and then reconvene at 3:18. 3:18. . . .(gavel).
..

RECESS: 3:08 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:18 p.m.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .(gavel). . . All right, will the BFED meeting of April 7th please come back to order. It is 3:18, we are on time. Thank you, Members. All right. Before us the Department of Planning. We will again do two rounds of questions, three minutes for the first round and two minutes for the second round. I've been starting with my right-hand side, so I'll start with my left-hand side this time and recognize Member Sinenci. Member Sinenci, are you off...did I catch you off guard?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. I'm jumping on now.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry. I did, sorry. Remember, I can't...well, I'll go back to Chair Lee, then. Chair Lee, would you like to kick us off? Do you have questions for the Department of Planning? Chair, you are still muted.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm not a very good kicker, so I don't have any questions, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Okay, wait, I'll get to you. Councilmember Sugimura. You throwing off my system here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I defer to Member U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: All right, I'll skip over Member Sugimura for now. Member Paltin, do you have any questions for the Department of Planning?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know I do. Okay. Standard disclosure applies because limited time, I don't want to be rude, but I might cut you off. Okay. You can start the time. First question, does any of your expansion positions require reorganization that has union consultation?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question, Council Member Paltin. No.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Perfect. And then I see that you have, like, eight or nine or more Planner V vacancies, and then I also see throughout the booklet every department that has a Planner V has a vacancy in that as well. So, like, we're significantly needing Planner Vs. Is it possible, like, if a Planner I, II, III or IV or somebody applied for the Planner V, and they weren't meeting the minimum qualifications, that you would consider hiring them as a planner, whatever number they are?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question. Absolutely. And we have had some great success with that. People indicating to us that they didn't qualify for, let's say, the five, but that they feel as though they would qualify for the four, and we were able to do certain reallocations or other sort of administrative things to allow them to apply for that type of vacancy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And those reallocations don't require a reorg or a union consultation?

MS. LILLIS: No, they do not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the process in that, I guess some of us met with the Ka Ipu Kukuis and there was a fellow there that had applied for a Planner V position, but she hadn't heard back in, like, over a month or so, and we told her, like, give it two more months. But how do you shepherd the process? Can you DM-89 folks or other things like...?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Paltin. My understanding is we cannot DM-89 when we have an open recruitment that is posted. However, the Department has been more encouraging of the staff to prioritize interviews and our wonderful partners at DPS have been extremely helpful in helping us get lists and organizing those. We, the administrative staff, organize interviews.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: None of your current vacancies are filled with DM-89?

MS. LILLIS: We have no DM-89 in place, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because all of the vacancies are already posted?

MS. LILLIS: Yes, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you think we should make a scholarship for planners to come to the County and then you have to work off five years or something, and then you can be free to go into the wild as a planner?

MS. LILLIS: So long as we weren't administering the grant.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay, OED or something. Okay. Do you have any grant-funded vacancies? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

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

April 7, 2026

MS. GOUVEIA: Hi, I can take that question. We just have one. It's a clerical position for our CZM section. Our three planners out of that section are filled and funded. So actually we have a list, and we're going to be interviewing. So we hope that we can fill it, and then all of our grant-funded positions would be filled. So hopeful.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sweet. Thank you. Those are all the answers I wanted to hear.

MS. LILLIS: And Chair, if I may, this is Connie Gouveia, our business administrator.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. I apologize, didn't think to ask for introductions before you guys...before we just jumped into questions, but thank you for that. Okay. Member Sugimura, did you want us to go back to you, or you okay for now? Okay. Member Johnson is excused. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, would you like to take your place now? Or shall I keep holding you to the end of the cycle?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Vice-Chair. Okay. Aloha. Let's see. I think that's Deputy Director. Is Director Takakura also there?

MS. LILLIS: She's at another meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Okay. Okay. Aloha Deputy Director, mahalo for being with us. Okay. For your response on, this is PL-1, question 16, four of the contracts, year-to-date \$175,000 of expenditures and 990,000 commitments are open. Does that mean that of that, the four contracts total 1.165 million and of that only 175,000 has been expended. Am I reading that correctly?

MS. LILLIS: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I see some of them is, like, the Title 19 rewrite and other in the community plan updates, so it might be more of the work at the back end? Is that what you're thinking, or is the term longer than a year?

MS. LILLIS: The terms for many of these contracts are over many years, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that. Okay. And then I think...I think this is the correct department. So for last night in Hāna, we heard from Habitat for Humanity that they're working on securing the land and then that its understanding is it's going to take 330 days to get their permits through. I don't know, is there any way we can help to expedite some of the affordable housing projects, especially in, like, you know, those areas?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question, Councilmember. May I ask if this property is located in the special management area?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. LILLIS: It is not. Okay.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci, oh okay. It's not? Okay. Thank you.

MS. LILLIS: I would like to take a closer look at what hurdles and permits and reviews would be needed from our Department. But the administration is absolutely dedicated to providing housing and moving through those reviews as quickly as possible.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is there a policy, an existing policy to try to expedite affordable housing projects? Review?

MS. LILLIS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And approval? And how is that policy working out? Is it actually expediting those review and approvals?

MS. LILLIS: I would say that we've not received complaints necessarily. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . However, there can absolutely be more complex hurdles that require a closer look. And so, that can it may feel as though it's not moving as fast, we do dedicate our efforts and team to finding solutions to move those forward. So I would say that it is successful to the degree that we can allocate administrative resources to focus on those housing projects.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. That sounds good. Mahalo Deputy Director. Mahalo Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director *[sic]* and staff, for being here. My question is for...does the Planning Department, do you track and do you understand or do you know, like, the value, dollar value of the permits that are in the queue to be reviewed?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question, Member Cook. I think that I'm not familiar that we are able to pull that data. However, we do have a list of the permits that are within our wheelhouse, of course, and those project valuations are part of those applications typically. However, I'm not familiar if we are able to use MAPPS in a way that can pull and tally the total of the valuation. I would need to look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My thought process is for wanting to know that data. It's like when Director Takakura earlier said, you know, the goal of the Department, manage growth, preserve land, to meet those goals and objectives, affordable housing, et cetera, to guide our development is to have an idea. To me, I think the Planning Department has their finger on the pulse of revenue generation for the County, and how long it takes to build or what it takes to build, what we're prioritizing building. And a lot of those things are going to be policy to enable you to filter because you can't necessarily do that.

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

April 7, 2026

MS. LILLIS: Thank you. Yes. I think that would be a really interesting performance measurement or at least tracking to be able to evaluate the economy generally across the County. So we can, certainly, and look into what MAPPS is able to pull from the data?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: If sort of a segue to that would be county CIP projects so that to be able to justify prioritization...to be able to have an understanding, these CIP projects, which are multiple, multiple millions of dollars benefiting the community and those projects, the delay on those projects, the impact and the cost escalation to the community is substantial, potentially substantial. So I'm just trying to be creative with tools and methodologies to enable the Department to actually continue to manage growth and preserve land. One of the ways we preserve land is the County to be able to buy it. And one of the ways the County can buy it is if we have enough capital that we could allocate to it. And if we knew we had, like, \$200 million worth of work, and we could approve half of it, or we were going to approve half of it. So anyway, do you have any suggestions of what the Council can do to help the Planning Department?
...*(timer sounds)*...

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question, Member Cook. I think that...I think what you're referencing is that the Planning Department is required to review the CIP every year. And so, incorporating into our review with the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources a review of the financial impacts or valuation of the different projects, I think that's something that we can do and wouldn't need any. But your feedback is that...is helpful for us to take that into consideration. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member U'u Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Director [*sic*] and Connie, nice to see you both. Hi. Okay. I do have a couple of questions. On page 34 of our Rates and Rees, I just have a question for the adoption amendment repeal and Planning Commission rules and regulations for Maui, Molokai, Lāna'i. We went from 250 to 4,175. What is implemented when? When we make a change to the rules, or what is that section? When does it apply, and when would we collect that money? And it is a really big increase. It's on the top.

MS. LILLIS: So we...I believe that this is attempting to address a public-initiated change.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LILLIS: And so, for us to take that through our process, that would be the cost associated with.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So if the public wanted to make a change to SMA or the Commission's rules? Oh, correct. I don't think I've seen that happen too often.

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

April 7, 2026

MS. LILLIS: No. It's very...we have...as we recently saw with that conditional permit for additional agricultural lots, there are many different types of approvals that are more unusual and are very uncommon.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, interesting. Okay, next question. For page 37 in the same book, for exceptions where it has that section of when the fees are not applicable to the building permits, if somebody was doing a 100 percent residential workforce housing, but they didn't need to come to us, they don't need changes in zoning, they're not requesting a whole bunch of fee waivers necessarily, like we usually see as it relates to sidewalks, yada, yada, yada, but for building permits, do they need a waiver? Do they need to come to us or is this automatically applied when they submit for building permits?

MS. LILLIS: When they submit...so I am going to give the caveat that Public Works is the department that administers building permits. The Planning Department is just a commenting agency, but my understanding is that for projects that qualify for no permit fees required, that the DSA staff just simply don't bill, and they are able to accept the application without a fee.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Do they need to get some sort of written response from you folks that says, like, yup, 100 percent affordable housing, all good, no need collect, or what is the process on that?

MS. LILLIS: I'm not familiar with the Department of Planning being the agency that confirms whether or not a project is residential workforce housing and qualifies for a permit.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I know now that we have Housing, but it is under your folks' fees. I guess we're going to have to figure that out.

MS. LILLIS: Yes. I may have to respond to that question in writing, apologies.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, don't worry. I think it's something we're all trying to figure out. It clearly doesn't happen too often, although I wish it would. The last time I did a project that was 100 percent affordable workforce housing, and we didn't have to come here, we paid the fees, found the rules, got reimbursed, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . but I just want to make it a smoother process for those that are applying that don't have to come to us, that, you know, it's one less step they have to do. But please, you can respond to that in writing.

MS. LILLIS: Thank you, Councilmember. And I hope that Department of Public Works isn't cringing at my answer because that is just giving my understanding of the process.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I mean, I don't blame everybody for being confused. They collect the fees, but you folks administer the fees in your Code. So, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U'u Hodgins. Before we move on to Member Sinenci, I just would like to recognize Captain Gabe Johnson, who has joined us from

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

April 7, 2026

the ferry. Aye aye, Captain.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Ahoy there, mateys. I'm on the ferry. It's public, so there's a lot of folks, but I'll try to listen and, if I can, squeeze in a question before we lose service. But I'm here and ready to work. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye Aye. Member Sinenci, and then I'll recognize Member Johnson for his questions for the Department of Planning.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo, Deputy Lillis and staff members. I'll just read off my questions that I had submitted to the Department. Are subdivision plans that are submitted to the Public Works for review circled back to the Planning Department when they are in the SMA zone and which departments consider the SMA exemptions or SMA minors?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Sinenci. We did transmit our response letter to your questions, but I'm happy to read our answer. So all subdivision plans are submitted to the Department of Public Works for review and are transmitted to the Department of Planning regardless of whether the subdivision occurs in the SMA, for the first part of your question.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. LILLIS: With respect to the departments that review SMA exemptions and minors, it depends on the scope and anticipated impacts of the project. Some common agencies that review SMA applications are the Department of Public Works, Water Supply, Environmental Management, and Fire and Public Safety.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And is there a price range for the SMA minor?

MS. LILLIS: Yes. So if it is a non-shoreline parcel, it is 750,000, and if it is a shoreline parcel, it is 500,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. And then my other question was, in our committee meetings, we received some presentations from the Lifeguard Association about drownings. And so, the other question was, can lifeguard towers be streamlined for permitting or exempted within the SMA zone for safety purposes?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you very much for the question. And we did have conversations with the Department of Fire and Public Safety regarding certain lifeguard towers that they would like us to prioritize. And so, they have been in contact with our staff, but I'll read our answer that we submitted.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. LILLIS: Chapter 205A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes does not allow for lifeguard towers to be exempt from obtaining an SMA permit. However, as long as the valuation of the

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

April 7, 2026

lifeguard tower is under 500,000, because we assume it's going to be in the shoreline, the Department can prioritize and fast-track approvals for SMA minor permits for lifeguard towers.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So they just want to keep it under 500,000, and then they can get a SMA minor.

MS. LILLIS: Yes, indeed.

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

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And if I get disconnected, just...you can skip me. But here's my question for you, Department. Thank you all for being here. There seems to be a discrepancy with the amounts of two items. In the proposed budget in the Upcountry Community Plan engagement and research is 250,000 and the historic records compilation and indexing is 450,000. While in the budget details, the community plan engagement and research is 450,000 and the historic records compilation index is 150,000. Which one is correct?

MS. LILLIS: Great. Thank you, and we did submit our responses, but I'm going to read our answer. The Department can confirm that the correct allocation is 250,000 for the Upcountry Community Plan engagement and research, and 450,000 for historic records compilation and indexing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, great. I'm glad we got things clarified. I'm going to ask about the professional services funding for County-initiated land use entitlements to be utilized for change in zoning for the wetlands overlay district and that's on page 65 of the PB.

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question. Let's see. I'm so sorry, Councilmember Johnson, could you restate the question?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So we have professional services funding for County and will any of those professional services funding be used for County-initiated land use entitlements? Will they be utilized for considering changes of zoning for the wetlands overlay district?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you very much, and I apologize. I now have found my place. Thank you very much. So at this time, we are not anticipating using those funds for changes in zoning for wetlands.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. the Department involved in the creation of the Green Print? Page 050. Is there any funding dedicated to executing this contract? The Green Print.

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

April 7, 2026

MS. LILLIS: Thank you. No, Maui County Code 2.82.040(J)(1) assigns the Green Print to the Conservation Planning Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I was referencing 2.82.050, but if you're not putting it in, okay, I'll move on to the next question. We've heard staffing, hiring, and retention are common issues with the Planning Department, causing delays or requiring costly professional services. Is there your Department involved . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . in the development of supplemental agreements to the master agreements.

MS. LILLIS: Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yes. The Department is involved with several efforts that will focus on incentives for employees. We are working with the administration on new retention incentives and an alternate 9-80 work schedule. We are working with DPS to expand the current recruitment incentive for new employees for certain job classes to include all positions. We are also working to recruit above the minimum for all positions.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wonderful. I heard my time. I'm sorry if I was off the meeting for a little bit and everything of those questions were already passed and answered. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Captain. All right, Chair Lee, did you want to ask first round questions? If not, I'll take my turn.

CHAIR LEE: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay, I couldn't hear that, but I think the answer was, go ahead Kauanoe. All right. Members --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, that's right. Thank you, Chair. Sorry, sorry. I didn't realize I was muted again.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I forgot to --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I said go ahead, Kauanoe.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. Before we begin this round of questions, I forgot to note that the initial letter and response, PL-1, is uploaded on Granicus as item number 30. And Staff just let me know that they uploaded the responses to PL-2 under item number 73. So for my first question to the Department, I note that...I see that you plan to pursue 10 land use ordinance and admin rule updates. That's double what you anticipate completing in this fiscal year and almost double what you had actually done in the previous year. What ordinances and rules do you plan to update this year and how is it that you guys are able to be so aggressive in taking on new work?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you, Councilmember. We are tracking ideas from staff to update rule changes. So, for example, with the recent storms, there is an increased need to address vessel removal from beaches. And so, that would be something that we would love to

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

April 7, 2026

have a more streamlined process to more expeditiously remove hazardous and potentially environmentally dangerous material from beaches during these types of events. So the reason why we are thinking that we can do more rule changes is the professional services allocation, and we've drafted a RFP that is still under review, still working on it, to hire a consultant to assist us and have outside party review on the existing rule changes to increase...you know, for more insight on how to increase our efficiencies.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. I also see that there are several permitting metrics that you have listed for significant expansion. For example, SMA exemptions, you propose to go from 188 to 300, non-enforcement inspections from 275 to 400, enforcement inspections from 200 to 600. What staffing or process changes will allow the Department to meet these surging workloads?

MS. LILLIS: The need of the community is great, but we have an extremely dedicated staff that we are looking to. We are in the process of doing a reorganization in the Zoning Administration and Enforcement Division, and we are hopeful that a more tailored and dedicated effort can be given to those projects that you've listed in order to increase the workload.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. That's all I had. And that concludes the first round. By show of hands, who has second round questions for the Department? I see Member Paltin. Okay. So given that she's the only one with second round questions, I'm not going to limit her to the two minutes I had said earlier. I'll give her, I don't know, four.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Generous.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Deputy. We were in Hāna last night, and I was wondering if you could explain to me the consolidation and re-subdivision process. Is it meant to be a public process or can, like, the public have input in that process?

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question. The subdivision code is administered by the Department of Public Works. However, we do have a general understanding that that is more often an administrative approval. So if you hit the objective criteria, you will be granted that approval without public input. However, when a subdivision is within the SMA, there is a SMA exemption category for certain subdivisions. And so, oftentimes the public is not able to comment on an exemption because it's an administrative approval. However, all exemptions approvals that are administratively given are reported to the Maui Planning Commission, so the public would be able to testify about it, but oftentimes the approval is already given, and it's just a notice to the planning commissions. I'm specifically referencing the Maui Planning Commission in that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, often those consolidation and subdivision processes erase our history in terms of land commission awards and royal patents and, like, that is that not taken into account in the administrative process?

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

April 7, 2026

MS. LILLIS: I shouldn't comment on Title 18, which is the Subdivision Code. So I would want to defer that question to the Department of Public Works.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there code changes that could make it non-administrative?

MS. LILLIS: That would be for Public Works and Corp Counsel to opine on, but I do think that it does sound as though that would be possible.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had a follow-up question on Member Paltin's question. They mentioned that there was a current appeal on the property.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think he's talking about the Haneo'o property where the Koki Subdivision is intended.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Would we have to wait until that appeal is finished prior to...they had requested some funding to acquire the property with open space funds.

MS. LILLIS: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Sinenci. So I don't mean to avoid this question, it's just I'm not familiar with an appeal for that subdivision being submitted to the Department of Planning because we do not administer the subdivision code. However, you know, we can certainly follow up with Public Works on that.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Sinenci, we can also transmit a question directly to the Department of Public Works if you'd like.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, yeah. Yes, please.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can I ask you to work with Staff to craft that question after? Do you want to...are you able to articulate it right now?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I can. I'll work with the Staff.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I just had a follow-up question. I mean, even if they were exempted, they would still...a subdivision would still have to come forth if they wanted to develop the subdivision out. They would still have to come towards the Planning Commission, right? No. No.

MS. LILLIS: No. So if a project qualifies for an SMA exemption, then they would have that approval, and as long as they met the subdivision code criteria, my understanding is

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

April 7, 2026

they would be granted that approval.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I mean, if they wanted to build anything, they would still have to come.

MS. LILLIS: And I'm assuming that this project is in the SMA. So if they wanted...so let's say they get their subdivision and they want to build, then if they qualified for an SMA exemption category for the type of development they were proposing, that would also be exempted.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And I believe it's agriculture zoned.

MS. LILLIS: Okay. So yeah, so that does allow farm and farm labor dwellings, that whole 1930.A.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you. I'll craft my question with Staff.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Okay. So that's the end of our second round. I don't want to open it up to questions again, but anybody have any closing comments for the department? Seeing none, I will take the opportunity to mahalo you for being here and for all the hard work that you guys do.

MS. LILLIS: Thank you all very much. We have an extremely hardworking and dedicated staff that I'm extremely proud of, and being in this department again has been the honor of a lifetime, so thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay, thank you. Okay. Members, so that is the end of the business that we had planned for today. If there are no objections, I would like to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER, pending further discussion.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Now we got an updated calendar from Staff, which reflects the changes that were made at the end of yesterday's meeting. I cannot read it. Can I ask Staff to go over what was handed out just so that the members and the public are aware of the changes that are being memorialized through this updated calendar.

MS. SZABO: Thank you, Vice-Chair. So we did pass out a calendar and it is uploaded on Granicus. The electronic version is easier to read but the changes made were as follows. On Wednesday, April 8th, we added...we changed the order of the departments. And first we'll have the Department of Water Supply and then the Department of Management. We also kept a very open-ended time, so we put it from 9 a.m. to end. On April 9th, which is on Thursday, we also put it to an end time versus ending early, and we added the Office of the Mayor and a discussion on general budget provisions, revolving funds, and additional legislation if any is proposed. And then the next change that was made was on April 14th, which added the remove the departments that had

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

April 7, 2026

been listed and leaving only Police for the 14th, and then the residency area meeting for South Maui. And then on Thursday the 16th, we added the Department of Environmental Management and its programs. And that you will be meeting from 1 to 4. And then on Friday, April 17th, we added the residency area meeting at 6:00 p.m. And then we also added that the Members' priorities and proposals will be due at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you very much. OCS attorney and Corporation Counsel. Since the deadline for additional legislation is on Thursday, can I ask for you guys to have a quick turnaround as to whether or not a Code amendment will be needed for the proposed waiver of the County employees for...to ride the bus? You don't have to answer us now. If you haven't answered now, we'll take it. Oh, okay. Would you like to respond?

MR. HANANO: Thank you, Vice-Chair. So we did confer about the question as to whether or not an actual Code amendment had to occur in addition to amending Appendix B, and we basically agreed that a Code amendment would not be necessary as long as you set the amounts in Appendix B.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you very much. I think that's all, Staff. Is there anything else that I am missing? Okay. I don't see anything that I'm supposed to do, but I do see a hand in the Chamber. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. So tomorrow is Wednesday, and we all know that we're not going to South Maui. I posted it on my social media and people were...I don't know if they weren't believing me, but they said, where else can we see this info? Is there, like, a Maui Now or Maui County Council, or I don't know if they don't believe me because I'm just one person. But tomorrow, I guess people are still expecting they might be going to South Maui if they don't believe me.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So I see Staff have a look, eager to respond, and then if they don't fully cover everything, I do see member Sugimura's hand up.

MS. SZABO: Thank you. A press release was drafted by the Chair's office and approved to notify the community about the change of dates. In addition, we have canceled the agendas and posted new agendas for the two new dates of the meetings.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can we, as individual members, all get a copy of those so that we can amplify the message and then maybe, you know, with strength in numbers, the public may believe Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm a trustworthy source, just to clarify.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Sugimura, did you want to add anything?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. That's what I was going to say. We created a press release so that we could communicate, and we did announce it last night in Hāna.

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

April 7, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. All right. Any other housekeeping items that I need to be aware of? All right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair. Vice-Chair.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Would it be possible for maybe Member Cook's office or something put post a notice at the Kihei Community Center so that if folks end up going there and not seeing the press release and the social media notices et cetera, et cetera, that there at least be, you know, notification at the community center with information on how...like, the maybe the press release there, and...but maybe like a larger, like, flyer just so that it's eye-catching.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. My staff can do that both at our office and also at the parks office at Kihei Community. We'll talk to Parks Department and get permission to put it up on their window.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: A notice. Try to do it tomorrow morning so people have. So they don't have to show up to look at it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Staff.

MS. SZABO: As part of the cancel.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you. Please do.

MS. SZABO: I apologize, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Please continue.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, that's it.

MS. SZABO: As part of the cancellation process, the cancellation agenda would be posted as well as the new agenda would be posted at the community center.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. A lot of people know, find out from word of mouth, or seeing the one schedule. So not everyone sees all the notices or would even bother to look, you know,

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I thought she said that it was going to be posted at the location. So they're doing the posting at the location is what she was saying.

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

April 7, 2026

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, is that what you said? Oh, okay. Okay.

MS. SZABO: It should already be posted.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: At the location.

MR. HANANO: Vice-Chair. It's also posted on Granicus as canceled for the two meetings.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

MR. HANANO: So it's on Granicus. It's at the meeting site. I think it's outside here. There's a press release. I don't know what. I think that's pretty much it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, staff.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Now they'll believe me.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Thank you, Members. Our next meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday, April 8th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. We will hear from Department of Water Supply and Management, including the Office of Recovery. If you have any additional budget-related questions for the departments we met with today, please send them to staff.bfed@mauicounty.us by 9 a.m. tomorrow.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you repeat that last part?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: If you have any additional budget questions related...sorry. If you have any additional budget-related questions for the departments we met with today, please send them to staff.bfed@mauicounty.us by 9 a.m. tomorrow.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did we receive Parks and Recs 2?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Hold on. I have to check my notes. Would you have it. So Staff is saying, yes, we do have it. It should be under PR-2, which is item 74. Okay. Anything else before I read the closing statements?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One more thing.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because we received Finance's answers, and staff notified everybody that if anybody has any questions for Finance, it's due tomorrow at 9 in the morning. Is that right, Kirsten?

MS. SZABO: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So that's an adjustment we made because we got the responses late.

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

April 7, 2026

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. Anything else? Last call. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. So we don't know what this storm is going to look like tomorrow or Thursday. Is there going to be, like, a plan C to our calendar if departments are for whatever reason unable to attend because they need to respond?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: That is a good question. I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we can think about it. You know, you don't have to have an answer. It can be something that we marinate on just so that it's, you know, like we're not, like, completely caught off guard.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. As of right now, the plan is still to gavel in at 9 a.m. tomorrow, but if we need to make...sorry. Yeah, 9 a.m. tomorrow. And if necessary, we can make adjustments depending on how departments get mobilized in response to the storm.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm planning on being virtual because the pali is landslide when it's raining.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Understood.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Already?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, it happens.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll also be virtual.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. All right, it is 4.01 p.m. Thank you, Members. This meeting is adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 4:01 p.m.

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

April 7, 2026

CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne L. Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 89 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 18th day of April 2026, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



Terianne L. Arreola