

**MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES**

**November 20, 2025
9:00 AM**

Pursuant to §92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the meeting was conducted as a remote meeting by interactive conference technology, via Microsoft Teams, <http://tinyurl.com/2p9zhjr2>.

In person testimony and viewing: Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building, 8th Floor, 200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii.

Video recording of meeting available at: www.mauicounty.legistar.com

TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:03 a.m.

TIME MEETING RECESSED: 4:22 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember	Pres.	Abs.	Exc.	Time(s) In/Out (during meeting)
Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura	√			
CM Tamara Paltin	√			
CM Gabe Johnson	√			
CM Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	√			
CM Tom Cook	√			Exc. 12:06 p.m. – 12:08 p.m.
CM Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins	√			
CM Shane Sinenci	√			
Chair Alice L. Lee	√			
TOTAL PRESENT	8			

TIME PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 11/20/2025 - 11:29 a.m.

**MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
November 25, 2025
9:00 AM
(Recessed from November 20, 2025)**

Pursuant to §92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the meeting was conducted as a remote meeting by interactive conference technology, via Microsoft Teams, <http://tinyurl.com/2p9zhjr2>.

In person testimony and viewing: Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building, 8th Floor, 200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii.

Video recording of meeting available at: www.mauicounty.legistar.com

TIME RECESSED MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember	Pres.	Abs.	Exc.	Time(s) In/Out (during meeting)
Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura			√	Arr. 12:26 p.m.
CM Tamara Paltin	√			
CM Gabe Johnson	√			
CM Keani Rawlins-Fernandez			√	Arr. 12:26 p.m.
CM Tom Cook	√			
CM Nohelani U'u-Hodgins	√			
CM Shane Sinenci			√	Arr. 12:26 p.m.
Chair Alice L. Lee	√			
TOTAL PRESENT	5			

Resolution 25-208 “Appointing Kelson Kauanoë Batangan to fill the vacancy on the Council for the remainder of the 2025-2027 term.”

	AYE	NO	EXC	Time Deliberations Began	11/20 - 11:30 a.m. Recalled 11/25 – 12:28 p.m
				Time Motion Made	12:39 p.m.
VC Sugimura	√			Motion	ADOPT
CM Paltin		√		Maker	U‘u-Hodgins
CM Johnson		√		Secunder	Sugimura
CM Rawlins-Fernandez		√		Time Vote Taken	1:05 p.m.
CM Cook	√				
CM U‘u-Hodgins	√				
CM Sinenci		√			
Chair Lee	√				
TOTAL VOTES	4	4		MOTION FAILED	

Resolution 25-209 “Appointing Carol Lee Kamekona to fill the vacancy on the Council for the remainder of the 2025-2027 term.”

	AYE	NO	EXC	Time Deliberations Began	11/20 - 11:30 a.m. Recalled 11/25 – 1:06 p.m
				Time Motion Made	1:06 p.m.
VC Sugimura		√		Motion	ADOPT
CM Paltin		√		Maker	Sinenci
CM Johnson	√			Secunder	Johnson
CM Rawlins-Fernandez	√			Time Vote Taken	1:10 p.m.
CM Cook		√			
CM U‘u-Hodgins		√			
CM Sinenci	√				
Chair Lee		√			
TOTAL VOTES	3	5		MOTION FAILED	

Resolution 25-210 “Appointing an individual to fill the vacancy for the Kahului Residency Area for the remainder of the 2025-2027 term.”

	AYE	NO	EXC	Time Deliberations Began	11/20 - 11:30 a.m. Recalled 11/25 – 12:28 p.m
				Time Motion Made	1:11 p.m.
VC Sugimura		√		Motion	ADOPT
CM Paltin	√			Maker	Paltin
CM Johnson		√		Seconder	Rawlins-Fernandez
CM Rawlins-Fernandez	√			Time Vote Taken	1:17 p.m.
CM Cook		√			
CM U‘u-Hodgins		√			
CM Sinenci	√				
Chair Lee		√			
TOTAL VOTES	3	5		MOTION FAILED	

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:19 p.m.

TRANSCRIPTION

Council of the County of Maui on 2025-11-25 9:00 AM - Recessed Meeting from 11/20/2025

[GAVEL] >> Good morning, Council Members, Staff, Members of the public, all three of you, four of you. The recessed Council Meeting of November 20th, 2025 will now come to order. Ms. Clerk, please proceed with roll call. >> Chair, proceeding with roll call. For Members that are participating from non-public locations, please state, who if anyone, except minors, is present with you as part of roll call. Vice-Chair Yukilei Sugimura.\r\n\r\n>> Excused. >> Council Member Tamara Paltin? >> Aloha Kakahiaka Kakou. >> Council Member Gabe Johnson? >> Good morning, Chair, Council Members, community members. I'm alone in my office space. >> Council Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez?\r\n\r\n>> Excused for now. >> Council Member Tom Cook? >> Aloha and good morning. I am currently at my Kihei home office and I'm alone. We have Staff at the Kihei Regional Office. Thank you. >> Council Member Nohelani Uu-Hodgins.\r\n\r\n>> Good morning, Chair, good morning everyone. I am at my home right now, alone and I will be there in the afternoon. Thank you. >> Thank you. >> Council Member Shane Sinenci? >> He is on his way? >> Yes.\r\n\r\n>> Excused. >> And Council Chair Alice Lee? >> Here. >> Chair, you have five members present, which means there is a quorum to conduct the business of the Council. For the record, I'm the County Clerk, Moana Lutey, and present from my office is Legislative Staff, Joyce Murashige, Lauren Saldana, Del Yoshida and Arthur Suyama. Assisting the Council with maintaining order and decorum is Council Ambassador Ryan Martins. Joining the meeting from Office of Council Services is Director David Raatz, and from the Department of Corporation Counsel First Deputy Corporation Counsel Mimi DesJardins.\r\n\r\n>> At this time, we'll be recessing the meeting to 12:00 noon to allow Council Member Rawlins-Fernandez to be present in the Chambers. This meeting is now in recess. [GAVEL] >> Chair Lee? Before you get off the phone here, can we take -- are we going to eat lunch before and just come in and go all the way through, or -- ? >> Yes, I would suggest that you have lunch around 11:00 and then -- because we want to deal with this as quickly as possible. >> Okay. >> So we're not going to take a lunch break, as far as I know. >> Thanks.\r\n\r\n>> Thanks. >> Okay, see you then. [GAVEL] >> Will the special meeting of November 25th, 2025 please reconvene. Ms. Clerk, could you take roll call again. >> Sure, Chair. Proceeding with roll call.\r\n\r\nAnd for Member Johnson, if you could just let us know when we get to you if there's anyone present with you that is not a minor. Vice-Chair Yukilei Sugimura? >> Here and looking forward to this meeting. Thank you. >> Council Member Tamara Paltin? >> Aloha Kakou. >> Council Member Gabe Johnson?\r\n\r\n>> Aloha, Chair, Council Members, community Members. I'm alone on my side of the office at the Lana'i District Office. Thank you. >> Council Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. >> Kakou, mahalo everyone for accommodating me. Just got off the plane, happy to be here. >> Council Member Tom Cook?\r\n\r\n>> Aloha, good afternoon. >> Council Member Nohelani Uu-Hodgins? >> Aloha, Chair. Aloha everyone. >> Council Member Shane Sinenci. >> Hello and Kyoto to our world traveled Council Member. >> And Council Chair Alice Lee.\r\n\r\n>> Kyoto and welcome back, glad to see you safe and sound. Did you come on the Hokulia? We were waiting for you. All right. >> Chair, you have eight members present. So a quorum is present to conduct the business of the Council. >> All right.\r\n\r\nPardon me? No, I don't think so. I mean, of Staff? Probably wouldn't care too much; right? You want to be introduced? No. All right.\r\n\r\nPlease proceed with the Resolutions. >> Chair, before you are

the following Resolutions: Resolution 25-208 appointing Kelson Kauanoe Batangan to fill the vacancy on the Council for the remainder of the 2025-2027 term. Resolution 25-209 appointing Carol Lee Kamekona to fill the vacancy on the Council for the remainder of the 2025-2027 term, and Resolution 25-210, appointing an individual to fill the vacancy for the Kahului residency area for the remainder of the 2025-2027 term, and Chair, that is Mr. Virgilio Agcolicol. >> Member Rawlins-Fernandez, did you want to ask questions of the nominees? >> Mahalo, Chair. I shared with Madam Clerk that I didn't want to hold up the proceedings any more than I already have.\r\n\r\nI think there is just one question that I would want all -- I didn't hear, I guess, from the questions -- the great questions that everyone asked. So mahalo everyone. So just the one question. >> Sure. >> Of all three? >> Yes >> One at a time? Leo, would you like to come down first?\r\n\r\nMr. Agcolicol and then Mr. Kauanoe Batangan and Carol Lee Kamekona. It's okay, he can go -- right next to Corp. Counsel. Mimi DesJardins, could you, yes. maybe a little lipstick.\r\n\r\n[Laughter] Your video is not on. So Leo, just for the record, could you just state your name, okay? And the Council Member is going to ask you a question, because she wasn't here the last time. >> Turn on your mic. >> You can talk now. >> My name is Virgilio Agcolicol. I'm from Kahului, resident of Kahului for the past 58 years, yes, 58 years.\r\n\r\n>> Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair and mahalo everyone. My one question that I didn't hear anyone ask that I wanted a little more detail from each of the applicants from -- and mahalo for applying directly. I advocated hard for applicants to be able to apply directly with the Clerk's office without going through a Council Member and I'm really happy that helped to get you here today. So my question, and what I heard from testifiers was the concern about not having access to the next Council Member for the Kahului seat. And for all of us really as Council Members. So it's impossible to know everyone in Maui County, but for those who don't know you, how do you plan to -- so is being accessible to everyone important to you, and if so, how do you plan to make yourself accessible?\r\n\r\nWhat does that look like and name three ways you would make that happen. >> Can you repeat your question? Accessible? >> Is being accessible important to you? If it is, what does that look like to you and what are three ways you would make that happen for the community. >> As far as accessible, I think if I will be chosen to succeed the late Council Member Kama, I will be accessible in every manner that I will be, you know, need to be done and in that particular issue, I think I will be accessible all the time, you know? >> Mahalo.\r\n\r\nSo for community, would you be proactive in going out to the community? Or would you wait for community members, especially those who aren't paid to lobby, to come to you? >> Oh, I wouldn't wait. I would go to the community, and you know, that's my purpose of running for this position. >> And when you go out into the community, what would that look like? What are three ways that would look like? >> Well, you know, I would ask whatever is needed and what is the problem, you know?\r\n\r\nAnd then from that point, I'll start assessing all the problems and go back to the Council, first going to the Council or going to people that is really concerned on that particular issue. >> Mahalo. Mahalo, Mr. Agcolicol. >> You're welcome. >> Mahalo, Chair. And Ms.\r\n\r\n-- who did you say next? >> Mr. Batangan. Thank you, Mr. Agcolicol. You can go. Thanks.\r\n\r\n>> Same question for each of the candidates. I wouldn't deviate from what I asked. Aloha, Mr. Batangan. >> Aloha, Kyoto, Chair and Members. Thank you for having us back here today, and I appreciate the thoughtful consideration you have for this process. And for the question.\r\n\r\nYes, I believe being accessible and having communication with the Constituents is important. Three ways that I would ensure that occurs would be being

responsive to the phone calls and emails that come into the office, continuing the Sunday market open house that Council Member Kama has been doing in Kahului, and then on the project-by-project basis, going out to the specific stakeholders to make sure that the people who are most impacted by the decisions that we make would be able to have their voices heard. I would like to point to the work that I did at MDOT and MPO as an example how I would conduct myself reaching out to the public and specifically highlight the Hana community pathway study that the MPO was given an APA award for, specifically because we listened to community input, revised our plans and then we were able to demonstrate to them how we incorporated their feedback into the final decision that was made. >> You missed the part about the ferry? >> We also did outreach for the ferry at the beginning of the -- that feasibility study, as well as after we had some preliminary plans in place to make sure we were on the right track, and if there were things that we had missed, or things that needed to be tweaked that we would be able to capture their sentiment there. >> You did a good job with that. thank you.\r\n\r\n>> >> I appreciate that. Thank you. Mahalo for that response. Mahalo, Chair. >> And then we'll have Ms. Kamekona. >> Ms.\r\n\r\nKamekona. Kyoto. >> Mahalo Nui Kalawa'i. Aloha Chair, Council Members, Staff and community. >> Same question. Do you believe that being accessible to the community is important, and if so, what does being accessible look like to you, and what are three ways that would make yourself proactively accessible to the community? >> So as a community Representative it's 100% that you need to be out in community. You need to be able to listen, and hear what it is what their concerns are as is evident in the Huis that I belong to, that I mentioned in my FDS, I am out in the community, I am involved, and community engagement is 100% necessary for all your constituents that you represent.\r\n\r\n\r\nTo keep that community outreach, I would, if I could, schedules permitting either do monthly or community meetings, talk-story sessions, just so that the community can come and voice their opinions. >> Mahalo for your response. Mahalo, Chair. >> Thank you. Ms. Clerk. >> Chair?\r\n\r\n\r\n>> Yes. >> I may have missed it. What is the plan for today? Like how will we -- will there just be a motion? >> There will be a motion for each, if we get that far, for each Reso. It's conceivable that one is necessary, but three might be necessary. And so there will be a motion, a second and then discussion.\r\n\r\n\r\nSo you can discuss your point of view. All right? Two times. Ms. Clerk. >> Chair, the Resolutions have been called up and so we would be -- it would be timely to have a motion on the floor at this time. >> Who would like to make a motion?\r\n\r\n\r\nI have Member Uu-Hodgins raised her hand first. >> Thank you, Chair. I'm just going to go in numerical order here to go on from that. I move to adopt resolution 25-208. >> Second. >> Moved by Member Uu-Hodgins, seconded by Vice-Chair Sugimura to adopt resolution 25-208. Discussion, Member Uu-Hodgins? >> Thank you, Chair. This is the Resolution that supports Kauanoe Batangan.\r\n\r\n\r\nI thought about how I was going to say this today and not get emotional. So I will obviously do my best, because it's been a rough week. But Auntie Tasha did request that we select him. She didn't tell us what to do, but she did request it. And I don't know about anybody else, but I have never really been asked to carry out someone's final wishes before, and so it is my privilege to do this nomination today, and to support him as well. I do feel like he is a qualified candidate and I feel he would work well with us all and it's no disrespect to the other two nominees. I thought they did very well and I appreciate anyone and I really mean that anyone who is willing to serve on this body.\r\n\r\n\r\nThis is not an easy job. It is full of everybody's thoughts, ideas and critiques and we have to take it in stride. So I really do appreciate everybody who

does this and everybody willing do this especially in a time like now. I'm going to treat this like a regular election and in a regular election, you can only support one person. And so that may mean that we don't come to Resolution today, which I would be okay with. It's not my first option, but I would be okay with it. We heard from the public, and everybody is concerned that we don't have a special election and I get it.\r\n\r\nIt's in our Charter this is how it works, but what I don't want to do is give us an opportunity to have several votes when typically people only have one. Another thing I would like to say is that I don't really want to go back and forth and back and forth, and have an argument, which I'm not Planning on doing. I feel that would be so disrespectful to Auntie Tasha and her wishes and her demeanor. So I'm just going to say whoever our new colleague is, we welcome you with open arms, God bless us all. God bless you. Thank you, Chair. >> Thank you.\r\n\r\nVice-Chair. Sugimura you seconded the motion? >> Yes. Thank you. So at our last meeting we heard from all three nominees. And in particular, I stand by Kauanoe Batangan, because of what he presented in terms of his experience, with the County, with the wildfire, and helping and stepped in and created -- and I thought it was very interesting that Lori Ann supporting him, seeing the work that he did during the wildfire and that was her connection to him and I was quite impressed with that when she said, I don't know him very long. And the strength of his education, you know?\r\n\r\nLast week we honored Kamehameha Schools he is a Kamehameha School graduate, as well as he went off to Stanford, and I think he went to -- I want to say Cornell, the wrong word, Columbia and did Japanese studies. So if you ever call him, he says Moshi Moshi, like in Japan, and I know Member Johnson would be able to understand that and smile. He has a lot engrained into him. I also think he represents Tasha Kama well-in terms of his strength with his family, where he came back and he actually came back to take care of his grandmother. And until the day she passed, you know, he was by her side, along with their family unit, which is a very strong family unit. So I strongly support him. I appreciate the others who have presented themselves to fill this position, but I, too, will be voting for one person.\r\n\r\nThank you. >> Member Cook. >> Thank you, Chair. I also will be supporting Kauanoe Batangan. Not simply - initially was basically because of honoring Member Kama's wishes. I got the opportunity to work on -- with him on the MPO and I have been very impressed. His interview, it's unique that we get long-term multi-generational local resident who has gone away and come back of his caliber, who is willing to serve.\r\n\r\nI think that he will actually be very -- he will contribute a great deal during the balance of the term, because I think that the budgetary process, he will grasp, and that the South Maui Community Plan aspect, he will grasp. The Wailuku-Kihei Community Plan is coming up. So anyway, I just want to respectfully appreciate everyone who has applied to do this, but I feel he will bring a lot of talent, and youth, to this body, and so I'm supporting him. Thank you. >> Mr. Johnson. >> Thank you, Chair.\r\n\r\nI will say that this was a very hard decision for me, but I try to stick with my guns and wanted policy to influence my decision on this. It was the policy, not my emotions. I worked as well with Mr. Batangan in the MPO, and all of the work he did is so -- I was in full support of all the hard work we did and we even gave him a 15% raise. So he is doing great work there. The ferry was instrumental to get us this far and I appreciate his work on that. And like he said, he did do a lot of outreach in the communities.\r\n\r\nI appreciate that, but at the end of the day, the Venn diagram we have a lot in common, but there's something that he mentioned about how fiscally conservative he is and that kind of made my decision for me there, because I don't want to operate

from a position of scarcity when we have such big needs for our communities. I look back on the record of when Council Member Kama did, and she supported a lot of the funding that we gave for folks that needed it, and that is not the time to be fiscally conservative. When I listen to some of the things that Mr. Batangan said that I didn't agree with, I said, well, I understand that. I, too, come into a community meeting, malleable, open to new ideas and maybe I don't agree with that and maybe I can put an Amendment and make it so that I can vote for something. But when I'm talking about changing philosophical view, you can't do it with an Amendment. We just don't agree philosophically.\r\n\r\nSo I appreciate all the work that he has done and I look forward to working with him in the MPO, but I just don't -- I can't support his nomination. Thank you, Chair. >> Anyone else? Member Paltin? >> Thank you, Chair. I agree that we're blessed to have three candidates for this difficult position. And I just wanted to start off by saying that my preference would have been a special election as well.\r\n\r\nAlthough it is what it is, what the Charter says is what we got to do. I will say that, you know, I really tried to hear people's testimony, and I think after I listened to the questions and answers on the 20th I was kind of stressed out when I went home, and my husband was getting irritated with me, because I was stressing out and he didn't want to hear it. He didn't want to hear what the answers were. He didn't want to hear what the questions were. He didn't want to hear me work through the thought process. So that made things even more difficult for me. When I came to my decision of who I was going to support, and it felt right to me, it was like this great weight had been lifted off my shoulders.\r\n\r\nAnd nothing could really shake me. People asked me why or what not? Because once I figured it out in my head I was so proud I was standing on a lot of people, because I felt like I overcame this major hurdle on my own, because my husband wasn't helping me. And what I really had to do to come to my decision was just take a step back, and evaluate the situation as a whole. Because while we're making this one decision in this Chamber, it does have a ripple effect throughout our entire communities and our County, what not. And the decision I came to was to support Mr. Virgilio Agcolicol, and it's nothing against any of the other candidates.\r\n\r\nI think they all could do an excellent job. It's just that a combination of his life experiences, and answers to questions on Housing Policy, and things like that, it just made the most sense for me. And as others have said, Kauanoe has excellent credentials, and I have no doubt that at some point he will be make really good whatever he wants to do, including elected official. The timing just felt a little bit off to me. He is doing really important work, and for us with the MPO and when you hear him talk about transportation, I think to myself, all this forward progress that we're making, we're not going to be able to find anyone as good as him and a lot of the projects that he is working on will likely stall. I thought about the emotional aspect, you know, of Member Kama, and her recommendation on the way it was given, you know? I think at that point, things, like, if he could do both jobs, if they could hold his other job wasn't taken into consideration.\r\n\r\nSo we had additional facts after the recommendation had been made. And for Auntie Carol, you know, she is running in the next election, and so the people will have their opportunity to make their vote known. I do not know about if Mr. Batangan or Mr. Agcolicol are going to run in the next election? But it feels right for me in this time and season as a finish out to the 15 months of this term before we start a new election that we go with somebody who has been a Vietnam vet, somebody who has decades' long experience in finance, who has been a pillar of the Kahului community, and started so much organizations. It's just a moment in time,

the remainder of this term, and like I said, when I decided that I was going to support Mr. Agcolicol, that weight lifted off my shoulders and I was able to enjoy the rest of the -- until now. So I guess that means I will not be voting no for this Resolution. But I look forward to all of the great things Mr. Batangan has in store for us in the future. >> Anybody else? Member Sinenci? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

>> Thank you, Chair. And I, too, wanted to mahalo all of the candidates for coming forth, and I did want to add mahalo to Mr. Batangan for stepping up, and taking Member Kama's recommendation to fill her spot. I did hear the testimony last week and all of the good works that Mr. Batangan is doing in his current position, and how a lot of the community see him continuing in that position, even though he did say that he was going to take a pay cut from -- I thought that was admirable for him to do. But at this point, I had recommended somebody else, Chair. Thank you.

>> Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez? You don't have to say anything. Well, second to last. Always. >> Best for last. Okay.

All right. Mahalo to all three for putting themselves out this. I know it's not easy as some of the questions that were asked by Chair Lee. How you respond when there's -- not so nice things that are being said? It can be tricky. So mahalo for being willing to put your name out for this seat. I'm grateful.

I, too, would prefer this being handled by special election and there, I do plan to submit to the Great Committee Chair legislation to consider that at a later time. You're welcome. I really dislike the process of appointing someone to a seat and that person gets a incumbency advantage in the following election. 23% of Hawai'i Legislators in the State legislature are there because they were initially appointed. And that process is just not -- it doesn't feel very Democratic. And Mr. Batangan and Ms. Kamekona both called me before this process began to give us an opportunity to chat, and I explained my position about this to both of them as well, that this process of appointing someone and them having that name recognition and already doing the job gives them the advantage in the next election, and we know that a majority of folks who vote, vote on name recognition and aren't necessarily, you know, very knowledgeable about the positions that the individual took, or whether they engaged in the community? You know, civics is something we definitely need to invest more in, so we can have an electorate that is more involved with government. Because we need that. I think all my colleagues did a great job in asking very productive questions. I would actually love to hear all of our own answers to the questions we asked all three applicants. I think, and I have said this before, that we agree on 80-90% of things most of the time. It's the 10-20% of things that we disagree on that end up being the most contentious.

Budget, RPT rates, housing, where it's located? How much it's going to be? How much subsidy? The deed restrictions associated with those housing projects. Tourism management and development. Types of industry that we feel are compatible with the character of all three of our islands. And I think for me, I recently learned, I heard someone at the -- I heard a Legislator speak about how that individual represents that person's District; that a lot of the electorate in that District doesn't align with that person's value and priorities, which was a little shocking to me.

Because like, for me, when I run, I explain who I am, what my values and priorities are, and if that aligns with the voters, then they will vote for me. If it doesn't, then they won't. At least they know what they are getting. And so I think about that when making -- when taking my votes. And Chair, is everything okay? >> You know what? I'm listening to you. >> I know you can multi-task.

I wasn't sure there's I.T. and if we need to take a recess, question. >> No, no, it's working now. >> Okay. All

right. Okay. So I think about -- so all three in their questions and answers said that, well, Ms. Kamekona said she is going to run against next year.\r\n\r\nMr. Batangan said he not sure at this time, and Mr. Agcolicol also said that he is not -- he didn't commit to not running. So because none of the applicants committed to not running next year, then factor for me is no longer valid, because they all may run. And then I think about my values and priorities, and if I'm going to be voting for an applicant, I will have had a hand in that person taking their future votes. And that would make me responsible, and people would then hold me accountable for voting for a specific person and if that individual's values, priorities do not align with my own, how do I explain that to the voters? And so, I know everyone, you know not everyone is going to agree how I vote all the time, but at least I explain my thought process behind how I arrive at my conclusion and how I vote.\r\n\r\nI don't know Mr. Agcolicol, but I do know Ms. Kamekona, and Mr. Batangan, and both I have worked with, both I enjoy and respect and appreciate. So like everyone else, well some others have said, this hasn't been easy. I think one of the things that was missing in the discussion last week, which is why I asked the question, is when we have an electorate community that's not super engaged in government, we can't expect people to come to us. We have to go out to the people, and I didn't hear that really said last week, which is why I asked that question.\r\n\r\nHow are you going to go out to the people and how will you get them to engage in government more? The other thing is I didn't really hear the political analysis, and understanding of the dynamics of power, and influence. Who has power and influence? And who doesn't in the system we're currently in. And that is something that is also very important to me, because when folks say the community, a lot of times "the community" is different for different people. And so when someone is saying "the community," like, who in the community are you speaking to? Who is advising you, and who are you going to for guidance on how you vote?\r\n\r\nI think all of that also needs to be open, and disclosed. So that the community has an understanding of where someone is at. So those are all my thoughts right now, and I'm going to stop there. Mahalo, Chair. >> Okay. And I will just say that I plan to support the motion. I have not worked closely with Kauanoe over the years, but I have interacted with him.\r\n\r\nI see that he has been very successful in all of his endeavors. I liked his answers. One thing that struck me was that he didn't rush to answer. He took a moment to think about his answers first. I like that. I like people who analyze questions. I like people who weigh both sides of issues.\r\n\r\nThat is my favorite type of person. And then too, he has a wonderful background. His family generations of being involved with the culture, and how do I know that? His great-grandmother was my Kumu Hula. My mother forced me to join the Kula -- the Hula organization. I wanted to join the baseball team and my mother made me join the hula thing. I promised her I would last for one year, and I did, made to one year and then I said goodbye.\r\n\r\nHis family, the richness of their interaction with the culture, and it's not only his credentials, it's everything. He is so well-rounded. I appreciate that. I also care a lot about Leo Agcolicol, because he was my co-worker at KMVI and I will never forget those days. Thank you, Leo. And also, Carol Lee Kamekona works here and she tries to do a very good job here. So we have a, you know, a great slate of nominee, but we can am pick one and I'm picking Kauanoe, are you ready for the vote?\r\n\r\nRoll-call. >> Vice-Chair Sugimura. >> Yes. >> Council Member Paltin? >> No. >> Council Member Johnson? >> No.\r\n\r\n>> Council Member Rawlins-Fernandez? >> No. >> Council Member Cook? >> Yes. >> Council Member Uu-Hodgins? >> Aye. >> Council Member Sinenci?\r\n\r\n>> No. >> And Chair Lee? >> Aye. >> Chair, there are four

votes for aye, four votes no. The motion fails. >> Next Resolution. >> Chair, do you want me to call it up?\r\n\r\n>> I think you did. >> I did. >> Do you want me to call it up again? >> Yes. >> It would be helpful for you to just repeat it? >> Okay. Chair, before you is resolution 25-209 appointing Carol Lee Kamekona to fill the vacancy on the Council for the remainder of the 2025-2027 term.\r\n\r\n>> Motion? >> Move to adopt resolution 25-209. >> It's been moved by Member Sinenci, seconded by -- >> Second. >> Member Johnson. Okay. Seconded by Member Johnson to adopt resolution 25-209. Discussion? Member Sinenci? >> Thank you, Chair.\r\n\r\nAs many of you already know, Carol Lee Kamekona, or as she is more affectionately known as Auntie Carol works in my office. Auntie Carol always comes to work as bright and bubbling as her attire Chair, sometimes with a Papali, but always with a warm smile. I put North Auntie Carol's name as Member Kama's replacements because she rang alongside Member Kama in three separate campaigns. She also answered those ever pervading form questions that we all had to answer. She knocked on doors each time expressing her willingness to serve and her love for the Maui community. She received over 20,000 votes in last election and despite falling short, she stood tall and never beholding to anyone. I hired Auntie Carol Lee to gain more legislative experience at the Council, but also because of her compassion for our houseless community.\r\n\r\nShe, too, faced a threat of homelessness when FEMA stepped in to help Fire victims and let the records raised their rents on their current tenants, including herself. Auntie Carol has walked the homeless camps providing them with vital supplies and always providing important information to assist them. She also organized food and supply dives immediately after the Fire for Fire victims. And Chair I have reached out with Director Akitake with the Ethics Board to ask her opinion of my support of Carol Lee and she referred me to Charter Section 10-4.1 which states that many times our office employees run for County Boards and complications and should she be appointed to fill this position, it would terminate any financial interest she has in my office, Chair. So I just wanted to put that on the record. Thank you. >> Member Johnson, discussion?\r\n\r\n>> Thank you, Chair. This goes back to the original idea I'm trying to take my emotions out of it and just policy. So I appreciate Carol Lee Kamekona's work with the unsheltered. I think it takes certain type of person to do that kind of work and it's not easy. Just recently, there was a program that just been launched about subsidies for island travel from Lana'i for medical reasons, and Carol Lee Kamekona texted me out of the blue and said, hey is this true? I will spread the word and I think having someone with their finger on the pulse of community and reaching out to me on something like this, hey, I saw a good program. Let me spread the word on that.\r\n\r\nThat is important. so I like the fact she is involved community and as a seconder, I would support her as a Council Member and I support this Resolution. Thank you, Chair. >> Thank you. Anyone else? Discussion? If not, roll call.\r\n\r\n>> Vice-Chair Sugimura? >> No. >> Council Member Paltin? >> No. >> Council Member Rawlins-Fernandez? >> Aye. >> Sorry, I missed you, Council Member Johnson?\r\n\r\n>> Yes. >> Council Member Cook? >> No. >> Council Member Uu-Hodgins? >> No. >> Council Member Sinenci? >> Aye.\r\n\r\n>> And Council Chair Lee? >> No. >> Chair, there are three ayes, five nos, motion fails. >> Next Resolution. >> Chair, before you is resolution 25-210, appointing an individual to fill the vacancy for the Kahului residency area for the remainder of the 2025-2027 term. >> So moved. >> Moved by Member Paltin, seconded by -- >> Second.\r\n\r\n>> Member Rawlins-Fernandez to adopt resolution 25-210. Discussion, Member Paltin? >> Thank you, Chair. I recently attended the Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, because I'm working

on economic development in Lahaina right now, this is a little bit outside of my wheelhouse, but it's needed work. And imagine my surprise when I go to sit at the table I was assigned, and sitting right next to me was Mr. Agcolicol. Sorry. And I thought that was interesting; we talked a little tiny bit, but I never imagined that I would be so strong in support of him.\r\n\r\nJust reading the testimony of the people who have supported him, all of the things that he has done for this community, the widespread support he has from people, not really the folks that are coming out to testify, but I think, you know, the one lady that did testify in-person, his tenant, pretty much tells me like where his heart is at, you know? In service to the community. And his life experience, I think, I just can't say enough good things. I think he is the whole package. And anyone coming into this job is going to have a learning curve, but I just been really impressed with the things he says, but more importantly, the things he does. I wish that we all could help out a struggling single mom by offering them housing. I wish we could all believe that rent should be capped at not too high a price.\r\n\r\nAnd just, you know, I feel like he has been serving this community since he got here, and if this caps off his career, or not, I would be happy to serve alongside of him for this season of time.

>> Member Rawlins-Fernandez. no discussion? Anybody else, discussion? Yes, Member Uu-Hodgins? >> Thank you. If I could vote twice, but again, I'm going to respect this as a regular election process.\r\n\r\nThis would also be somebody I would like to support. However, I did cast my vote, but I would like to thank him. I appreciate the courage it took out and nominate himself with the Clerks. I was very excited to hear his answers and I do appreciate him coming out with his 'Ohana, who is in the back with us right now. I did already select my successor choice for Member Kama and I would just like to thank him and again, Ms. Carol Lee Kamekona for coming out. Thank you >> >> Anyone else?\r\n\r\nIf not, I would like to echo what you just said. Okay. Mr. Johnson? >> You go ahead, Chair. You were on a roll. >> Okay.\r\n\r\nI just wanted to echo what Member Uu-Hodgins said. And the person who testified on your behalf yesterday was extremely, extremely effective, and impactful. I think it moved all of us. That you would take the time and make the effort to help someone rise from where she was, and I thought that was extremely, extremely important and outstanding. But as I told you before, I am going to stay with the person I voted for, and I hope that doesn't ruin our friendship. Member Johnson? >> Thank you, Chair.\r\n\r\nI just need some clarification on where does the rule come from that we can only vote for one candidate? Is that what you are saying? Is that what I'm hearing? >> No, no, you can vote for as many people as you want. Well, there's only three available, but I'm just saying that I am staying with the person I voted for, just that one person. Is that your discussion? >> Yes, thank you, Chair.\r\n\r\n>> Okay. Anyone else? Vice-Chair Sugimura. >> I think we're all impressed with Mr. Agcolicol, and as I said that at the last meeting, but I actually ran into him as we were at the veterans cemetery for the veterans ceremony. >> A little bit louder so she can hear. >> I always seen him at many Filipino organization dinners and scholarship awards and he has always been one of the noted Filipino Seniors or leaders that we all paid respect to and so I want to send my appreciation to him.\r\n\r\nBut I am also keeping my vote to Kauanoe Batangan, but I want to wish him the greatest respect still and appreciation for putting himself out there. >> Thank you. Anyone else? If not, roll call. >> Vice-Chair Sugimura? >> No. >> Council Member Paltin?\r\n\r\n>> Aye. >> Council Member Johnson? >> No. >> Council Member Rawlins-Fernandez? >> Aye. >> Council Member Cook? >> No.\r\n\r\n>> Council Member Uu-Hodgins? >> No. >> Council Member Sinenci? >> Aye. >> And Council Chair Lee? >>

No. >> Chair, the vote is four ayes, four nos, motion fails.\r\n\r\nThree ayes, five nos, motion fails. >> All right, Members, does this wrap it up for the day? Yes, Vice-Chair Sugimura? >> Thank you very much. I wonder if the Clerk, or Mr. Raatz, or yourself could tell us now what is the next steps forward, since we haven't come to a decision or maybe it's Corporation Counsel? >> It's Moana Lutey.\r\n\r\nCounty Clerk. >> Thank you, Chair. According to Charter Section 3-4, if the Council is incapable of selecting someone to fill the remaining term for Member Kama, then this decision will be in the lap of the Mayor. >> How many days does he have? >> David, there's no limit; right? >> That's correct, Chair. The Charter doesn't specify a deadline for the Mayor to make his appointment.\r\n\r\nThank you. >> Okay. Everybody I'm going to adjourn. This meeting is adjourned. [GAVEL]