

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA**  
Council of the County of Maui

**MINUTES**

**March 20, 2025**

**Online Only via Zoom**

**CONVENE:** 1:36 p.m.

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (arrived at 1:39 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (arrived at 1:50 p.m.)

**STAFF:**

Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst  
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney  
Lori Ann Tengan, Committee Secretary  
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mahealani Bright-Wilhelm, Executive Assistant, Molokai Residency Area Office  
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office  
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant, East Maui Residency Area Office  
Jared Agtunong, Executive Assistant, South Maui Residency Area Office

**OTHERS:**

Mimi Desjardins, First Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Patrick McCall, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Hoku Hobbs, Grant Coordinator, Department of Parks and Recreation

*Resource Personnel*

Ali Andrews, Chief Executive Officer, Shake Energy Collaborative  
Liliana Napoleon Workforce and Training Developer, Ho‘āhu Energy Collaborative Molokai  
Leimana Ritte-Camara, Representative, Ho‘āhu Energy Collaborative Molokai  
Lori Buchanan, President, Ho‘āhu Energy Collaborative Molokai  
Tylor Tanaka, Founder & CEO, Offices of Tylor Tanaka

*Testifiers*

Paul Hanley  
Lori Buchanan  
Leimana Ritte-Camara  
Robert Nerveza-Shizuma, Molokai Clean Energy Hui  
Jasee Law

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

Tylor Tanaka

Others (9)

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

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: ...*(gavel)*... Maika‘i. Aloha ‘auinalā kākou. Kanaluakūmāono minuke i ka, i hala o ka hola ‘ekahi ma iwakālua o Malaki i ka makahiki ‘elua kaukani iwakāluakūmālima. E ‘olu‘olu mai, e ho‘omalū ke Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina. ‘O wau ‘o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, ka luna ho‘omalū o kēia kōmike. It is 1:30...well, it was 1:36, but it's now 1:37 on March 20th, 2025. Will the Effic...no, we’re Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina please come to order. I’m your Chair, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. There are--wait a minute, I forgot to check if there’s any--currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office; they’re all online. I kēia lā, me ko kākou Hope Luna Ho‘omalū ‘o Tamara Paltin. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha ‘auinalā kākou. Streaming live and direct from the parking lot. I will be up shortly. I’m in a public area. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha. Next, we have...I think Councilmember Cook will join us later? Okay. In about ten minutes. We have Committee Member Tasha Kama. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha ‘auinalā, Chair. I’m looking forward to a great meeting.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Me too. Aloha ‘auinalā, Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha ‘auinalā.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: With us, we have Committee Member Shane Sinenci. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha ‘auinalā, ka Luna Ho‘omalū. Hau‘oli ‘o wau ma ‘ane‘i. ‘A‘ohe ka po‘e me ka mana‘o ma Hāna.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And we have now with us, Committee Member Tom Cook. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha. Good afternoon, Chair. I’m hooking up my computer.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. And then, joining us later, we’ll have Committee Member Yuki Lei Sugimura. We have two Non-Voting Committee Members who are always welcome to join us, Councilmember Gabe Johnson and Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins. Today we’ll have with us from the Administration, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Patrick McCall and Hoku Hobbs, as well as the Department of Corporation Counsel Mimi Desjardins, First Deputy Corporation

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

Counsel. And I'm so sorry I forgot your name. Go ahead. Oh, yeah, turn the mic. This one. Yeah.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Okay. Kristie Wrigglesworth, Corporation Counsel.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And then we also have online joining us other resources; Ali Andrews, Chief Executive Officer of Shake Energy Collaborative and two...a representative from Ho‘āhu Energy Collaborative Molokai, which is Leimana Ritte-Camara. Okay. So, we have one item on today's agenda, and that's a Rule 7(B). Oh, shoot, I don't have the name right now. It's the Kualapu'u Shared Solar Project. Sorry, I don't have that in my notes.

**KUALAPU‘U SHARED SOLAR PROJECT (KA‘Ā-1(3))** RULE 7(B)

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the project on Molokai, which will be at Kualapu'u. You...you heard me earlier mention a solar project on Molokai. This is not that project. This is another smaller project, and this one is in Kualapu'u, and you'll hear from Ms. Andrews, a presentation on the details of that particular project. We...we're...we're close to getting a resolution for the Council's approval on tomorrow's agenda, but we weren't able to make that deadline. But likely, a resolution for our consideration on the first...at the first Council meeting next month. And since we will be in Budget, and won't be having Committee meetings until May, I wanted to schedule this so that we can learn about this project, ask any questions, and then that way, hopefully everyone will have the information necessary so that we would be able to take action on the floor at that Council meeting. I have...I think that's everything that I wanted to say for my opening remarks. So, at this time, I will invite Ms. Andrews to provide any opening remarks, and then share screen. And if Ms. Andrews--you can turn on your video--if you'll also invite...introduce anyone else on the team that may be here with you from Ho‘āhu or Shake Energy, and then, you may proceed with your presentation. After Ms. Andrews, I will call on First Deputy Corporation Counsel Desjardins to provide any additional comments, and then we'll open for public testimony. Ms. Andrews.

MS. ANDREWS: Mahalo, Councilwoman, and mahalo to this Committee for hearing about this project. I'll go ahead and share a couple of slides about the project physically and the timeline, and then I might make some space for Leimana Ritte-Camara or I think also Liliana Napoleon, who is also a Ho‘āhu staff member, may share some information as well. I also see Auntie Lori Buchanan, who is board president of Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai on, and so apologies that I don't know precisely who's going to share next, but I think some subset of them will. And I'll go ahead and share...I'll go through this quickly, this...a couple of slides, and then I'm happy to answer any questions in more detail afterwards. So, this project is under the Community-Based Renewable Energy, or CBRE program, offered by Hawaiian Electric, which means that proposers--in this case Ho‘āhu Energy Cooperative, Molokai, which I'll just refer to them as Ho‘āhu for short--proposed a solar project in one location on the Molokai grid. Once it's built, it will send electricity on to the utility's power lines at that location, so that's

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

where the physical power goes. But then, the virtual credits, the financial bill savings associated with the electricity that that facility produces, gets to be distributed to households and businesses elsewhere on the grid. It's kind of a virtual credit. Also called...the program is also called Shared Solar or Community Solar, if you're more familiar with that name. This project was awarded contracts by Hawaiian Electric in late 2022, and this announcement is from early 2023, when Ho'āhu and Hawaiian Electric announced these are the first community-owned projects of this kind in Hawai'i, so we were very excited about that. The projects...there are two projects that Ho'āhu is proposing...is going to build, but there's only...we're only talking about one of them today, the Kualapu'u solar project, but the Pālā'au solar project is larger and located at Hawaiian Electric land near the Pālā'au power plant. The projects are owned by Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai. They're a 501(c)(12) nonprofit cooperative, which means that the folks who sign up to subscribe to this project and other Ho'āhu projects will become member-owners in the cooperative. and therefore, member-owners of the project itself, making sure that it's a locally-owned and controlled. I'm speaking to you today about the logistics of the project because my company, Shake Energy Collaborative, along with another company named Mana Pacific, are contracted to provide development support for Ho'āhu for these projects. So, we help to arrange contractors that work for the cooperative, and help to arrange things like permits and site control paperwork. This project is physically located...the...the solar projects will be physically located over the parking lot at the Kualapu'u Rec Center, so the orange box is outlining the parking lot of the rec center. The yellow box--and apologies, it's a little bit hard to see--but the yellow box is where the battery attached to these projects would go, towards the back of the property in a container. And then the project connects to the grid in that little red dot towards the back entry of the facility. Here's just another...a little bit higher resolution showing the four...the four slightly slanted rectangles that have lots of little rectangles in them. Those are four individual carports which are each about 14 feet tall, kind of 12 feet on the short end, 17 feet on the tall end, in the parking lot. Some of the benefits of the project include that the projects have been designed by members of the Molokai community, and will continue to be controlled by them. The project has a power purchase agreement with Hawaiian Electric at a steady rate for the next 20 years, which provides stability, along with renewable energy, for the Island of Molokai. The...this project is about 2 percent of the island's load. The two projects combined, Pālā'au and Kualapu'u, are about 20 percent of the island's load, but this project that we're talking about is a little smaller, 250 kilowatts. Once it's built, we expect about 150 families to be able to sign up for this particular site, based on its size and the average Molokai household electricity consumption, and that those subscribers will...will hopefully save about 20 percent off of their electricity bill. And the project will be constructed by a Maui-based contractor called HNU Energy, who has committed to hiring Molokai workforce who have gone through Ho'āhu's workforce development program, which maybe Liliana will speak to more in a second. This is the same as I was showing you before. I'm going to skip that. We've got a list of permits here that we haven't initiated yet, but we're pretty close to being ready to submit our grading and building permits, we hope, with construction hopefully starting at about this time next year. Some of the impacts of the project include that the pillars for the projects will...in the front row, will displace about eight parking stalls, which we've been in communication with the Parks Department about. There's about 104 stalls now, which

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

would take us down to about 96 stalls in the future, as well as there are currently 17 autograph trees in the parking lot that would need to be removed. And we solicited community input about where we should...what type of trees, and where we should propose replanting about 30 trees to replace those trees. And we got a lot of really good community mana‘o on that. And then, there’s more information on Ho‘āhu’s website. And I’ll stop there and make some time for Ho‘āhu guys to share, and then I’m here for any questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Andrews. Before we go to Ho‘āhu, I’ll acknowledge Committee Member Yuki Lei Sugimura. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aloha. And looking forward. Very interesting.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I was missing a page in my notes...in my printed notes, and before we go to Ho‘āhu, I’m going to also recognize our Committee Staff: Lori Ann Tengan, Committee Secretary; Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst; Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney; and Lei Dinneen, Assistant Clerk. And we didn’t designate our resource folks under Rule 18(A), so if there are no objections, I would like to designate Ms. Ali Andrews and representatives from Ho‘āhu under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Okay. Okay. Ho‘āhu?

MS. NAPOLEON: Hey. Aloha, everyone. I guess I will...I will go ahead and start us off in terms of Ho‘āhu. Thank you for having us here. I just wanted to kind of share in terms of my contacts with the Cooperative. So, I do serve as the Workforce and Training Developer. Through my efforts, I have been guiding forth and, you know, a good contribution of that has been the initial onset of support from the County way back when through the ‘Ōiwi funding. So, very grateful to the County and all the support that you folks have been able to provide to the Cooperative to kind of get us to this point that we’re at now. Within our efforts, when it comes to workforce as it pertains to the Kualapu‘u project --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And for the record, you are Liliana Napoleon?

MS. NAPOLEON: Yeah. Sorry about that. Yes, Liliana Napoleon.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And your title?

MS. NAPOLEON: Oh, yes. Workforce and Training Developer with Ho‘āhu.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Napoleon. Any objections to designating Ms. Napoleon a resource person?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahal, Members. Okay, please continue.

MS. NAPOLEON: Okay. And then...so for the training, in terms of the Molokai residents that have come through Ho‘āhu for baseline initiation, upskilling into PV installation, maintenance, construction, and then leading into segues such as solar sails, along with microgrid. So, the microgrid has a direct correlation to the Kualapu‘u project. About 72 percent of those Molokai residents are from the Kualapu‘u and Ho‘olehua zip codes. So, there’s a lot of close proximity in terms of the potential of eventually being a part of that project in terms of the workforce side of things. But it being relevant to them, being it’s in their backyard, they actually may be a subscriber as time goes by. But I just wanted to be able to provide sort of that onset of the correlation between the project and those that have shown interest in the Molokai community, specifically from those zip code areas, that have gone through the training and looking forward to the up-and-coming project and build. In regard to the contractor that’s been selected, we do look forward to having a bit more dialogue with them to see what the other types of specialties, in terms of upskills, in terms of licensures or certifications that may be required and needed by the Molokai residents, so that we can get them up to par when that time comes for...for construction. All right. Just wanted to be able to provide that update. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Napoleon. Okay. Anyone else, Ms. Andrews?

MS. ANDREWS: I don’t think so. Thank you so much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, perfect. Next, I’ll call on First Deputy Corporation Counsel Desjardins.

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Chair. I’m going to hand it over to Deputy Wigglesworth. She’s been working on the lease with the Parks Department, and can give you some of the general highlights of what that looks like.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you, Chair. Kristie Wigglesworth. So, the lease is drafted. It’s for 20 years to...it allows for one extension to run concurrently with the contract with Hawai‘i [sic] Electric. It provides just for this project, right, without any additional approvals from the Council. And it’s...we’ve done a lot of work on it already, so it’s in the lessee’s hands, and we’re just waiting for that approval to come in, which we think will probably happen pretty quickly. And then, we’ll route it back to Parks Department and they will submit it to the Mayor.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Mahalo for that update. Okay. And then Director McCall, mahalo for being with us. If you have any opening remarks?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you, Chair. No remarks, just the fact that the Parks Department is in support of this project.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for all your help and your support with this, appreciate it. Okay, that ends our opening remarks, so we will open public testimony.

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

Has the testimony link been shared in the chat? Oh, okay. Okay. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the Council lobby...Chamber lobby, join the online meeting via the tinyURL link to connect to the Zoom meeting, or call in to the phone number and enter the meeting code noted on today's agenda. Written testimony can be submitted via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). For individuals wishing to testify via Zoom, please use the raise-hand function by clicking on the raise-your-hand button on the bottom bar. Staff will ask you to enable your microphone and video prior to your turn to testify. You can unmute yourself when you are called upon by clicking on the microphone and camera buttons in the lower left portion of your screen. For those calling in, please follow the prompts via phone. Press star-9 to raise your hand, and when it's your turn to testify, press star-6 to unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers signed up or raised their hands. For those on Zoom, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. I will then call the name that you are logged in under, or the last four digits of the phone number when it's your turn to testify. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. Staff has been monitoring individuals joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. And the testifier log is in the chat. We have one individual signed up to testify. Kalae Tangonan, you may proceed with your testimony.

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY KA‘Ā-1(3). . .**

MS. TANGONAN: Aloha, good afternoon.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. TANGONAN: Hello from Molokai. Aloha. My name is Kalae Tangonan, and I've been living in that community for, I don't know, since 2006, in different locations. Currently, I'm at 80 Okana Street in Kualapu'u, and we support the project, and hoping that it will help us with our electric bills because mines is quite high with eight people in my hale. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. We'll thank you so much for your testimony. Next on the list to testify is Paul Hanley. Mr. Hanley, you may proceed.

MR. HANLEY: Okay. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. HANLEY: I'm living right beside the...the project, right beside the...where the...right beside the parking lot where the solar is going in, and I support it, for sure. It's always sad to see a few trees go down, but the...the parking...or the solar panels will give the kind of same shade value for people parking in the parking lot, which is good. And yeah, it's great to see something like this happening in our community. And definitely, we...my

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

family would like to subscribe to the power option as well. That's it.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Hanley. Seeing no hands for questions, we'll thank you for your testimony today. Mahalo. Next on the list to testify is Lori Buchanan. Ms. Buchanan, you may proceed.

MS. BUCHANAN: Aloha, my beloved County Council. Man, you guys look great today. Is it because you only had one meeting today or something? Or somebody's going to lunch, or...you guys look good. But anyway, I am testifying in support. I wanted to thank the testifier right before me, Mr. Hanley, because he's been so faithful in coming to so many of our meetings because, you know, people get meeting burnout. But it was important for Paul because Paul is the neighbor to this development. He's right there. He is the adjacent neighbor to Kualapu'u Rec Center. All...I mean, I'm hoping it too, in the future, that this would lead to helping the County with some resiliency. Sorry, Lori Buchanan from Molokai. And, you know, we have the elementary school there, we have a post office there, we have a grocery market there, and of course, Molokai High School, the only high school, is like six minutes away. I live ten minutes away from this projected...this development, and I am in support. And we support Ho'āhu because--I'm on the board as the board president--because we did want our community to be in control of solar projects. Because prior to this, there was a Chicago-based entity that was...had, you know, applied for the same, that did not go through a rigorous process. So, it's a long haul, and like with all long-haul projects, we know that intermittently, you have to remind your community, you know, about these long goals that we have. But we moving forward, you know, mākaukau, step-by-step, and I so proud of the team we have. You heard Liliana earlier. I'm so proud of Liliana. She began and started up our workforce development. Liliana is a Molokai girl, carries a Master's degree in Business Administration, and she's just been rocking it ever since she joined us, and the rest of our team as well. So, I'm so happy, and I wanted just to thank all of you. I love my County Council, best Council in the whole world. Thank you so much. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Buchanan. Seeing no hands for questions, we'll thank you so much for your testimony. Okay. Next on the testifier list, we have Leimana Ritte-Camara.

MS. RITTE-CAMARA: I wasn't going to say anything because I get so nervous, but welina mai me ke aloha pumehana iā kākou. 'O wau 'o Leimana Ritte-Camara, no ka 'āina aloha 'o Molokai Nui a Hina, eō. Aloha, mahalo, mahalo, mahalo. I just want to say mahalo for this opportunity for Molokai. You guys already know how Molokai are. We do what we can with everything in us to protect who we are, and our 'āina, and our lifestyle, so mahalo. And we hope that our community can benefit for future generations in having renewable and clean energy. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ritte-Camara. Seeing no hands for questions, we'll thank you for your testimony. Next on the list to testify is Robert Nerveza-Shizuma.

MR. NERVEZA-SHIZUMA: Yeah, aloha. I'm Robert Nerveza-Shizuma from Molokai. I'm testifying today in support of this Kualapu'u project. I find it extremely important that

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

Molokai...the Molokai community has a chance to...a vehicle, a way, a method, to be present in these conversations to determine what kind of energy future Molokai wants to have. And although this might seem in small scale for Kualapu‘u, the parking lot, I think is a first important step to show that if we can do this. We can gradually expand, and get our community involved to have a say in larger infrastructure, or energy, or other topics that the island truly cares about and the community values. But that’s my testimony for this, and I’m in strong support. Mahalo, everybody. Mahalo, the Ho‘āhu team. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no hands for questions, we’ll thank you so much, Mr. Nerveza-Shizuma, for your testimony. Okay, I’m seeing...we’ll do a last call for testimony. Go ahead.

MS. RITTE-CAMARA-TANGONAN: Aloha, my name is ‘Ohi‘akū Ritte-Camara-Tangonan, coming from Molokai, and I also live on 80 Okana Street...it maybe in that household of eight, probably half the reason that bill is so high. But I am in full support of this project, and I just can’t wait to see how far it goes, and maybe that bill go a little down. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Did Staff catch her name? Okay. Mahalo. Mr. Law, you ready to testify? Okay, we have Mr. Law, and then I see Mr. Tanaka next.

MR. LAW: Aloha ‘auinalā, Ka ‘Aha Kalana o Maui. The Hawaiian word of the day is lā, which means sun. That lā has the macron over the a. And aloha to Ke Ke‘ena paka‘a...o Pāka a Hana Ho‘onanea Pat McCall, Director of Parks and Recreation. Thank you for doing this, Chair, and putting this on ka papa kumumana‘o. I would like to...I’m glad that my representative, Yuki Lei Kashiwa Sugimura is here because I think the County’s making some investments in my town up there in Kula, and I would like to see a project like this around the Kula Community Center. Because we had some shocking news last night at the Maui County Farm Bureau about the Administration trying to cut off all the funding for Maui farmers and...or...or maybe we could put it at the...what’s that project? I’m coming up with a blank. The...the big farm there on Omaopio Road. Yuki Lei knows what I’m talking about. The United States Administration can cut off the money, but they can’t turn off the sun.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Law, for your testimony. Seeing no hands. Okay. Next we have Tylor Tanaka.

MR. TANAKA: Aloha, Maui County Council, my name is Tylor Tanaka. I am from Offices of Tylor Tanaka here on Molokai. I...the past two months, I have been working closely with the Molokai Clean Energy Hui, and sharing this particular project with our community in a one-on-one setting. And the light that has lit up these community members’ faces has really shown that this project is heading to the right directions. So, I’m here to testify on behalf of myself and my outreach that’s in the community that this is a project that we wholeheartedly support. Mahalo.

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Tanaka. Seeing no hands for questions, we'll thank you so much for your testimony today. Okay. Okay, that was the last individual on the testifier list, so we'll do a last call. If anyone wishes to testify, please unmute yourself at this time, and you may proceed with your testimony. Hearing no one speaking up, we will close public...oral testimony, and receive any written testimony into the record. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY KA‘Ā-1(3). . .**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Okay. Okay. So, we will open up the floor to questions. Ms. Andrews and Ms. Napoleon, you may turn on your video. So, we have Shake Energy, Ho‘āhu Energy Co-op, and then we have our Parks Department and Corporation Counsel for questions...and myself, if you have questions for me. Any questions? Committee Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I just want to ask...I'm not sure who to ask question of, but the...the recreational center in Kualapu‘u is where they're going to put the...the solar panels on the carport roof. What is the acreage of the community center?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know Ms. Andrews said carport, but it's...it's a parking lot.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it's kind of like --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- how Costco is, on a much smaller --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- scale. Ms. Andrews?

MS. ANDREWS: The acreage of the park as a whole, I believe, is six and a half, almost seven acres, and the area...the parking lot area is about one acre that we will put the solar canopies over.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And what percentage of the families...the 150 families you spoke about earlier, what percentage of their electricity bill will be decreased?

MS. ANDREWS: So, about 150 families would be able to sign up for a subscription to this project. And the way that Hawaiian Electric sizes...I...so, is...when a household is interested in subscribing, they will come to the Co-op and sign up, and then submit information about how big their electricity bill is. So, if they have a bigger 'ohana, and

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

their bill is higher, they could sign up for maybe three or four kilowatts' worth of the project. And if they are a...a smaller household, maybe their bill only would allow them to sign up for one kilowatt. Based on Molokai average usage of about 350 kilowatt hours per month, we expect each household, on average, to sign up for like 1.5 kilowatts. So, that's how the...the subscription is sized. And then the way that that household will see savings on their bill is, they will receive a credit from Hawaiian Electric and a charge from the Cooperative. And the distant...the difference between how big the credit is from Hawaiian Electric and how big the charge is from the Co-op is their net savings. And our calculations show that we...the...that the Co-op can charge a subscription fee to the household that will be about \$30, give or take about \$30 less than the subscription fee that they...or the credit that they would receive. That's based on an average household bill of about \$180-ish a month. And so, that's where we get...on average, we expect a household to save about 20 percent off of their existing bill. So, if they pay \$150 now, we'd expect them to save about \$30 every month after they sign up, net of the credit and the...the subscription fee. I hope I explained that well. And if I didn't, I'll try it again.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, you did that very well. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. And just to--and I see your hand, Vice-Chair Paltin--to remind everyone in the public, the CBRE program, a Community-Based Renewable Energy program, was intended to target low- to moderate-income folks and tenants. And so, if you don't own your home, then you can't make the decision to put solar panels on your roof. If you don't have the \$40,000 to...for the upfront cost to buy solar panels, then you are not able to take advantage of the different energy credits that were available at one point. So, this was designed to help those that were not able to take advantage of getting renewable energy, solar energy, before. So that's...it's like, you know, pooling resources to have this shared solar. Committee Vice-Chair Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Andrews. My question is in regard to the trees removal. Like, I know the County has a planting plan. I...I'm...I'm kind of more better with the panels than the trees because, you know, no bird emissions. And, you know, I...I kind of feel like War Memorial stadium parking lot didn't follow the County's planting plan, so it might be a great opportunity for them. But like, how did you...is...is there a section of the Code for the parking planting plan that could be amended to say like so many trees or solar panels, and no bird emissions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Andrews, if you have the answer, but no pressure. We don't expect you to memorize our Code.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Or Mr. McCall.

MS. ANDREWS: I --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or Mr. McCall...Director McCall. Go ahead, Ms. Andrews.

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

MS. ANDREWS: Maybe. I...I definitely don't know the answer to the Code side of things, but I just wanted to share what our process had been about the trees, which is once we identified how many trees we would need to remove, the 17 Autograph trees, we talked to an arborist that works for the County, and talked a little bit...and also a facilities manager, Darin Kimoto, about what would make the most sense at that park. It was expressed that the park itself has a good number...the appropriate number of trees in...in the not parking lot area, and that it wouldn't make a lot of sense to try and crowd 30 trees into that facility, which is, I think, technically the rule for if you're cutting down trees, what you're supposed to do.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: If you...if you park at War Memorial, there's no shade, no trees, no bird emissions. And so, it seems like a great fit for solar panels because...you know, other day I was trying to drive around looking for some shade when I was waiting for my kids, and there's just no shade, full sun. And so, it kind of seems like it would make sense. But did you...you guys didn't have to get any exception from the Code? I guess maybe it's more of a Corp. Counsel question. Because there is a parking lot tree thing, and I...I'd love for a bunch of parking lots to be able to follow this example with the bird emissions and all.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director [sic] Wigglesworth or First Deputy Desjardins?

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you, Chair. So, as this project progresses, we've worked...we've worked on the...the base lease, what...what that's going to look like. But these particular details, like the trees and where they're going to get replanted, who's going to pay for the removal of the trees, those are details that we'll still have to work out. So --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: But if you're not following the parking plan, landscaping with the trees, is that like a variance? You got to go to the Board of Variance and Appeals? Or do you need us to change the Code? Or, I mean, I'm --

MS. DESJARDINS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- I'm down.

MS. DESJARDINS: No, it's a good point. And if they are going to deviate from the Code, they may have to go to the BVA to get a permit to do that. So, what I would propose is that we would work with Parks to make it as painless a process as possible, look at options that would be the least path of resistance to get this up and running.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. But --

MS. DESJARDINS: But...but definitely, if they're not going to follow the Code, they may have to ask for a variance, you're right.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- I would...I would rather not it be a variance. I would rather open the door for whoever would like to get away from bird emissions and move to solar

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

energy...like have at it. There must...was it a...a variance for Costco to do what they did?

MS. DESJARDINS: You know, I don't know. But another option would be to discuss a Code amendment. If you wanted to put something in the Code that would encourage people to do more of this type of...of work, we could look at how Costco was able to do that because that was a good project. So yeah, definitely.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. I mean, I'm not against trees, but I'm not super bird emission.

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And yes, very supportive of this. Exciting...for the Molokai community in Kualapu'u. I just had a clarifying question for Ms. Andrews. So, from her first slide, it looks like the...the excess energy from the solar panels will go to HECO, and...and the surrounding residents would be able to get that...those discounts; is that correct?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Andrews?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And...and was that 150 residents, or it stops at a certain number?

MS. ANDREWS: The...yes, you're right that the...the credits...the electricity goes directly onto Hawaiian Electric's grid, and then the...Hawaiian Electric's rules under the Community-Based Renewable Energy program is that any household on the Island of Molokai can apply to sign up. So, they don't necessarily have to be the households that are closest to the facility, but it could be. It will be up to Ho'āhu to recruit subscribers and make the opportunity available. There will be a lot of subscriptions island-wide available because the other project at Pālā'au is a lot larger. So, 1,500 households island-wide will be able, about, to sign for the project.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But...but Chair, you mentioned that it will be for people at a certain household AMI?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Low- to moderate-income.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But on --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Ms. Andrews can explain who...who can qualify on Molokai.

MS. ANDREWS: Yes. So, the...the program is aimed at benefiting households...low- to moderate-income households and renters. The way that the community members that participated in our public workshops in 2020 and 2021 proposed that it would be fairest

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

if, instead of making a mandate for only--you know, you have to give us your pay stubs to demonstrate that you are a low-income household--because there's going to be an abundance of subscriptions available. Ho'āhu...the community proposed that Ho'āhu use partnerships with organizations that already provide services to low-income households to make sure that those folks are made aware of the opportunity to subscribe earliest, and focus most of the outreach attention on networks like that, but not make a strict rule for subscribers. I hope that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And did you say that it was State-funded...the project?

MS. ANDREWS: The project will have some Federal funding. There's a Department of Energy grant that has been awarded to Ho'āhu to help pay for part of the construction. We will also...we also intend to take out a loan from the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority at the State level to help pay for construction, and then some private sector lenders as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. Great. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Can you tell me, Ms. Andrews, what's the average savings again per customer? I think I heard you say 20 percent. What's that in dollars?

MS. ANDREWS: So, in dollars, it would depend on how big their subscription is, but the...the averages that we use are the average Molokai household. Most recently, I think it's \$180 per month is what they...the average household currently pays. And so, 20 percent of that --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thirty-six.

MS. ANDREWS: -- is \$36.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Okay. And how much is the overall cost of this system?

MS. ANDREWS: The...between the two sites, the two projects are about \$20.5 million, and then...\$20.5 million. And then this project is about \$3.5 million of that total pot. The...the projects have some, you know, shared engineering costs and shared costs, so it's a little hard to draw the exact line between them, but...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: When do you start making money?

MS. ANDREWS: The project will start generating revenue from its subscribers and Hawaiian Electric once the project comes online, which will probably be in about two years, maybe a year-and-a-half.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, do you stay on to do maintenance and monitoring?

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

MS. ANDREWS: The...the project will...once it's built will be owned and operated by Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai, and then they, as Liliana spoke to, have a workforce training program that's been training up Molokai residents in solar installation and maintenance. What we expect might happen in the first probably like three to five years would be that the company that is contracted to build the project will also be contracted for an operations and maintenance plan. And the hope is that somewhere within those first few years, the Ho'āhu trainees will be able to take over that responsibility.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You mentioned residents, yeah? Well, what about small businesses?

MS. ANDREWS: This is a great point that I might pass it over to Liliana to speak to that if she would like to. There...yeah. We haven't made, I guess, specific plans, but Ho'āhu does work with at least one Molokai-based solar company that installs one of their smaller projects, and there may be opportunities for that as well. Lili, I don't know if you have anything to add to that?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Napoleon?

MS. NAPOLEON: Yes, I'm here. Okay. Regarding the question, is that pertaining to like being...the CBRE energy being discounted for the business? Or in specific --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So...so...so, business would qualify to be a subscriber.

MS. NAPOLEON: That's a good question.

MS. ANDREWS: Oh, sorry. I thought the...I thought the question was about who would get hired. I can answer the subscriber question. Sorry, Lili. Yes. Molokai-based businesses are eligible to subscribe to the project. What participants in the workshops had shared when the kind of subscription program was being designed was that they first wanted to make sure that the subscriptions were available to households because that's where they felt like the biggest need was. But again, the...the project will have a lot of subscriptions. And so, I...I would guess that there will be a good amount left over after all of the households have had the opportunity to sign up, that businesses --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And I also --

MS. ANDREWS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- my last question, I wondered, you know, when you have a large contraptions of solar panels, does it interfere with flights overhead?

MS. ANDREWS: So, the...that's a good question. The...the project is 17 feet tall at its tallest point, which is pretty tall for Kualapu'u, but I don't think it's taller, for example, than the mango tree that's already on the Kualapu'u site. So, I...I don't think so. I would guess some birds that are used to sitting in the autograph trees will be a little confused.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no. I didn't mean, you know --

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

MS. ANDREWS: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I'm talking about the reflection. Or is it --

MS. ANDREWS: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, you don't have that?

MS. ANDREWS: We won't do...we hadn't planned to do a glare study. And I think it's probably smaller than is required to do a glare study. For example, the Federal Aviation Administration won't require us to do that based on the size of the project.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Member Sugimura, and I'm just doing a time check. It's 2:28, and then we have a HLU Committee meeting at 2:45. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, really fast. So, I see that you have Tylor Tanaka, Buji (*phonetic*), on the line, and I wonder if you could explain what his role is in the project?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He was a testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, he was just a...oh, sorry. Hi, Buji. Okay. So, he's not part of your project? So, Department, thank you for supporting this. I think it's good. I mean, we've been hearing like a little update as you've gone along, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, so this is wonderful. Glad you support it. Is it going to be a budget priority for you? This is good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not requesting funding.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: This Council did support funding to help with the workforce development for the...the past few years, and that...you know, Ms. Napoleon is the...the one that's been spearheading that work. So, that the question that, I think, Chair Lee, you asked about maintenance, so that we would have our own Molokai people ready to manage the system. Okay. Oh, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: From the map, it looked like there was enough space. Is this replicatable? Is it planned to do another one to double the capacity potentially?

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

MS. ANDREWS: Oh, I would maybe leave that question to Ho‘āhu. The...the opportunity that Ho‘āhu responded to was a request for proposals from 2022, where we submitted the proposal for this project and for the one at Pālā‘au that added up to 200 and...2.45 megawatts. The total allowable capacity for this program on Molokai is 2.75 megawatts. And so, if Hawaiian Electric were to issue another request for proposals, there would be opportunity to build...to propose maybe one more of this size, and there’s...but they...they haven’t issued any plans to issue an RFP anytime soon.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, because of the size of the utility, it’s limited. So, it’d have to be a microgrid or something. Anyway, I’m supportive. Congratulations on your accomplishment, it’s awesome.

MS. ANDREWS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Cook. Okay. I private messaged Mr. Tanaka because I...I didn’t ask him to be a resource person, so I didn’t want to catch him off guard because he...he wasn’t necessarily prepared. But if Members don’t have any objections, I will designate Mr. Tylor Tanaka under 18(A) of the Rules of the Council as a resource person, and he will explain his role in...well, I think I usually would do...so he is doing community outreach for our energy planning on Molokai, so that’s the purpose for designating...or his expertise for this. Okay. Mr. Tanaka.

MR. TANAKA: Aloha. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins. Once again, my name is Tylor Tanaka from Offices of Tylor Tanaka here on Molokai. So, my firm was contracted by the Molokai Clean Energy Hui, which consists of Sust‘ainable Molokai, Ho‘āhu Energy, who is here today presenting. Part of that outreach, we are sharing this particular project to the community and gathering their feedback. And what the outreach is to transpire to the clean energy hui as to where the community wants them to designate their resource and...and focus on. So, I hope that clears the air on my role on this project.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for clarifying. Member Sugimura, did you have a follow-up question?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No. I just wanted to hear his part because he’s very good at communication. So, thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He is.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Nice seeing you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member.

MR. TANAKA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Tanaka, for the impromptu response. Okay, Members, any other questions? Okay. Any closing remarks from Corporation Counsel

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

or Parks Department? Okay. Sounds like everyone's good. Okay. So, everyone's now informed about this project, so when it comes before us later on...but I'll...I'll let our resource personnel know when it does get scheduled to, you know, provide testimony just in case anyone else has questions at that time. All right. If there are no objections, we will defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And it is 2:33 on March...oh, and I will thank Ms. Andrews, and Ms. Napoleon, and all our testifiers today. And...yeah. So, it's 2:33 on March 20, and the KA'A Committee is now adjourned. . . . (*gavel*) . . .

**ADJOURN:** 2:33 p.m.

ka'a:min: 250320:kr

Transcribed by: Kaliko Reed

**KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA MINUTES  
Council of the County of Maui**

**March 20, 2025**

---

CERTIFICATION

I, Kaliko Reed, hereby certify that pages 1 through 18 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 24th day of April 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai‘i



---

Kaliko Reed