

WATER AUTHORITY, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

October 7, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:03 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Vice-Chair (In 9:35 a.m.; out 11:11 a.m.;
in 11:44 a.m.)
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (Out 12:13 p.m.)
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member (Out 12:16 p.m.)
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 11:11 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (In 9:40 a.m.; out 11:11 a.m.)
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Clarissa MacDonald Legislative Analyst
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Criselda Paranada, Committee Secretary
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka'i Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna'i Residency Area Office
Mavis Oliveira, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: David Yamashita, Planner V, Planning Department (WASSP-1(24))
Patrick McCall, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (WASSP-1(24))
Erika Hughston, Capital Improvements Project Coordinator, Department of Parks
and Recreation (WASSP-1(24))
Samual Marvel, Chief of Planning and Development, Department of Parks and
Recreation (WASSP-1(24))
Ashley Gandauli, Police Officer III, Department of Police (WASSP-1(23))
Shelly Miyashiro DeMattos, First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Department of
the Prosecuting Attorney (WASSP-1(23))
Ana Malafu-Eliesa, Victim Witness Program Director, Department of the
Prosecuting Attorney (WASSP-1(23))
Andrew Nelson, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of Corporation
Counsel (All)

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OTHERS: Sanoe Ka’aihue, Executive Director, Women Helping Women (WASSP-1(23))
Jordan Addison, Safe, Strong, and Sober Program Manager, Domestic Violence
Action Center (WASSP-1(23))
Catherine “Kitty” Courtney, PhD, Senior Marine Environmental Scientist, Tetra
Tech, Inc. (WASSP-1(24))
Wesley Crile, Coastal Dune Restoration Specialist, University of Hawai’i Sea
Grant College Program (WASSP-1(24))

Testifiers

Leslee Matthews (WASSP-1(23))
Greg Dela Cruz, Pastor, Living Way Church Maui (WASSP-1(23))
Jasee Law (WASSP-1(23))
Chantia Kaulia (WASSP-1(23))
Chevylee Mahoe (WASSP-1(23))
Koali’i Williams (WASSP-1(23))
Faith Chase (WASSP-1(23))
Rainey Dock Matthews (WASSP-1(23))

(15+) additional attendees

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

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Hey, aloha kakahiaka, and welcome to the WASSP Committee meeting of Monday, October 7. It is 9:03. Mahalo for your patience, everyone. I’m Shane Sinenci, your Committee Chair. And as a reminder, for members of the public to please silence all cell phones or noisemaking devices. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you are not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in room, vehicle, or workspace with you today, and minors do not need to be identified. Also, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Joining us today--I believe Committee Vice-Chair Johnson will join us in a little bit--joining us in the Chambers this morning is Councilmember Tom Cook. Aloha and good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha and good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Also joining us online is Pro Tem Tasha Kama. Aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and good morning to everyone out there in *Akakū* land. I am home in my workspace, and I am alone. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for joining us. Also joining online is Council Chair Alice Lee with a...an exotic greeting for us?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. On behalf of the Zuni Indians, Keshi...Keshi.

CHAIR SINENCI: Keshi.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm home alone in my space, and looking forward to your meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Council Chair. Also joining us online is Councilmember Tamara Paltin. Aloha and Keshi.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Keshi, and aloha kakahiaka kākou. Streaming live and direct from Nāpili, where I have three unnamed minors; one named male, George Vierra; one named dog, King; and one unnamed minor dog.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, 'Ohana Paltin. . . *(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Also joining us in the Chambers this morning we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for being here. Member Yuki Lei Sugimura will be joining us in a little bit, she's also at the blessing. Member U'u-Hodgins will also be joining us--okay--a little bit. Okay. Thank you, Members. From the Maui Police Department, we have also Officer Ashley Gandauli. From the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, we have First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Shelly Miyasato [sic] DeMattos. Also joining us, Ms. Ana Malafu-Eliesa with the Victim Witness Program. And for our second item, from the Planning Department, we have Mr. David Yamashita. From the Department of Parks and Recreation we'll have Director McCall, as well as Mr. Sam Marvel, Chief of Planning and Development. From Corporation Counsel, we have Mr. Andrew Nelson, aloha and good morning. And also our Committee Staff that will be helping to...me to chair this meeting, we have Ms. Criselda Paranada, Ms. Clarissa MacDonald, Mr. Jarret Pascual, Ms. Carla Nakata, Ms. Lei Dinneen, and Ms. Jean Pokipala. Aloha, everyone. And I do see Member U'u-Hodgins, welcome and aloha...Keshi.

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for joining us. Okay, Members. On today's agenda we have two Rule 7(B) items for discussion. Our first item is Domestic Violence Awareness, WASSP-1(23). Members, without objection, and our...excuse me. Our second item will be Integrating Sea Level Rise And Coastal Threats Into Planning For County Beach Parks, WASSP-1(24). Members, without objection, I will be designating the following panel members as resource persons under Rule 18(A) of the Rules of the Council because of their special expertise related to our agenda items this morning.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. For 1(23), we have Ms. Sanoë Ka’aihue, she is the Executive Director for Women Helping Women. Mahalo and...and welcome, Ms. Ka’aihue. Also joining us is Jordan Addison, he’s also online, and he’s from Safe, Strong, and Sober Program, Domestic Violence Action Center. Welcome. For WASSP-1(24), we have Catherine “Kitty” Courtney of the Senior Marine Environmental Scientist with Tetra Tech, welcome; as well as Mr. Wes Crile, the Coastal Dune Restoration Specialist from the University of Hawai’i Sea Grant College Program, welcome. Okay. Let’s begin with public testimony. Do we have testifiers this morning? Okay. In accordance with the Sunshine law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting, but cannot be limited to the start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should sign up in the Chamber, or join the online meeting via the Teams link, or call in to the phone number noted on today’s agenda. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. And for those calling in, please allow [sic] the prompts via phone; star-five to raise and lower your hand, and 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 has been added. Staff will enable your microphone and video and call the name or the last four digits of your phone number. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and will be accepted at the beginning of the meeting and prior to the Committee’s deliberations. If you’re still testifying beyond that time, I’ll kindly ask you to complete your testimony. We ask that you state your full name, but if you prefer to testify anonymously, Staff will refer to you as a testifier and assign you a number. Once you’re done testifying, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. Again, mahalo for all of your patience. I will be maintaining decorum at all times during the meeting, and we’ll proceed with oral testimony. Ms. MacDonald...oh, Mr. Pascual.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF MEETING . . .

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier is Leslee Matthews, to be followed by Kahu Moanui (*phonetic*).

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Matthews. Happy belated birthday.

MS. L. MATTHEWS: Thank you. Aloha, Councilmember Sinenci, Members of the Maui County Council. Thank you so much for dedicating this moment to domestic violence awareness. I’m really thankful on a personal and professional level. Nineteen years ago, my best friend was murdered by her husband when their child was just an infant. And ever since then, I’ve been even more attuned to the needs of survivors of violence. My goal is so that we can end domestic violence in my lifetime. I understand that that’s a lofty goal, but if we say we just want to reduce it, we say that we’re okay with some members of our community losing their lives or going through issues of domestic violence. Since that time I started my professional career at the Fort Worth Police Department as the Family Violence Specialist. I was trained by the Department of

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Homeland Security and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to be a certified domestic violence instructor. I've also served as a prosecutor here on Maui. And now, my role brings me as Vice-President, Legal Services for Domestic Violence Action Center of Hawai'i. And so, I'm really grateful to address this urgent issue of domestic violence in our community. And while we recognize that Domestic Violence Awareness Month each October, it is essential that this conversation continues year-round. In Hawai'i, domestic violence statistics are alarming. Nearly 40 percent of women and 20 percent of men experience intimate partner violence in their lifetimes, representing thousands of lives affected across our islands. Here in Maui County, the need for support and safe housing has only increased, especially in the wake of the recent wildfires that have left families displaced and vulnerable. The shortage of safe shelter options is a critical issue, particularly for marginalized communities who face additional barriers when seeking help. One such community is our LGBTQ population, which research shows that individuals in that community experience domestic violence at similar or higher rates compared to their heterosexual counterparts. Yet they often encounter unique challenges when accessing support such as stigma, discrimination, or lack of culturally-competent services that prevent LGBTQ survivors from seeking assistance...which is why I'm really thankful for programs like Domestic Violence Action Center; Safe, Strong, and Sober programs; and others that uniquely identify and meet with these folks. Safe shelters and support services must be inclusive to...and equipped to address specific needs. Additionally, we have immigrant and limited English-proficiency communities are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence and office-space language barriers, fear of deportation, and limited knowledge of available resources. We must make sure that this community is safe for them as well. There is a significant justice gap in Hawai'i, with over 85 percent of low-income individuals unable to obtain the legal help they need. Many survivors can't afford representation for protective orders, child custody, or divorce. Programs like Jordan Addison's Safe, Strong, and Sober Program . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . provide vital work to--and I'll wrap up--provide vital work to support survivors with trauma-informed substance abuse resources while advocating for inclusive services. So, in closing, as we honor survivors and their families, I urge this Council to continue this conversation past this month, to continue the conversation about safe shelters, civil legal services, and not...and to also include our vulnerable communities. So, thank you for this time to testify, I appreciate it.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Matthews, for your testimony this morning. Members, any questions for Ms. Matthews? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony.

MS. L. MATTHEWS: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Pascual?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Kahu Moanui, to be followed by Kahu Dela Cruz.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Kahu. Not . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let him go first?

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CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. DELA CRUZ: Aloha mai kākou. Kahu--Pastor Greg Dela Cruz. Yeah, thanks for being here, thank you guys for having us. And so, yes, just want to say a couple things. One of them is, you know, the being...being the kahu in Happy Valley and working with the agencies for the last 25 years here on Maui, I think the rock stars are...are Women Helping Women, you know, over the years. And I've had the honor to work along with them. And I've seen a lot of stuff, and we're still...we're still here. We've worked with many victims, both men and women, trying to be in a safe place in the community. I live down there, so sometimes it's 24/7 and having a...creating a safe place intentional, you know, are you...over the years we've been intentional of...of creating a safe place that people know each other. Not everybody's going to go the cops, not everybody's going to go to Women Helping Women, not everybody's going to disclose stuff to uniforms, but a lot of times they disclose stuff to the kahu, yeah, in their safe place. And so, one of the things is we've been working...I've been working teaching kamalama class, which has been an amazing thing as far as prevention, teaching our men--especially our Hawaiian men--how to be who they are, and honor, and keep things sacred like relationships, and especially relationships with women. One of the things is...you know, I even have my kids, you know. This is a...this is not a...a hobby of ours, this is not something we do because we get paid, it's something we do because it's the right thing to do, and provide a safe place. My kids all are involved in this work. My son, he teaches haka and ha'a, and he teaches our men how to control themselves, and how to be honorable, and how to go from 0 to 100 but then 100 to 0...and that's a 0 to 100 anger, and then 100 to 0...and then maybe to worry to 100 and then 100 to 0. Or maybe being lustful, and then go down to 0. And, you know, remember that...that thing, yeah? Remember that thing, da kine...that old...I guess was about 25 years ago, they had...it was all over, that thing where it says...it was kind of a campaign, and it said domestic violence is not cultural. You guys remember that? And there's a...there's a 'olelo no'eau that says, he kāne ka 'eha 'ole o ka 'ili. It says appreciation for a man who doesn't hit his wife. . . .(timer sounds). . . And that's way more cultural than...than domestic violence. And mālama is way more cultural than domestic violence. And aloha is way more cultural. So, we get to...we get to teach weekly when you have classes. And I started a new class called Maka, and that's all about being accountable to our character, accountable to our being...Aloha House is doing a...a...sponsoring us to teach this class next week, 18th to 19th, so give me a call. Love you guys. Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Pastor Dela Cruz. Any questions for Pastor Dela Cruz this morning? We have a question for you from Pro Tem Kama.

MR. DELA CRUZ: Hey.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Kahu Dela Cruz, for being here. So, you know the program that you run for domestic violence, it's culturally-based, yes? And are there other programs that you know, that...to domestic violence programs are culturally-based besides yours?

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MR. DELA CRUZ: I mean, yeah. I mean, we've been working with Skip (phoentic), and we were working stuff in the jails for --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. DELA CRUZ: -- the last 20 years. And so, there's been a lot of, you know, efforts, and especially nurturing programs, you know. We've seen them over the years. But I know there's some...some great stuff in O'ahu. I know our Kane Connections and Kawika Mattos is doing an amazing job.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. DELA CRUZ: You know, it's just... just as we just keep...I think a lot of it is the bigger conversation, and linking hands, and linking shields, and talking about this. I mean, I apologize because I haven't done that enough, you know, I haven't shared enough that this is what we do, I mean, all the time. We deal with this all the time. And it's almost like sometimes we feel like we're the forgotten stepchild, you know, down at the...down in Happy Valley.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Happy Valley.

MR. DELA CRUZ: But yeah, Aunty, we da kine.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So...

MR. DELA CRUZ: There's also some stuff.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, if it...so, we come across people who's in our community that are going through these things, who may be hesitant to go through the usual channels of going through a nonprofit or something. Could we just send them to you?

MR. DELA CRUZ: Yeah. We...we...our staff is ready. Our staff's equipped.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay.

MR. DELA CRUZ: And a lot of them are here.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. DELA CRUZ: So...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Very good. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Pastor, what was those dates again?

MR. DELA CRUZ: Oh. 18th and 19th, down at 399 North Market Street. And it's open. Aloha House is sponsoring it, and...and it's got food.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MR. DELA CRUZ: Lunch time 7:30...oh, no, 8:30 to 12:30. And you get...you get a good handle on it. So, it's Friday and Saturday, and it's just a great starting point of us coming together. 'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia. Yeah. There's no job too big if we link arms, yeah. And laulima.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Thank you for that. Mr. Pascual?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Kahu Moanui, to be followed by Chantia Kaulia.

MR. LAW: Good morning, luna ho'omalua Sinenci and --

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha.

MR. LAW: -- Councilmembers, *Akakū* out there in TV land. Hi, Alice. Jasee Law from Kula, I'm speaking for Kahu Moanui, he's kind of shy. You remember him, Mr. Chairman. Kahu is...he read the agenda this morning. He's concerned that he...he's heard a lot about Women Helping Women, but he wants to know about kane helping kane. 'Cause I'm glad that Leslee pointed out that some of the domestic violence victims are males, and most people think domestic violence is like actual physical violence, but there's a lot of mental violence going on there from bully wahines--ain't that right, kane? And he said he wants to...he say he loves you, Shane.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Mr. Pascual?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Chantia Kaulia, to be followed by Chevylee Mahoe.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Kaulia.

MS. KAULIA: Aloha. I'm Chantia Kaulia, I'm here with Kahu Greg Dela Cruz. And I'm a survivor of domestic violence. Fourteen years ago, I lost a son due to domestic violence. He was born at six months gestational during my pregnancy, he survived for three hours, and he passed away. I went to Women Helping Women, and I met Kahu Greg over ten-plus years ago. And along this journey, he has helped me to identify like the roots of the problems mentally, emotionally, spiritually that I have to face and deal with. And three months ago, another testimony happened where my marriage was on the verge. I just got out of Women Helping Women one year ago, and I was ready to give up. Prayed with him, and maybe...maybe two or three days after, my kane went to him and got the help that he needed. And today, three months...three months ago, he's in a program, U-Turn for Christ, getting the mental and...mental help he needs--the

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emotional, spiritual, and the drug help that he needs. You know, everyday I work with him alongside Kahu and, you know, it's...it's more than a safe place, it's family...it's 'ohana, you know. My...my nine children come with to serve alongside, and to just be there. We don't even have to serve, we just go there sometimes just because, you know, it's a place where we're all...we all feel like home, you know. So, that's...that's what I have to share.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Kaulia, for your testimony. Members, any questions for Chantia? Seeing none. Again, thank you. Mr. Pascual?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Chevylee Mahoe, to be followed Koali'i Williams.

MS. MAHOE: Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha.

MS. MAHOE: Good morning. My name is Chevylee Mahoe, and I stand here on both spectrums. I grew up in that type of household, coming from Nanakuli, O'ahu. I moved here when I was 11 with my mom because she ran away from my father, who was abusive, too, as well. So, I did a lot of things here on Maui that I'm not proud of, but I've changed my life, and I thank God for Women Helping Women, a place that I could run to when I needed that comfort, and just being around other women that went through the same thing as me. So, I, too, came out of that. Also, I thank God for Living Way Church Maui, not only because that's my church--I've been there 18 years, and that helped me. I've been the abuser, and I've been the victim--I've been both. And, you know, I got educated on it, and I just feel proud of myself today that I still stand here changed, and I get to help other people where I'm at, serving at Living Way Church Maui. And it's for both women and men. Someone shared earlier, I guess he wanted to know something about the men, but we do service them, too, as well. And I'm just a product of all of that...just changed. And I thank you guys for having this, and I thank you for Leslee Matthew [sic], who I love very much. And if wasn't for her, you know, doing this as well, I...I wouldn't be here today. And I'm grateful for Child Family Services, I'm grateful for Women Helping Women, and Neighborhood Place of Wailuku when they first opened. So, I'm a product of all of that. And it's possible for the change, we just need people to hear us and help. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Mahoe, for your testimony. No questions, but thank you for sharing this morning. Mr. Pascual?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the last individual signed up to testify is Koali'i Williams.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Koali'i.

MR. WILLIAMS: Aloha mai kākou. My name is Koali'i Mahoe Williams. And my whole life...my whole life I've lived through domestic violence with my...my mother and my sister. One of my earliest memories was my mom...my father pulling on my mother's hair, and my sister trying to break them apart. And seeing that has not...has not positively affected

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my mind as...as a...as a growing person. And a lot of people my age don't really like to speak about this topic, which is why the upcoming generation is so locked in...locked in on their own mind, and just keeping themselves away from what needs to happen. And what really helped me was the creation of a...of a safe place, and that is at Living Way Church Maui. We've been there for, again, my whole life. And really, these past few years have been the biggest impact on me and my mother's relationship with each other. And just being able to grow in that place is...is very effective. And I would just like to say that...that if it weren't for me speaking about what needs to be spoken about, then I wouldn't be the person I am today. And it really takes...it takes faith, and it takes just getting out of yourself, yeah. 'Cause lot...lots of...lots of kids, they...they're afraid to...to get out of their shell and really open up, but then again, that is...we need to have a safe place in order for...for people to open up. I'm actually one of the...one of the...the young adults at Pastor Greg's sons ha'a group. And again, 100...0 to 100, and then 100 to 0--that 100 to 0, it does not come with...it does not come naturally. It takes training, it takes discipline, but it also takes lots and lots of love for yourself, for others, and...yeah. And, you know, growing up, I thought that oh, I was raised this way, so I thought I should just raise my children, then maybe they turn out fine. And that...that is what's gonna lead the next generation to chaos. Yeah. We...we really need a safe place, and I...I just...I can't...I wouldn't be where I am if it weren't for Kahu Greg, and just his...his counsel and...and his words. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Koali'i, for your testimony. Members, any questions for Koali'i? Seeing none. Thank you, and --

MR. WILLIAMS: Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- for the work that you're doing. Mahalo. Mr. Pascual?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that is currently all the individuals signed up to testify. If anyone in the audience or on Teams would like to testify, please come up to the mic and begin your testimony or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams and Staff will unmute you. And here's the countdown...three, two, one. Seeing none, Chair. No one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Well, Mr. Pascual...Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Okay. No objection.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objection to closing testimony at the beginning of the meeting. Chair, any way that Staff could contact the construction folks outside? I'm...I'm sure it's very distracting for...

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, we've been in contact with support, and they're attempting to get the construction noises to stop shortly.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

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. . . END PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF MEETING. . .

CHAIR SINENCI: It's like we're at the dentist or something. Okay. Okay, Members, let's proceed with our first agenda item. Members, our first item on the agenda is Domestic Violence Awareness. This item is a Council Rule 7(B) item, so no legislative action will be taken this morning. I...I want to acknowledge that this is not an easy discussion, but a necessary one. On September 30th, President Biden issued a proclamation on National Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month 2024 for the month of October. This proclamation states, "Domestic violence affects millions of Americans across our nation with devastating consequences for survivors, families, and entire communities. Everyone deserves to live free from the fear of violence, especially in their own homes [sic]." The purpose of today's discussion is to raise awareness on domestic violence, efforts to end domestic violence, and resources available to those experiencing domestic violence in Maui County. Last month it was the 30th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act. This act created the nation's first ever National Domestic Violence Hotline, which has provided millions of Americans with life-saving support, answering its 7 millionth contact to the hotline this past year. Before turning the...the floor over to our panelists this morning, I want to announce an event and some available hotlines located in Hawai'i. There will be a Domestic Violence Awareness sign-waving on Friday, October 11th, at 3:00 p.m. at the State Capitol in Honolulu, and everyone will be wearing purple. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, you can contact Women Helping Women's 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline at (808) 579-9581; the Molokai Community Service Council's 24/7 Shelter Hotline at (808) 567-6888; the phone number for Trafficking Victim Assistance Program Hawai'i at (808) 721-9614; and Parents and Children Together at (808) 243-7001. You can also visit the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence's website for additional programs and resources. Members, I would now like to introduce our panel this morning. Ms. Sanoe Ka'aihue is the Executive Director of Women Helping Women, a nonprofit dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, a Maui native with over 11 years of experience in her sector. In this sector, Sanoe has helped lead many successful initiatives that have significantly improved community welfare. And also joining us online is Mr. Jordan Addison, who is the Program Manager for the Safe, Strong, and Sober Program at the Domestic Violence Action Center. And before coming to DVAC, Jordan was a high school teacher working in various places with high rates of domestic violence and substance abuse disorders. A survivor of domestic violence himself, Jordan now manages a statewide program that provides education, outreach, counseling, consultations, and advocacy services for those who are affected by intimate partner violence and unhealthy substance use. Also joining us, we have from the Police Department and the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Ms. Shelly Miyashiro DeMattos, as well as Ms. Ana Malafu-Eliesa. Okay. Ms. Ka'aihue, did you want to begin?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Thank you. Oh, hopefully you guys can hear me. Can you guys hear me?
All right.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Oh. Sanoe, real quick, before we get started, we see Committee Vice-Chair Johnson. Aloha and welcome.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Members, Council...community members. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office, and I'm alone in my workspace, and ready to work. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, for joining us. Go ahead Ms. Ka'aihue.

ITEM-1(23): DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS (Rule 7(B))

MS. KA'AIHUE: Oh, there...there the light. Okay. Mahalo, Committee Chair Sinenci. Thank you for inviting myself and my counterparts here to...to talk about this issue. Mahalo to all the Councilmembers. I know I've spoken to a few of you guys recently in the last couple of weeks, and so, I'm...I'm excited to be here. Yeah. Sounds like one dentist office outside, just FYI. But thank you for allowing me to share. Thank you for allowing me this time. And I just want to honor the survivors, thank you guys for sharing what you guys shared, takes a lot of bravery. Thank you, Pastor Greg, for doing what you do because...yes, yeah, we need our kane to be absolutely engrossed and encircled in services. Thank you, Leslee, for doing your important work at DVAC on the state level. And for everybody else that's here just to hear about what's going on and what...what we've been up to. Because truthfully, as...as a native Hawaiian woman, I'm not exactly out there on the forefront, I'm down with my brothers and sisters working on the ground. So, you know, for...for myself, it's important to share just a little bit of information, and just kind of what the future looks like for this County, that I'm hopeful that you guys will also help us be supportive of. So, mahalo again. As you guys know, October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and many of our organizations--not just statewide, but nationwide--we shed light on the impacts that DV has within our communities, our neighborhoods, and our families. This year's campaign centers around the theme, "Everyone Knows Someone." Because whether we realize it or not, each of us knows someone that's been affected by domestic violence. And, you know, we come from a small community, and so it's been in our families; it's been, you know, in our generations; it's been--hopefully what we can do right now is break those cycles of generational trauma that's going forward. It is true, one in three women and one in four men, as well as half of the LGBTQ+ community experience violence throughout their lifetime. And so, I would argue to say that this isn't a private, individual problem, that it's a community problem, and that requires community solutions. Throughout this month, there are events and activities happening all over. UHMC, Title 9, just sponsored the men's march last week Friday. We had a turnout of about 100 people, which...which is grand. We had it right here on the...on the lawn, beautiful spot to have it. And it was so nice to see some of our prosecutors there, Victim Witness, we had so many other community members that were marching not just to march and hold signs, right? So, we were there to pledge nonviolence. And this was--and I love seeing the guys that come out, all the kane that come out, because they are so excited...they're so excited to take that stand. And so, what they do is they...they say this pledge that centers around nonviolence, and they pledge to do better within their families, within their

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workplaces, within the schools...all of those things. But we had Prosecutor's Office, we had Victim Witness counselors, we had the Maui Police Department, as well as representation, of course, from the Kane Connection. And we had Child and Family Services, Parents and Children Together, Aloha House, Mental Health Kōkua...because yes, we need mental health services to be there as a representation as well. As well as the Pacific Counseling Group, and then, of course, many other individual community members that wanted to show support and stand with survivors. We see that there's a major shift in standing with survivors. Last year's wildfires and its initial calls to our crisis hotline and offices increased from around 250 to 550 per month. And those were ranging from people seeking crisis intervention, whether it was for mental health, substance abuse, or for safe shelter to individuals that were desperately looking for their family members that were on the mainland, that they didn't know where their family member was that lived in Lahaina. And so, their main thought was to let me call this crisis line and figure out who can help. And what that does to advocates that answering hotline calls is, we want to fix it. We're fixers. I don't know if you know that about advocates, but we want to fix everything. We try our hardest with the tools that we have, but we can't fix it all. And so, for us, especially those that have lost loved ones due to the fires, it's...it's been tough. And so, you know, for us, when we get those calls, we want to try and help as much as possible, and connect people. And we know that shelter is not necessarily the answer to a survivor leaving, right? Because nobody...let's be honest, nobody wants to be in the shelter. You have to live with a group of other people, and nobody wants to be there, right? It's the last resort. And so, I would challenge, you know, our...our county and our state to be one of the ones that...that does a next step before their shelter. There needs to be an intervention step. I don't know what that is yet, so don't ask me when you guys ask me questions. But, you know, today, those calls that came in to our crisis hotline have kind of tapered back down to where they usually are, which is around the 200 to 300 per month phase. And, you know, with football season and everything, we're going to see a little bit of an increase in calls to hotlines. As a result of the wildfires, what we're seeing now more is that there's anxiety...increased anxiety, increased substance abuse, increased depression, increased suicidal ideations. And the biggest overall need by any of our survivors that are coming and calling is for stable safe housing...housing first, right? That's the...that's the big thing that we're talking about these days. And again, I don't...I don't know what the solution is for that. My goal is to keep as many people safe as possible in whatever means that takes. Our...our county does it best, I will say that. Sorry, Leslee, I know you're on O'ahu now. But, you know, for...for our county, I feel like we collaborate a whole lot better than other counties, and it really, truly is that, you know, Maui is number one, for sure. So, be proud of yourselves as Councilmembers that...that we are number one. And then...so...so, one of the brightest things that we have for our future is the prevention work that I think is coming about not just because of the fires, and not just because we hope to end domestic violence within our careers but, you know, it's centered around what we're seeing at the state level, which is we need more policy work, which...there's a handful of us within the state that are working with the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence to bring more action on the state level, on the legislative level. And, you know, we're...we're trying to make moves, that's the thing. And I...I always say that, you know, within our own county, we also need to do better. On Lāna'i we have the Lāna'i Domestic Violence Task Force, as well

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as within Maui we have the Central Maui DV Task Force as well. And so, those groups are comprised of community members and other organizations that really want to try and focus on doing something more than just sign word...sign-waving and marches and all the things...which are great during October, and great throughout the year, but how do we effect the change within our schools? 'Cause I feel like...you know, years ago it was so much easier for us to get into the DOE, and now, it's such a challenge. We...we have a tough time, but we need people to invite us to that table, we need people to make that connection so that we can go in. 'Cause we're ready. We're absolutely ready. And so, the times that we've been able to go into the schools, it's because students have asked for it, and they've invited us. And we are more than happy to talk to all of the student bodies. But not just at the high school level, we need it at the intermediate level. We also need it probably on those kids that are in fourth and fifth grade 'cause that's how early these kids are being exposed to violence, right? I mean in my day, never have cell phone and so, you know, they have that in their...in their possession, and they have access to everything...which is also a blessing and a curse. We also have a newly-formed group that doesn't exactly have a name yet . . .(laughing). . . that we are working to take a deeper dive into seeing where our gaps are in services and systems, and trying to eliminate the harm that is caused to survivors. So, those gaps in the systems when survivors have to repeat their stories over and over again is...is not fun. It just brings more trauma. It digs them deeper, and it still gives...puts blame on the victim. So, that's what we're trying to eliminate. When do we start holding our abusers accountable for actions? And that's why I'm glad that there's programs that exist...like Kamalama, sounds like Maka is going to be an amazing group as well, and Kane Connections and those kinds of intervening groups. Because when you see those guys, and they're like happy, healthy, learning things at a cultural level, right? When do we get back to basics as native Hawaiians, to...to learn more about what our ancestors did, what our people did. Violence like that didn't exist, right? And so, for us, it's...it's how do we help all the parts and pieces? 'Cause victims, yes, can get safe shelter, but it doesn't allow them an opportunity to heal the family, 'cause that's what we want to do. And so, yeah, we...this group is...is, I would challenge to say--we don't meet underground or anything like that, but kind of technically, we do--but it consists of MPD, consists of the Prosecutor's office, Victim Witness, Aloha House, Kane Connection, Parents and Children Together. And our hope is that we can think outside of the box 'cause if we keep doing the same thing and expecting that to change, we're...you know, obviously, it's not going to change, and it hasn't for years. And we need to break, as systems, our own cycles of abuse. So, it's important that...that we get this done. And so, I feel like that prevention work will come more as the years go on--actually, as the months go on, I would say--not years. 'Cause we don't want to wait years, we want it to help now. And this year feels more like there's a year for great change, and that there is this humongous sense of urgency to get this done, and to get justice for survivors. 'Cause truthfully, there's not always justice for survivors, right? At the end, even if there is justice given, it doesn't feel complete. It...it...survivors need to...they spend their lifetimes trying to heal, and especially as survivors come forward. So, we have...we do a remembrance, a vigil of sorts, during October, and it consists of all the victims that have died from domestic violence dating back from 1994. So, if any of you are interested, any of the Councilmembers, we...we...I would be more than happy to send that out, and so you guys can see and take a look at all the victims that have been--whether male,

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female, or keiki even...there's keiki on that list. And so, I'm excited for what the future looks like for this movement. And yes, definitely, we want to put ourselves out of work. We don't want shelters to exist, and yet, we still need them. I will tell you, as of today, we have--I want to say 25 people in shelter, which our bed capacity is 26. So, we're nearly there, and every day's changing. And so, you know, I'm...I'm very hopeful for the future. And we have to be 'cause if not, how are we going to fix anything around here? But I think that's it. I think that's all I have to say. But I...I appreciate each and every one of you sitting there and listening to the ramblings of an Executive Director from a DV program, and excited that these guys probably got more numbers than me. I...you know, I try to bring the heart and the...the localness from all of this. But thank you, guys. I appreciate you all.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Sanoe, for that. Before we go on to Jordan, the Chair would just like to recognize Member Sugimura. Keshi.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, everybody. We did the blessing on the Kula Community Center, and Gabe and I were there. So, it was a beautiful ceremony. Thank you, and sorry that I'm late your meeting.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for joining us. Mr. Addison, did you have some opening remarks?

MR. ADDISON: Yeah. Thank you so much. Thank you all for...for inviting me here today, and thank you to everyone that has spoken so far. I just want to...to share a little bit about the program here at DVAC that we're trying to get out into the...the neighbor islands, and not just be on O'ahu, because that's where so many of our resources are focused. So, just...the most recent numbers that we have, just to kind of echo what Sanoe said, from the Hawai'i State Coalition is that one in five people in Hawai'i will face domestic violence at some point in their lives. One in three of those being female, one in four male. And the number from...from one of our programs that goes into the schools statewide, we're looking at about one in four high schoolers are dealing with domestic violence, both physical and the...the coercive tactics that come along with that. So, the Safe, Strong, and Sober Program, which is the program that I manage, it's a new program at...at DVAC. And we...we do operate statewide, and we have lots of resources that we can offer in terms of prevention. So, part of the program is comprehensive training. So, we're going into health care facilities, we're going into substance use treatment facilities, as well as DV service providers, and we're training them on this intersection between domestic violence and substance use and substance use disorders, how those two things impact one another, how they might show up for clients, and...and for the patients that they might have, and how do we work best with those people. How do we get them the support that they need while still being trauma-informed? We also have consultation, so people can call from any island...you can call me up, and say, I have this person who's dealing with domestic violence, I don't know what to do, can you please help me? We can provide that...that consultation service, referrals to any kind of resources that they might need that we know about, and then all of this, again, is totally free. We have support groups. And this is something that we have...hopefully we'll have one going on Maui pretty soon with Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies. We also have one on Hawai'i Island, and one here on O'ahu. And those support groups are

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for survivors of domestic violence that are looking for a place to...to heal, to make some community with other people who have gone through something similar to them. And the thing I'm most excited about, that we just got approved for a couple months back is, we now have a dedicated advocate here on staff. And that person can provide direct client services to the entire state for domestic violence and substance use. And we are a little limited, in that we can't do led-court accompaniment on the other islands, but things that they might need, like crisis counseling, referrals to other resources--we...we had someone call just last week, and it was really simple, she just needed help figuring out how she could apply for benefits in her situation. And we were able to provide that service to her, which is taking a little bit of the...that burden off of people on Maui that might . . .*(inaudible)*. . . there's definitely not enough people for all of the needs that we have. We know that...that 75 percent of domestic violence providers need substance-use help for their clients nationwide. And we're...we're happy to be able to provide that kind of resource. We have Naloxone for free, that we have gotten through the Department of Health, that we can get out to anyone that needs it. And we...we really just want to get into all of the communities across the neighbor islands. So, any...anybody that you know that might could use the training, they might could use some resources, just somebody to consult with...and that we will fly over to do all the trainings--we do have funding from the...the Federal Government for that--connect them with me, I...we would be happy, we'd would love to. We will have trained on every island except Ni'ihau as of October 30th. We're finally getting to Molokai, I'm so excited to be able to offer some training and services on Molokai. And I...we work a little bit with Pouhana O Nā Wāhine, which is the native Hawaiian domestic violence services here on O'ahu, and we recently just worked with them to post some statistics. And it was really, really horrifying to all of us to...to see what those were. Even though, unfortunately, native Hawaiians make up the smallest demographic of people on the Island of O'ahu, they are the largest number of clients that we serve at DVAC. So, we are happy to be able to offer culturally-relevant support groups, as well as services with advocates who are Hawaiian, who are Filipino, who might be an immigrant from Japan. Right now on staff, we have people who speak or are from the Marshall Islands, we have someone who speaks Chuukese, we have someone who speaks Pohnpeian, we have two Hawaiian advocates on staff, we also have two Japanese advocates, three people speak Spanish, and we have a Korean-speaking person. So, we're happy to be able to "loan" those people out for any services that people might need, just get our helpline a call. And the biggest thing, just--again, to echo what Sanoë said--is that 78 percent of people who are calling us asking for help need housing. They need stable housing. And that's...that's something that we don't have enough of, even here on O'ahu. And not just shelters, but also transitional housing, housing where people can go in the in-between, when they're safe enough to not be in the shelter anymore, but they still need somewhere to help them until they can get back on their feet and get their own place. To my knowledge, there are 35 of those units here on O'ahu. I don't know if there are any on Maui. And that's 35 specific beds to sleep in, so we're very low capacity. So, just to close, again, thank you so much. I...I want to...to offer as much help as DVAC can offer, and Safe, Strong, and Sober can offer to Maui County. And any...anywhere, any way that we can, feel free to...you can just go safestrongsober.org, all of our contact information is there, to get in touch with me if there's anything that

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we can offer to...to any of you. And again, thank you so much to everybody that spoke already this morning. It was great to hear all of your stories.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Jordan, for joining us this morning. Before we go on to our other resources--Member Sugimura, you're...you're there at home by yourself?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, I am here alone, my husband's downstairs, yes.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Miyashiro DeMattos?

MS. DEMATTOS: Good morning.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good morning.

MS. DEMATTOS: I just want to thank...thank the Council for allowing us to speak. It's...I just want to thank the Council for allowing us to speak on this. Thank you so much. I want to say, it's always very humbling to be in the presence of strong women who do the hard work--Ms. Ka'aihue on my left, Ms. Malafu on my right, Ms. Matthews in the...in Chambers. And it just pushes me to try to do better. Excuse me. I just want to share a little bit of what we do at the Prosecutor's Office. The approach we take is a multidisciplinary trauma-informed approach. We work with the Police to make sure that the cases are investigated as best they can be. We work with our Victim Witness advocates so they can provide the support to victims as needed. We take a victim-centered approach. So, again, the focus is on the victim's needs--safety, well-being, trying to keep them informed regarding the criminal process. And I just want to take...take note that the reason I use the word "victim"...it's a word that we use to determine who is the person who has been harmed and who the offender is. So, I just want to, you know, put that out there. We have a domestic violence team that consists of three to four deputies--four when we're fully staffed--currently it's three deputies who handle vertical prosecution of adult family cases. By vertical...vertical prosecution, I mean, they will initially get the case, review it, screen it, work with the victim, and then if the case is charged, they will see it through to the end--whether it's trial, whether it's a plea, and sentencing. Excuse me. The different types of offenses that our deputies handle is abuse. And that could be petty misdemeanor abuse, which could involve offensive touching; misdemeanor abuse, which could mean bodily injury, or physical harm, or violating a warning citation. Then there's also felony abuse, which could involve the act of strangulation, or abuse in the presence of minors, so 14 and under 14 years old. In addition to those offenses, they handle violation of temporary restraining orders or order for protections, and sometimes custodial interference. So, this is when a parent may remove their child from the county or from the state, you know, in violation of a court order, or trying to take away the right of the other parent. In addition to the family abuse or domestic violence cases, our deputies also handle other adult felony matters, and it's just the way the court is set up. Judge Drewyer does handle the adult family court cases, but I suspect due to the number of cases, due to the shortage of judges, she also will hand her...handle property crimes, other felony assaults and, you know, the more serious cases--murder, sexual assaults, you know, other offenses of those nature. I just want to share a little bit of the number of cases

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that we received. In looking at our stats, I looked at the past five years. On average, our deputies handle about...little over 800 cases with the domestic violence attribute. So, these are cases that include the felony assaults, as well as, you know, felony abuse, misdemeanor abuse. I want to note that the cases that we receive are cases that are reported. There...I suspect there are many cases that go unreported. And, you know, in speaking with victims, you know, there are times where they share prior incidents, I don't have a police report for it, and sometimes, you know, what is reported actually isn't the most serious incidents. The number of cases we charge does vary, it could be around 40...low-40 percent up to 50 percent. There many reasons why...or factors to consider why we may not charge an offense. The standard that we use in charging is proof beyond a reasonable doubt, and the reason is, that's what we need to prove at trial. Excuse me. We are looking at how we prosecute cases, we're trying to take a more evidence-based approach, this is also sometimes known as a victimless prosecution. So, even if the victim doesn't want to come to court, we're able to proceed, you know, within the rules of court, within the rules of evidence. And this may be looking at, you know, excited utterances that were made to the dispatcher, or excited utterances that were made to the responding officer...whether there's physical injury, sign, symptoms of strangulation. So, you know, that's something that we're trying to do to, you know, better charge these cases. The point of me talking about numbers is just to kind of put it out there, that domestic violence is pervasive. It's a public health issue, it's a public safety issue. And I do share Sanoë's sentiment that we...we can do better. And late last year, Sanoë and Prosecuting Attorney Andrew Martin got together, they decided that we need to bring people to the table to address domestic violence. So, we do have a community working group. Right now, we've been meeting...we do it in the basement. So, that's why there was Sanoë's comment about meeting underground, it's the basement conference room at our office, which has since been vacated, but we're able to use that room. What I think is interesting about this group is that we do have community partners who provide victim services--Women Helping Women, PACT--but we also have Kane Connections at the table, and they provide offender services. So, I...and we also have Aloha House at the table, who provide services for everyone...substance abuse, mental health. And, of course, the Police are there, Victim Witness advocates and, you know, the Prosecutors. And I do agree that in Maui County, we work well together. It's a small working group. It may get heated, you know, discussions may get heated...heated on what we need to do, what we should do, but the focus is on how we can do better. And I...I appreciate that we don't get hung up on positions or ego, you know, like I am this person and so you need to do what I say. It...it's...really is a collaboration. And again, we're taking account of the services that are available. We're really trying to look at gaps in...in the system. And it may not be by the time the case gets to my office, it may be, you know, many steps before. Another thing that we've done is education and training. I think that always helps us, my office. It...it helps us take a look at, you know, is what we do it, you know, are we doing what's best practice. And I just want to share that, you know, it helps when the training involves all types of disciplines. In late August, we had a training on strangulation prevention. A lot of it was...we had new deputies, and I...I wanted them to, you know, receive that training on how to prosecute these difficult cases. But we also included the Police, our Victim Witness advocates, community partners--Women Helping Women, PACT, Child Family Services--as well as members from UHMC, probation officers, and I

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think we're lucky to have one EMT. But, you know, moving forward, doing this multidisciplinary training, I think, is beneficial in addressing domestic violence. Again, I...you know, I do thank you for allowing us to...to be at the table to present today. I feel that the more that we talk about it, we can educate people. I, myself, am also get educated in what's out there. So, I do appreciate the services that DVAC is providing, and I do look forward to working with them, as well as our other community partners.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Miyashiro DeMattos. Ms. Malafu-Eliesa, some comments?

MS. MALAFU-ELIESA: Okay. Sorry, this is my first time here. I appreciate this opportunity to come and speak to you on behalf of Victim Witness. Not a lot of people know about Victim Witness. Victim Witness is a division in the Maui Prosecutor's Office, and our role...our main role is to provide notification to our victims, as well as providing resources, and connecting them with our community partners, such as Women Helping Women, Child Family Services, PACT, also working closely with Children's Justice Center. And most recently, I just met with Kane Connections, and I'm so excited to hear that Pastor Greg has also a Maka organization. I think it's very crucial to our community that we involve everyone to the table because this fight and the efforts that we need to assist with domestic violence, it...it involves everyone from private, to nonprofit, to our Councilmembers, to the community. What we realized in our office is that as mentioned earlier, we've had several meetings for years, and yet we've struggled to move forward in our efforts. And a lot of times we kind of neglect what's really important out there, which is the community, and...and their...their response, and their assistance. In doing so, a lot of people don't really participate in these efforts until it is at their front door, and then we'll get people coming in saying I want to help, I want to assist. And we don't want it to get to their front door, we want to be able to provide prevention. With that being said, we currently have a total of 12 staff with Victim Witness. Nine of them are Victim Witness counselors, and every day they go out to court. They accompany our victims whether to court hearings, or they're accompanying them to provide victim impact statements, to assist with applying for crime victim compensation, to assist with any type of financial assistance. But together with our community efforts with Sano'e and everyone else that are experts in this, we are grateful because the road to healing takes a long time. And these commitments of protecting victims and not revictimizing them, being sensitive to their victim issues, and being responsive to their victim needs, we won't be able to do that, as mentioned earlier too by our speakers. We don't...some people are comfortable coming forward, others are not. And a lot of the times, they...they go to their religious leaders. Religious leaders get the brunt of the...most of the impact because they feel safe there. And why is that? Because there's no judgment, and they feel safe. So, we need to open our doors, we need to sit down with everyone. This group that was mentioned earlier, our goal is to involve others in the community because we were just really trying to do our very best, but we don't have all the answers. As Shelly mentioned, our goal also is to provide training to our staff so they are victim-centered to those that are involved in the community. It's open, please do so. We are grateful for our survivors--Shelly, and your son, thank you for coming up here--as well as our other sister. I'm sorry, your voices is what makes matters come to the forefront for all of us. So, without your voices, without your experiences, we won't be able to do this fight. And I appreciate that our Councilmembers are allowing us to be here to provide

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some type of education. You know, this...this time that we have here is not a lot of time, but we do appreciate any platform that we're able to share. Thank you to everyone, and we appreciate all that you do for our community. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Malafu-Eliesa. Staff, do we have Officer Gandauli online?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, we do not see her online. Apologies.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Is there anyone else wanting to provide testimony on WASSP-1(23)?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. We have Faith Chase signed up.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Chase.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WASSP-1(23) . . .

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, she's currently unmuted on our end. Oh, I see her.

MS. CHASE: Aloha. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Committee. I...I wasn't planning to testify, but I'm so moved by the reports and the testifiers. First of all, thank you. I'm in absolute agreement with Mrs. Malafu when she says that the testifiers' stories are so important for other people to hear. That is so true. Thank you. It does take a really huge sense of bravery, especially if it's maybe your first time, so thank you for that. I just wanted to say that Ka'a...how do I say her name? Awe, shucks.

CHAIR SINENCI: Ka'aihue.

MS. CHASE: Ka'aihue, okay. I wrote it down...Sanoe. What a...what a moving...thank you so much. I've never heard a how it...I've never heard cultural approaches so consistent, so succinct, so...so relevant. Shane and I have a fellow schoolmate from Hāna who got into, you know, some...some addiction issues maybe, whatever law, and he was offered to go to Ni'ihau to do a cultural rehabilitation program. And he was offered to do...you know, he had a longer sentence, and so it was a shorter rehabilitation program, but it was culturally-based. And from his story to...hearing his story, every single one of those participants that went--I think it was a little under a dozen--they are still like sober, safe, happy contributors to their communities. And...and anyway, nobody...it was 100 percent successful, and it's never been done before. So, I just empower all of you Councilmembers to support any ideas that this working group or that Sanoe puts forth because I'm just...that's...it's the heart of...it's the heart of a lot of our problems. And you guys know that I come to testify when it's like damage control. And that's...this is the inception point, and I'm just really, really proud of...of hearing...of hearing your test... your presentation today. And good on everybody for doing the good work, and Pastor Greg, and everybody. I just had to get on and say that. Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Chase for your testimony. Members, any questions for Ms. Chase? Seeing none. Again, mahalo for joining us this morning. Mr. Pascual, any other testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. The final testifier is Rainey Dock Matthews.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Aunty Rainey.

MS. R. MATTHEWS: Aloha. Aloha. Thank you for this opportunity. I also, along with others that have shared, Council...Council Chair Member Sinenci. Thank you so much for giving this space, this time, for this vital important topic. My name is Rainey Dock Matthews. I wrote down notes so I can be sure to try to stay on topic. I live in Wailuku with my daughter, Leslee Dawn Hauoliokalani (*phonetic*) Matthews, but right now I'm watching and tuning in from DAFW (*phonetic*) Texas. So, I was very, very mindful to be sure to put this on my calendar. First, for the record, I want to say that even though my daughter Leslee Matthews works for the...serves for the O'ahu based DVAC, she is a very, very, very strong, first of all, Maui girl, and a very strong and loud voice to DVAC and to anybody that will listen to bring those services to Maui, and also to the other outer islands. So, it's...it's very important. Something else I want to let you all know that I never really said this publicly, but that I am a 73-year-old survivor of emotional, psychological, and mental domestic violence in my home, where I sadly but...and...and for the first 19 years of my life, sadly, my dad was an alcoholic, and he was very abusive...physically abusive to my mom and my...I am the eldest of 12. So, anyway...so, I'm 73 years old and still, in a way...like PTSD, recovering, but ever, ever, ever arming myself with knowledge and information so that I can reach out and help others. And also, my voice this time is going to be on behalf of Persons with Disabilities in this...this topic. Even though I recently resigned from the Maui County Commission on Persons with Disability...Disabilities, I remain a very strong, outspoken voice and advocate on behalf of Persons with Disabilities, and in this beautiful, beautiful community of which I am a part. I am the executive director of my own nonprofit, Balm of Healing Haven Incorporate [*sic*], where we are an organization who provide a holistic . . . (*timer sounds*). . . approach for wellness, renewal, and restoration of hope to women who are victims of domestic violence. And something...a statistic that I want to bring up that I pulled up here, and that is that women with domestic violence...I mean, women who are...I'm sorry, I lost it here in my notes. But anyway, women who are...about 80 percent of women who are living with disabilities are also victims of domestic violence. You will find that the persons with disabilities are like--and I did hear...I did hear the bell, and I'm gonna wrap up--that they...it's we...they experience probably four times more of the domestic violence. And in everybody's presentation this morning--I mean, this...this morning for you all I think...yeah, morning--I did not hear the disability element factor brought in. And I want you all to be...please, be aware with regards to. And Jordan and Leslee, are going to be doing a domestic violence changing...training session in the Women's Correctional Center on O'ahu tomorrow morning. And they go for training anywhere they are invited. If you all want to invite them, invite them...they'll train. Thank you so very much.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Matthews, for your testimony this morning. Members, any questions for Ms. Matthews? Seeing none. Thank you. Staff?

MS. R. MATTHEWS: Mahalo.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that is all the individuals signed up to testify on this item. If anyone in the audience or on Teams that would like to testify, please come up to the mic and begin your testimony or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams and Staff will unmute you. And here's the countdown...three, two, one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any objections to closing public testimony at this time?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

. . . END PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WASSP-1(23) . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Members. I know we're...we have another item after this, so we're just going to jump right into it. We've...that was a lot of information, but we can go ahead and start our Q&A part of the...the meeting. So, we'll just start with Committee Vice-Chair Johnson, followed by Member Cook, and Pro Tem Kama...for three minutes.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Committee Chair Sinenci, for bringing this topic forward. It's very important, and really appreciate a chance to discuss this. So, so many resources out there, and I'm...was listening to a lot of you folks' presentation. Can we just distill it down to a presenter just tell us how folks contact you? Because in your presentations, there was times when you mentioned a website, but I didn't hear a phone number, is that not...so, maybe, any of the presenters, if you've got a number, and a email, and a website, just blurt it out and we can go through that, just for the record, so people know how to contact you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Sanoe?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Thank you. Mahalo, Council...Councilmember Gabe. Best number, down to the nitty-gritty, is our hotline (808) 579-9581, that's the funnel for...for a lot of things. It's answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week rain, shine, hurricane, whatever...we're there. Sometimes it's me answering that call. So, main thing, the hotline number (808) 579-9581.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Sanoe. And how about Mr. Addison? Or...I'm sorry, if...

MR. ADDISON: Yeah. So, the...the best way to get in touch with DVAC is (808) 531-3771. That's our...also our help line number.

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VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Anyone else has a number we want to share?

MS. MALAFU-ELIESA: Yes. Hi, this is Ana with Victim Witness. Victim Witness phone number is (808) 270-7695.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: And I really appreciate that. Is that everyone? I want to make sure that all this information's available for folks in this meeting. So...okay. I'm going to get into a question here, and the question that keeps coming to my mind is that hurt people hurt people. You know, I hear that statement a lot. And so, you know, when we think about how do we help the folks who are hurting so they don't go and, you know, continue the cycle, and I think of systems, is there anything in County that systemically we can start working on, where folks aren't getting traumatized by our processes, our systems? Because...are there things that we're not doing correctly as a County? So, anything out there any of you resource persons want to address? I...we...we got thick skin here. Tell us what we're not doing, or we can do better and, you know, we can try to work on those things.

MS. MALAFU-ELIESA: Hello. I'm going to jump in just for a little bit. Because I'm hearing the testimonies, it was brought up about culturally-based. . . .(timer sounds). . . And when you talk about hurt people hurt others, I...I believe a lot of the cultures, they...the way they've been taught or raised as far as dealing with trauma or any type of violence is different from your day-to-day approaches that is done in the community. I'm Tongan, so I'm going to speak...I'm not an expert in Tongan, but I'm going to speak on our community as far as how it looks like. When things happen, we get everyone involved--the family, the pastor, the uncle, the aunty--and it's like a family effort to do that. And I'm sure other nationalities deal with their type of healing. And as we mentioned earlier, bringing people to the table, these are the groups that we want to bring to the table. Because a lot of...we need to hear from them. As Shelly mentioned, there's been a decline in reporting, and it can be for all types of reasons. People don't trust, people don't feel safe, but people also don't like the way things are handled and situations. So, I don't know if that's answering the question, but that's addressing a group of people in the community that we need to get involved with, and that we would like part of those groups to be...have a voice at the table. So, that's my contribution for that section. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. I heard the bell. I can wait for second round, Chair, because I know we have other...you know, another item.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Johnson. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for bringing this important topic to the floor. And I didn't have any clarifying questions for all the testifiers, but I did want to say just how touched I was, how...how huge their contribution in sharing was, and how it gives substance and meaning and personalizes what we're discussing today. And forgive me if I'm not saying your name right, from the Prosecutor's office...the Defender's office...Prosecutor or Defender?

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Prosecutor.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Prosecutor. Mirashiro [sic]? Okay. Eight hundred cases per year --

MS. DEMATTOS: That's --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- approximately?

MS. DEMATTOS: -- yes. That's about the number of cases we've received.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And there's like three Deputies?

MS. DEMATTOS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, would I...could I interpret that staffing, and timing, and being able to quickly, promptly address the process through the system is problematic?

MS. DEMATTOS: Yes. And I think your spot on as far as identifying some of the issues that our deputies do deal with.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I...I wanted to give a shout out to Kahu Greg for what they're doing. Because I think that the example that we...that I see often with our government, we can potentially be helpful financially, we can be supportive with trying to massage laws that are effective and work for people, but it seems like the services that you're doing and providing personally are the most effective. So, come ask for more money. I...I guess that's not much of a question. I just wanted to say thank you very, very much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Cook. Next, we have Pro Tem Kama, followed by Chair Lee, and then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, my question is going to be directed to Mr. Addison. So, Mr. Addison, you mentioned in your presentation that you were startled to get the data regarding native Hawaiians in regards to domestic violence. Are you able to share that data with us?

MR. ADDISON: Yeah...yeah, absolutely. So, it is from the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Their most recent numbers, I think, come out from 2023. See if I can pull it up right now. *(pause)* So, this data, it's called Scars on the Heart, that's their most recent report. So, the numbers we have most...most recently is, one in five surveyed residents, and that's 20...27 percent are native Hawaiian who have called just the DVAC Helpline. That's not even all the Statewide resources, that's just the DVAC Helpline in itself.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Um-hmm.

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MR. ADDISON: But of the...the population statewide that were surveyed--sorry, I'm trying to find it quick--66 percent women, 33 percent men, and our two biggest demographic groups are native Hawaiian at 30 percent, and Filipino at 24 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. Is it possible for you to send it to the Committee so maybe we might want to --

MR. ADDISON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- take a look at that? Okay. That would --

MR. ADDISON: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- be perfect. Yeah. So, the other thing I wanted to say is that in culturally-based programs, one of the things that's usually missing in other type of programs is always that spiritual component, right? Because in terms of separation of church and state. But when you do cultural-type programs, there's always going to be that spiritual base that these people from these cultures come from. So, knowing that, is that...when you...when all of you--and this is to all of you who do programming--when you look at doing culturally-based program, do you folks also are able to include the spiritual component in there?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Thank you, Councilmember Kama, for that question.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Yes. Long story short, yes, we can. And that's...and that gets tricky though, right? Because of the Federal funding --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. KA'AIHUE: -- and all of those things some of our funders...

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. KA'AIHUE: However, if it's for the betterment of the individual and the family unit, then...then we will include that because that is what is requested, yeah. So, everybody's kind of --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MS. KA'AIHUE: -- case-by-case, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

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MS. KA'AIHUE: And of course, we want to include that because spirituality . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . is such a big thing. And so, yeah, when...when we have programs, if we can't do it, we'll find somebody else that can do it.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, perfect.

MS. KA'AIHUE: But we're...we're more than happy to offer that to any survivors that...that come through, or any of their family members that come through. So, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Perfect...perfect. Thank you, Chair. I heard the bell.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Tem Kama. Next, we have Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin, and then Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thank you. My question would be--is it my turn? My question would be for whoever feels most qualified to answer. You know, I heard you say like don't wait until it comes to your door, or for friends and families, if they're not...if they're not one of you folks with the tools and techniques and knowledge, sometimes you're scared to intervene, especially if you have, you know, your own struggles, and financial, and whatnot, plenty children and...and you just don't want to make it worse. And like you don't have the full-time attention, financial resources, and you're just trying to help. And I...I guess I was kind of nervous, I guess, about what Ms. Miyashiro was saying about prosecuting folks without the victim's cooperation, that if...if victims don't want to leave or...or cooperate, that...of just the fear of making it worse, the situation. And I just was wondering if you had any suggestion of that. Like, you know, what if...what if folks are in FEMA direct-lease housing or something, and...and this jeopardizes their status? Or, you know, it's okay now, and...and you just don't want to make it worse, especially if they're not trained in how to deal with these things, and it's just a random person's friends and family.

MS. KA'AIHUE: I don't know if I'm the most qualified . . . *(laughing)*. . . Councilmember Paltin, but I will say that we have dealt with a lot of FEMA calls from people calling, that they see somebody that they...that FEMA has either housed, or they have them in the hotels and the resorts and whatnot, and they're experiencing violence. So, we've actually gone into those settings and set up stations right? For them to confidentially report. So, we wanted to...for our...for us and for our goal was to give that information, give space--because we gave space for everything else, right--as the fires happened. And the hugest thing that we saw was that yes, the FEMA workers were not equipped to deal with any of that. And so, we wanted to be able to give them all the resources. Now, whether...and FEMA's, you know, is whatever, and they...they did what they did, and I'm not gonna, you know, whatever, but they...they took what they had and what we gave them, and tried to come up with their own responses...or even for family members, right? Like where I live, my building...DV all the time. I call the cops all the time. And so, for me, I know how to respond, but that means that everybody in my neighborhood avoids me because they don't want... . . . *(laughing)*. . . because they know where I work, and they know how I'm going to respond. But it's giving that aunty . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that uncle, whoever, the opportunity to give the resources...or to just say like eh, I don't

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know how to respond, I don't know how to help you necessarily, but this is...this is the number. Take the number, call 'em. Because the ones on the hotlines are the ones that are equipped to talk with them, and to support them in any way possible. But as far as other entities coming outside and then coming in trying to do this work, we encourage them highly...highly, highly encourage them to come and seek the providers. And that's what FEMA did initially, and we were able to help them, but I don't know how much...what they did with it. I think there was kind of a checkbox on their list of things to do, and we...we tried. We tried as much as possible. But for the average everyday aunty, uncle, mom, dad, whatever, it's give them the one number. If they just have one number in their thing, and they can give it to somebody, and they can offer that hand-holding, that support...not forcing, but to hand-hold is better than zero, right? Better than nothing at that point. Sorry. I hope that answers your question, little bit.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you just...if you give the number that couldn't make it worse. But sometimes have you seen it be worse from outside entities trying to help or intervene?

MS. KA'AIHUE: A hundred percent. Because what we did see was that people were giving misinformation, yeah. 'Cause even if we give them the information directly, then they're passing it on to other people. But if there's an intention for a group of people to learn and understand the same information, then the misinformation doesn't happen. So, yeah. I would encourage...like it's not just a supervisor who needs to know this information, it's everybody...the whole line staff that works directly with. And they also have to want to learn that information, and they also have to want to apply it the way that an advocate who is very victim-centered...victim-centered and survivor-centered to apply that knowledge.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin.

MS. MALAFU-ELIESA: Is it okay if I chime in --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I think...

MS. MALAFU-ELIESA: -- right now? Member --

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MS. MALAFU-ELIESA: -- Paltin? Sorry. Can you guys hear me? Is this working? Okay. I think I brought up the...the comment, let's not wait till it gets to our doorstep. And I say that because somebody touched on it earlier, that we need to start--I think it was you, Sanoe--that said we need to start at a younger age on teaching our youngsters and our families healthy...healthy choices, and how to deal with things at an early age. I know we can't tell people what to do, and...but we are here to help them. And when they're ready to move on, or ready to report, we only pray that they have all the resources they have and the tools that they have. So, our hope is--with this group that we're starting--that we can start with our community, and involving a lot of different . . .(timer sounds) . . . organizations to be a part, and have a seat at the table so we can

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discuss how we can approach this as a community. So, our...our hope is that we have hope for our children, for our kids. And yes, I want to thank Councilmember Cook because usually, in these type of arenas as far as victims of crime, it's not sometimes a priority. We want it to be a priority. Our VOCA (*phonetic*) grant--which is Victims of Crime [*sic*]-has been cut to use for other resources and reasons that the Federal Government has decided to do. So, we are short-handed, not only with the attorneys, but also with victim advocates. 'Cause not--nine advocates at our office cannot cover all three islands. It's a ridiculous amount, but that's how it is. We do what we can do with our community, and we use our...or nonprofits and our community service providers to help us with our efforts. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. That was the...we'll go on to our next...Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I did see Mr. Addison with his hand up. I'm not sure if you wanted to give him a minute to...

CHAIR SINENCI: It's your...your time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure, he can have some of my time.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Mr. Addison, go ahead.

MR. ADDISON: Thanks. I just wanted to...really briefly to share two things. First is that I forgot to mention earlier, DVAC has a statewide program called the Teen Alert Program, which goes into middle schools and high schools across the state to provide sessions for kids on healthy relationships...what to do if they see somebody that's not in a...in a good relationship. So, my boss would probably be really mad at me if she knew I forgot to mention that today. And the other thing is just to...to go on this topic of what...what can we do, you know, if you're not comfortable. There are some devices that DVAC has that I would be really happy to mail out to anybody that would want them. We have...first, they look like little gift cards--I don't know if you can see those--but the number on the back that you're supposed to call to check the balance is actually a DV Crisis Line number. And we also have lipstick tubes and tampons that are actually empty. On the inside of them there's a tiny little scroll that has statewide DV numbers of agencies, as well as safety planning tips on how to keep yourself safe in an emergency. So, if any of those would be useful to anybody, just let me know, and I...I'm happy to mail them out to all of you. I'll just send you a whole bunch to the office.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. I'm just going to read everything I'm going to say, and then that way the resource people can respond. Mahalo to all our resources and all the testifiers who came out today to share information with us. And mahalo, Chair, for scheduling this item. So, my question is--and then I'm going to add some comments and then let you folks speak to it--do you have any idea if there's been a report...a study done on the cost of responding and recovering from domestic

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violence as a whole? Investment in prevention instead of response and recovery...and response and recovery, I'm sure, costs more, and it is likely exponential. And sometimes there isn't recovery because of harm done to oneself, right, taking one's life. And I know prevention is likely hard to quantify because it's hard to put a value on something that did not happen, harm that did not occur. The 0 to 10, 10 to 0 escalation/de-escalation is...it's...is so important for all of us to learn. Emotional regulation is something that is expected to be taught at home in the family, but what happens when it's not? What happens when what is taught is violence and emotional dysregulation? I think Ms. Malafu-Eliesa nailed it with early age, and Mr. Addison with Teens on Alert, but even earlier than teens. Because where should emotional regulation be taught? Like where is that space if it's not at home. And, you know, I...I think it is as important, if not more, than math, reading in schools, and should be part of the curriculum at an early age where breathing techniques and understanding how to regulate your...yourself is so important. But also, as Member Kama pointed out, spiritual centers, cultural centers, can also serve these types of purposes. And in Member Johnson's comments about systems, and recognizing that in this extracted capitalistic system, that often these systems profit more off of sick people, and so there isn't as much incentive within the system to help people heal themselves, heal others and have a healthy community because it's just not as profitable. When speaking about intervention and what that looks like, I agree completely that it's in community...whether it's family, friends, religious fellowship, it's...it's...it is...the answer is always community--a group of people who care about each other, who have kuleana to each other, and want to see each other succeed. And when we don't have housing where folks can have...like have stability, and then learn...like get to know their neighbors, and have their children grow up with each other, and have those types of relationships and bonds, and build that kuleana to each other, to want to see each other succeed and lift each other up...with like housing speculation happening, and it...it...eroding that ability for us to build community. I...I believe that's...that's part of the problem, too. And if it...to respond to the whole hurt people can hurt people--silence your cell phones...silence your cell phones--healed people can heal people. And so, the question I had asked earlier is, do you have any idea on reports or studies done that kind of quantify or measure the cost of response and recovery to date? Mahalo.

MR. ADDISON: So, the . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . most current data we have is as of 2023, it cost 8.3 billion, just in the United States alone. The budget, according to the internet, for all of Maui County last year was 1.07 billion. So, it's quite a lot of financial impact.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Addison.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MS. KA'AIHUE: I'm just going to take a shot. I...I don't have an estimate of cost. But I do want to recognize that a lot of the work is done because of...you have committed people, and they're really the ones, you know, who are serving the community, you know, really trying to help out. And I bet they don't get compensated for all the extra hours, but I do want to recognize that they just are so committed, and they're just invaluable in addressing this public health issue. I do want to throw out there that, you know, I went

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to the Women's Correctional Center last year as part of the Women's Correction Implementation Task Force. And it was sad to see...I had a victim of abuse serving prison time. And there were a couple other women that I saw that were from Maui and, you know, I do know their histories, and they were also victims of abuse. And it's...it's really sad to see that, but I think it goes to the people who get hurt sometimes hurt others. As part of this task force, I was also able to attend a workshop put on by the Pū'ā Foundation. And a lot of their members who helped out with the workshop were women who went through the system and are now peer support...or providing peer support. And to just see, you know, the turnaround, the commitment that, you know, they have as peer support, I think that's something that we need to explore. I think it'd be great to have it as part of the criminal justice system, not only for the victim, but also for the offender that hey, it's going to be okay, you know, you can turn it around...and at the same time you have someone who has lived experiences talking to a victim saying, you know what? It's okay. You're gonna...you're gonna get through this. But I think that's something that...I don't know what the costs are because, you know, we...we do need to pay them for...for their work, but that is something that I would like to explore in our office.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that comments. And...yeah, hurt people hurt others, but they also hurt themselves...self-sabotage. And while we know that there's 26 shelter beds, there's so many more beds or couches that are also taken up that are not shelters, that are friends and family's couches, and extra rooms, where folks are...are sheltering to escape DV. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Next we have Member Sugimura, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair, for bringing this up. Unfortunately, there's so much information that we do not know, but thank you for all your pieces of the puzzle that you're doing to help us solve this big problem. My one question that I have is, is there like a...like a number, like 911 or 211, that a person can call instead of having these, you know, individual numbers for the different agencies? I wonder if...Mr. Addison, you know, what you shared, where you have, you know, those mechanisms so that pe...people can have it handy online, is there like a one...a one number instead that they can call, like 211, to get to help, or is it all individual? Or...you're shaking your head no, so...

MR. ADDISON: No. Unfortunately, it's all...it's all individual. They could call 988 to get the...the mental health on the Hawai'i Cares line, but that's going to be hit or miss if they know all of the DV providers and shelters because that's not part of what they're tracking.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, 988...can you explain that further?

MR. ADDISON: Yeah. So, 988, you can call for like a mental health crisis. So, its...they will know some of them, but they're...they're not going to have every specific organization because the Hawai'i Cares Act is following mental health providers, as well as the

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homeless shelters, and some of the substance use treatment clinics that are contracted through ADAD. So, it would just really depend on if the person who answered the phone knew where to send you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. ADDISON: But that is a great thing that I think could be explored, is having a number where anybody statewide could call and get connected with somebody in their community.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, is that something that if we ask the State DHS if they could look into? Is that some is that something that they could do? To gather the resources to work together like that?

MR. ADDISON: I would...I would think so. I don't want to say what anyone else can do at their job, but I...I would think that that would be within their wheelhouse.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That's of great interest to me because of the need. And the easier you make it, the...the better for more response, right, that you'll get. So, we look forward to you mailing to us all the gadgets that you talked about. And there's, you know, nine of us...I'm not too sure how many that Chair is going to ask for, but just Councilmembers, there's nine of us. Thank you very much for all the work you do, everyone.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Next we have Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, and then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And thank you, everyone, for not only coming here and expressing yourself, but also doing all the work you do. I really appreciate it. And thank you, everybody, for sharing your story. Before I ask my question--because I really only have one question for Mr. Addison that probably would have saved you from getting in trouble with your boss--you know, I appreciate order, and so majority of our questions go...in Committee go by alphabetical order. My name is U'u-Hodgins, but really, none of those are my names. Hodgins is my husband's name, which I took on as I got married, and U'u is my grandma's first husband's name. But really, I'm a Paleka and I'm a Hokoana. The reason why I carry U'u is because my grandma's first husband, who she married, was abusive and she left. Sorry. This goes to your point that everyone knows everyone, but it takes the one person to cut it up, and my grandma was that one person. So, luckily for me, I was raised in a very strong--hold on, let me get it together.

CHAIR SINENCI: I have in my...my drawer...right there, my drawer.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It feels a little bit raw because really, she just started expressing herself...because there's always a balance between what's normal, and

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what's common, and what's okay, and what's not okay. So, while abuse was normal in my household--or in her household, she knew it wasn't okay. So, she left her first husband. She told my grandma...or her mom that she left because he was abusive, and she just said, that's what marriage looks like. And my grandma said well, that's cool for you, but then not for me. So, she kept her last name because it was shameful to have a divorce, it was shameful to come from an abusive marriage, but really, it set herself up and apart for...for all the things that was to come. Every year on her birthday I tell my grandma in her card, if I'm half as strong as she ever was, I will be very strong. Because my grandma is probably the strongest person I know. Anyways, sorry. It's just today was funny because we go by my last name, but yet, that's not my last name...I actually carry the last name of her abuser. Anyway. Sorry. I wanted to ask Mr. Addison about course and tactics that you mentioned in high schoolers. So, often I feel like control is confused with love. And I think far too many of us grew up with that saying where oh, that boy pulled my hair on the playground...and too often, the response is oh, maybe he likes you. And by the way, I hate that. That drives me nuts. That's not how we show love, that's not how we show affection. I will never say that to my children. That will never be okay for me. So, I want to give you an opportunity, and all of us an opportunity to hear what course and tactics looks like so we can recognize red flags in relationships before they become physical. Because so often, we know that physical abuse, it comes after emotional abuse, emotional manipulation, and control that we often maybe confuse for love. So, if we can, I think to Member Rawlins-Fernandez's point, prevent it before it happens, and we can recognize those red flags before it becomes, you know, bright red flags...if you could please tell us what that looks like so we can...we can be aware. Thank you. Sorry, everyone, for...for getting emotional.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No apologies.

MR. ADDISON: No need for sorry. Thank you for sharing. Because I don't run the Teen Alert Program, I'll do my best, but they do mirror a lot of the...the adult course of control tactics. With emotional...especially with teens, there's going to be...that peer pressure is going to be ratcheted up to a whole 'nother level. I know teenagers can be really...I used to be a high school teacher, so I know teenagers can be really dramatic at times, that's just how kids are. But when it...it gets to the point where they...you can tell that they feel like it is a life or death that they follow through on whatever this person wants them to do, that can be a big red flag. One that we are working against right now is technology. That's a really big one, with things like Snapchat, Life360...just being able to constantly track and be in touch with that person. They know where they are at all times, they're always asking them where are you, why are you here . . .(timer sounds). . . who are you with, I didn't say that you could do that, I'm not comfortable with you being out with another...another guy, another girl--well, that's a...that's an insecurity issue that shouldn't take away from the...a person being in control of their own lives. There can be a lot of isolation, that's a big one with teens, too. They're only going to hang out with that one person. They're not allowed to see their girlfriends or their...their guy friends. They have to quit activities that they might really want to be a part of still because that's what's going to make that person happy. Lots of gaslighting. I know the kids love to throw around the word gaslighting today, but that...it really does happen. And social privilege, I think, comes in, where they're always going to be trying to leverage

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something about their...their victim to control them. So, we see that a lot. We have people come through who might be Micronesian, for instance, and their...their abuser will say well, you're Micronesian, no one's ever going to believe you. Or you live on the West Side, everybody on the West Side is like that. Why are you going to report it? No one's going to care. And that...that kind of stuff gets thrown around. And when you hear you kids repeating things like that, that is a huge red flag that they've picked that up from somebody that might not be a healthy influence. And I heard the timer, so I'm going to cut it there...but I am happy to send our presentations and education materials to anybody that would like them.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Addi--. Mahalo. Yeah.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Can I also share? I'm so sorry. Sorry...thank you. Is it okay?

CHAIR SINENCI: Real quick.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Thanks. Sorry, sorry, sorry. You know, thank you so much for sharing that. You didn't have to, so thank you for being brave and sharing that. And it's important, right? Because our names are our identities, yeah. Our names are important. And I feel like for teens and coercive control, it's...it's so much of our identity. When we're in school, we think the world just...then the world doesn't exist outside of high school, right? Everything is everything, and status is...is where it's at. But for so many of the teens that we did and--you know, I've prepared restraining orders for against their abusive teenage partners--what we're seeing...or what I used to see a lot was the if you don't stay with me, or if you decide to leave, I'm going to kill myself. I'm going to harm myself. Yeah. So, it's a lot of all or nothing kind of behavior. And the coercive control is...is...the hardest thing to combat for any survivor is...is that. 'Cause you can heal from the physical stuff, even some of the emotional things over time, but the coercive control, the...the identity...you have your identify stripped from you is...is huge. So, I would say for teens and...and in that sense is that they need to know...they need to know who they are and be rooted in that. Because if they do, you know, it's not to say that DV won't happen to them, but they'll...they'll reach out sooner. They'll recognize that that is not behavior that they...that that is applicable to them because their identity is rooted in deeply, right, in who they are. And so, just...that's...that's what I believe. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Sanoe, for sharing that. Thank you. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Sorry for missing my turn the first time, but I've been having computer problems this morning. So, I've talked with Sanoe recently, and mentioned to her that what would be helpful is...is to get some indication on what housing needs that they may have. Because it's about time that they expanded the program, which hasn't been expanded, as far as the housing goes, since I was with it years ago. And so, now that we're working toward rebuilding Lahaina, and...and doing ADUs, and other types of housing models, this would be an excellent time for us to partner with Women Helping Women, as well as other nonprofits, to provide more housing. Uh-oh, can you hear me? Oh, what now?

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CHAIR SINENCI: We can hear you, Chair. Can you hear us?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, I lost --

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I can hear you, but I can't see you. But let me just finish up quick before something else happens. This would be a great time to partner with them because, you know, being in the field for a long time, we helped put all of these domestic violent units...violence units together--Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Police Department--but what we need to do more of now is housing. Because you...you do have to separate the...the people who are not getting along with each other, that abuse...abusive person and the victims. So, housing is a perfect way to get that started. And then, of course, we need the programs, and then we need training, and we need a lot of other things. But I think the...the...the issue here is that we have to get started, and we have to start with housing. Because to separate them, to me, is one of the first things that you do. And then I've mentioned to Sanoe, too, that every nonprofit, including hers, needs to diversify their revenues, whether you get a...someone who writes for grants or other types of income activities, because that's what it takes to pay for program services. So, all of these things need to come together at some point. But I applaud everybody, and I especially applaud my colleague for being so brave because seems like you took after your grandmother, Nohe. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Members, are there a need for a second round of questions? Committee Vice-Chair had a...had a follow-up? Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Yes. Thank...thank you, Chair. I'll...I'll try to make this quick. You know, we just had a meeting in HLU about rent stabilization. And one of the testifiers came before, and they were a landlord, and they just were renting well under market. And that is the kind of folks we need to help the folks who are...experience domestic violence. So, anyone out there, have you guys...what's the process for a landlord who wants to rent out their units to folks who are in this struggle? Is there...is there a program they sign up for, is there a process?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yeah. So, they would come...well, we have a transitions department, right? So, the whole purpose of that department is to stabilize somebody further in to housing. So, that would be the contact that they would reach, and they can get that through our hotline. That is really the funnel for all of our services. And they just need to indicate that they are a landlord looking to help a survivor, and then our...our team will meet with them, and discuss like what that looks like, and what...what...you know, where we can go from there.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Is that the same...okay. How about Mr. Addison, do you have a process similar to that, or do you guys offer that?

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MR. ADDISON: We haven't...that hasn't come up for us at all here on...on O'ahu. But they could always call us if they're interested, and we'd be happy to...to work something out.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair. No further questions.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Committee Chair [sic] Johnson. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Question for Ms. Sanoe. In your opening remarks, you talked about how--I think you said pre-pandemic it was easier to get into schools, post-pandemic it's still been challenging, even now. Schools aren't under County, but is...is there any way we can help you? Because I...I support the education being in schools 100 percent...1,000 percent, so...

CHAIR SINENCI: Sanoe?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Thank you, Councilmember Fernandez [sic]. I don't know what their answer is. We need the invite, for sure. We...well, actually, you know, to be frank, I think the DOE needs to prioritize...prioritize healthy relationships or domestic violence, right? Because we can...there's so many stumbling blocks to getting anything done. I mean, they have a hard time even talking about the basic things. I think healthy relationships is a class that needs to be set for, and not as an elective. It needs to be part your health class, it needs to be part of all the things. So, I don't know how we change that. DOE's...DOE's its own entity, we need the invite though. So...but I think if a strong...strong Councilmembers that we have say hey, we want this to come to this school, that school, bring us. We're always ready, so anytime. You let us know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. On Molokai, we have the Molokai Child Abuse Prevention Pathways, that one's more specific for like sexual abuse and not DV, generally speaking, but I'd be happy to try kōkua that way. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Members, I would thank you for all of your great questions and your comments. Again, mahalo to Sanoe, Ms. Ka'aihue; Mr. Addison, mahalo, Jordan; Ms. Miyashiro DeMattos and Ms. Malafu-Eliesa for being with us this morning. I know the conversation will continue and...oh, mahalo to Pastor Greg and all of our testifiers. Mahalo to you guys. My niece was a graduate of your program, and she's...she wanted to share that she's doing fine right now. So, mahalo to you guys. Mahalo, Leslee. With that, Members, are there any objections...without objections, I'll defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Tamara, did you have a...a question. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I just was wondering if we were going towards an urging resolution to the DOE?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If anyone thought that would help.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Great idea. Staff? Thank you, Member Paltin. Yeah. Okay. Any objections to deferring this item, Members?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, everybody. We'll take a quick five...we have a second item. We'll take a five-minute break and we'll...the WASSP Committee will return at 11:15. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 11:11 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:20 a.m.

ITEM-1(24): INTEGRATING SEA LEVEL RISE AND COASTAL THREATS INTO PLANNING FOR COUNTY BEACH PARKS (Rule 7(B))

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .(gavel). . . Aloha and welcome back to the WASSP Committee meeting of Monday, October 7. It is 11:20 a.m. On to our second item. Members, and thanks for your patience, everyone. Our second item is Integrating Sea Level Rise and Coastal Threats Into Planning For County Beach Parks. Members, this item is also Council Rule 7(B), so no legislative action will be taken this morning. In September, Members, the County of Hawai'i hosted the 2024 Hawai'i Congress on Planning Officials Conference. At that event, people heard from David Yamashita and Dr. Kitty Courtney from the Department of Parks and Recreation's recent beach parks vulnerability and adaptations study. The study assessed the vulnerability of County beach parks to sea level rise and coastal threats, along with identifying adaptation strategies to mitigate these concerns. I wanted the Members to hear more about this study, especially with the recent removal of the pavilion at Baldwin Beach Park due to high surf and the rising sea levels. Coastal threats are not a future risk, our beaches are experiencing the consequences of sea level rise at this moment. So, Members, today I would like to introduce our resources, Mr. David Yamashita, Planner of the Department of Planning; Dr. Kitty Courtney, Senior Marine Environmental Scientist with Tetra Tech, Incorporated; and Mr. Wesley Crile, who is a...a Coastal Dune Restoration Specialist with the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. Also, in the audience we have Director McCall, as well as Miss...Ms. Hughston. Thank you for being here, and thank you guys for your patience. So, with that, you guys can go ahead and share your slideshow. Thank you.

MR. YAMASHITA: All right. Aloha, and thank you for being here. What we're going to do today is present a more expanded version of a presentation we gave back in--I think it was

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March or April of 2022--2022 to the Parks Committee. And since then, we've done more things, and so that's what you're going to see today. It's also a condensed version of the HCPO version because we had more than an hour then, and this time we're going to try and do it in 20 minutes. There's...there's a lot of information, but we'll try and condense it and still keep it understandable. So, we'll start with the project team. It included...Kitty and I work together as project managers, each for our respective organizations, and we also had the help of Tara Owens and Wes Crile on the project as well. So, we have that...really, a strong base of technical expertise. Next slide...next slide. Okay...okay. So, the overarching narrative of the...of the project, and it's very unusual. I've been a Planner for a long time, and this is one of the few projects where we went from planning...or problem identification to implementation in about four years. And part of it is because as--and this is why we titled the presentation this way--is we're dealing with...the Parks Department was dealing with this since...I don't know, since 2015, 2016. And so, we...we have we are trying to do things right away. And so, you'll see the different phases, and we're going to be--can you go back one?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry.

MR. YAMASHITA: You're going the other way.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was it . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

MR. YAMASHITA: Oh...oh, okay. So, we're going to go through these different phases in the presentation. Problem identification, which we started with in 2020, doing the actual vulnerability assessment, moving into some policies, and then in...actually last year and this year, we started moving...applying the lessons from the project. And this will continue as well. That's the other major point is Erika Hughston, who's here, joined the Parks Department recently, and she'll be taking over this program because there's still more work to be done. And so, we started with problem identification. And so, just quickly, the results that you'll see later on are organized by the districts that comprise at least Maui Island. And so, we'll be using those in our descriptions, and Molokai as well. We looked at 65 beach front-- oceanfront sites; 64 are beach parks, and one is the Waiehu Golf Course, of course. And so, it started with--at least for me anyway because some of this had happened before I got there--but in August 2020, this is one of the stages of the beach park pavilion kind of disappearing. But there were a bunch of us standing around when this picture was taken, trying to figure out what to do. How much more of this were we going to see? And as it turns out, it kept happening. So...and we went from August 2020, where part of it was...

MS. COURTNEY: . . .*(inaudible)* . . .

MR. YAMASHITA: Yeah, to just the other month when all this sand moved in. And this is an illustration, as I think Kitty pointed out to me earlier, that this dune kind of wants to be there. This is the natural course of events, and that's what we were seeing with this slide. And then, of course, it moved into...last month, shortly after this, it got worse--and there needs to be another slide, which we'll put in for the next presentation, where there's nothing there. And this is the real...this is our reality. One of the other

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things that we learned too from the project is how our parks are going to have to evolve. This is Puamana, and this of course, as you know, is where many iwi kūpuna have been found. And there were so many, in fact, that I think the park is now changed from a beach park to...I think we're calling it a cultural preservation site, something like that. So, that's...again, that reflects the new reality. And so, Kitty's going to start on the description of the actual assessment methodology.

MS. COURTNEY: Great. Thank you, David. So, from problem identification, we wanted to see what are the types of indicators that we could use to assess the vulnerability of beach parks, and how do we analyze that information to help us identify strategies. And this--is that right? Okay, how's that? Can you hear okay? And this slide just shows you an overview of the methodology. So, I'd like to go through with an example, and you'll see that in play. But before I do that, I just want to remind everyone...I'm sure everyone's pretty familiar with the sea level rise exposure area, or SLRXA, that was developed as part of the State's 27-team Statewide Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. SLRXA, or sea level rise exposure area, is that composite of...of risk to flooding from passive inundation modeling, annual highway modelling, and coastal erosion. And we use that...that as an indicator for a number of...in...in a number of different ways, both with 2 feet of sea level rise and 3.2 feet of sea level rise, which approximates about the next 35 to 45 years. So, let's look at how the methodology is shown in Kanahā Beach Park. Just a overview, it's really long, narrow park. It has...surrounded by, you know, the airport, a wildlife sanctuary, treatment plant, and...and the road. So, if you look at the first two indicators, you'll see that the sea level rise exposure area covers a large percentage of the park, about 61 percent, which gave us that red low-adaptation capacity value. And also, there were quite a num...there were a number of structures in the sea level rise exposure area. So, these are two examples of the indicators and how we use that. We also looked at how roads would be impacted that provide access to a park. So, if...if all the roads are...surrounding the park are getting flooded, that's helping to reduce the access. We have a lot of...a number of very valuable parks that are located with lot of sand deposits, sand and dune deposits, and all this pink area shows you those deposits. And so, what...what this means in this indicator is that we have a lot of potential, good potential, to restore dunes, and have them build back up if kind of get out of the way, like David was showing with...with Baldwin. And lastly, we also looked at the timing. So, when we overlay the two projections of sea level rise inundation, and...and see the difference between those two layers, if there's a big difference, well, we might have some time. If there's a little difference, we don't have much time. So, here, we are about a medium on that. And we pull all those indicators together to analyze what is the adaptation potential of Kanahā Beach Park. It comes out to about a medium, and we use that and other information to come up with different adaptation strategies. And we assign one of those adaptation, the most...a primary adaptation strategy to that park, which was...well, restore dunes and preserve the wetlands. So, that gives you kind of a sense of what those numbers mean and how they move through. We developed an app that you can go to both on your phone and on a desktop to understand what's here. There's also a virtual training on...in there, project overview. But the key is the adaptation mapping tool, which you can also see, that you can get all this information consolidated in one place. Not only, you know, which parks have the highest or medium or lowest adaptation potential in green, orange, and red.

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You can click at the top if you're interested in your own district and tells you kind of a summary with this...all this information. So, just to give you an overview of the results, this shows you that for all those areas that we looked at that David mentioned, we have about 14 parks that are in the high-adaptation potential. That means they have a good likelihood that they can...that they're not as great risk, they're...the vulnerability is not as bad. A whole slug of parks in the middle have about a medium-adaptation potential, and then about 12 parks that are really at high risk. You can break that down by district. So, if you're in South Maui, you can see you got a lot of parks, a lot of medium- and some high-adaptation potential, and a couple of very low-adaptation potential. West Maui, you really don't have any high...and no green parks showing up there, they're all at medium- and very high-risk. A lot of the parks that become those high-risk parks are narrow, thin parks that just, you know, don't have anywhere to move, and they're backed up against the highway, or a road, or...or something like that. So, that's what...what happens, and so forth. And then we got...you could also break that down--and you can see this all in the app when you look at it, you know, what...what are the different adaptation strategies? So, for a...and for a number of cases, it's really monitoring and maintaining as...as is, but there's others that we are...you know, that are...need to be explored. Some of them, we cannot make decisions about their viability in the future. Why? Because we don't know. Will the road get moved? Will there be something that is outside Parks' control, you know, the Department of Parks to do that requires collaboration and cooperation and...and...you know. So, those...those parks are those assess the park viability based on future access. We've got a good chunk of parks that dune restoration and wetland restoration would be appropriate. Some are just going to be maintain access because the access of the park is long and skinny, but perpendicular. Like in South Maui, you have a lot of perpendicular parks where you go this way, and then you get to the end of the park and then...but so, you know, it's like it'll eventually . . .(inaudible). . . And then we have some to retreat and acquire other lands that help expand, fortify and raise shoreline revetments. There's not that many parks that already, like Kalama, has that feature. So, those are things we need to consider. And these are primary, you know, just a starting point, but a lot more work would need to be done to...to actually implement, and think if these are feasible and viable strategies. So, based on all that results, we...we let...lead into both the policies, which David's going to talk about, some regional adaption planning, some of our rapid response plans, and so forth. So...

MR. YAMASHITA: Thanks, Kitty. And so, this section addresses the 'so what' question. After we finished the assessment, we looked at the results and we said okay, so what...what are we going to be doing differently? So, we came up with a few key policies. One is to prioritize nature-based adaptation plans. And so, that's our approach, nature-based strategies as opposed to hardened structures. The second one is--using Kalama Park as an example because it really is a great example--we want to, in future construction, limit construction of new facilities exposed to the 3.2 SLRXA. Kalama Park is an example of what we shouldn't be doing in the future because if you look at it, it's got so many facilities that are so close to the ocean. But that was in the past, so we have new a new way forward. The third policy is that we really need to--and this is what we learned from Baldwin--when something is destroyed, or is partially exposed, we just should be just taking the whole thing out because it's not going to get better, it's only

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going to get worse. So, it's just...it's kind of a simple thing, but it is an important lesson for us. And the fourth one is that we have a lot of undeveloped park land, especially a lot...especially along the ocean, and the Department and the County, I think, needs to be really thoughtful about trying to keep this undeveloped park land as park land. Because in many...most cases, that's what they were acquire...acquired for. And Kitty's going to go into the...these regional adaptation strategies, which is a new thing, and also really interesting.

MS. COURTNEY: Right. And...and I think one of the things that evolved from this project was to not...to kind of move away from developing master plans, which are kind of...have this connotation of a fixed thing that, you know, you do it, and that's done, yay. So, I think that the concept of sort of a regional adaptation strategy, where we look at a bigger picture even beyond the park. The park boundaries are here, but there are some areas that could be worked through. So, here's an example for Kamaole, looking at Kamaole I, II, III as one region, and thinking about overall adaptation strategies that could've...that could really help give us time to let dunes restore. And this one project that Parks is working on to try to get funding along with DEM to relocate their...DEM wants to relocate the pumping station, which is on the park property on this side, and move it across the street to a lot that is Park's lot, County lot, and at the same time, we'd like to relocate the restroom for the park and the parking over to there. Because that gives us space for that dune to get restored, and it has an added benefit to Public Works in that we're starting to really help protect the roadway. Because the more buffer we can provide for the roadway, the longer we can extend it. And so, we're doing a number of these strategies. We also developed 12 rapid response action plans for those high...low-adaptive capacity parks, all the red parks. And this just shows you kind of what's in it, but one of the things that I wanted to highlight was that we're trying to...working with Parks' capital improvement program to really understand well, what are the costs? Like for Baldwin, you know, these are big costs, removing whole restrooms, and removing pavement. Even the tree, you know, getting a dangerous ironwood tree that's about to fall in removed is, you know, 5...5K. And how many ironwood trees do we have? We got lots. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, trying to get some of these numbers...and our last we were here, I think it was the...of interest of the...of this group to start understanding some of the costs for these things that we to...mainly for protecting public safety when a big storm or something comes through. So, now, just to kind of move into the implementation stage--and...and Wes is here too because he's a big part of that implementation from Sea Grant. We just...you know, we...we...through Sea Grant developed a dune restoration design for this whole region. So, you can see that, you know, Baldwin is really is Zone 4, but here's a concept of how that regional approach would take place. And I don't know, Wes, do you want say a few words about where we are here?

MR. CRILE: Yeah. This is just an example of...of that...that proactive approach. Things got kind of pushed forward because of the...the...the pavilion falling into the ocean, so we're...we're scrambling to...to...to work on that. But you can see the...this is part of a grant-funded program, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and it cover...it goes all the way from Wawau Point in Spreckelsville up to Lower Pā'ia Park. And the idea is to do regional dune restoration in this...this whole stretch. Like I said,

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we are focusing on Zone 4, Baldwin Beach Park, because of the situation with the pavilion. We're in the permitting phases for the...the greater project as a whole, and so we're looking to start implementation on that...that larger project within the next year or so.

MS. COURTNEY: This just shows one of the engineering design docs of the dune restoration. And at the time when that was done, Baldwin Pavilion was still there, and so, you know, now that's removed. So, now, you know, as David said, this is a dune that wants to be a dune...this area wants to be a dune. So, it'll hopefully get integrated into that...that whole picture. So, I think the last thing I'll cover quickly before turning back over to David is just the importance of monitoring and evaluation of what...what's happening, and how to continue to keep things updated. You know, on the app we have icons for all these, you know, facilities. So, now that Baldwin's removed, you know, we need hopefully County GIS to be able to prioritize putting in updates of that so that we don't lose track. We got a...we got a...you know, no longer a structure there, or where a new structure goes in, or so forth. In addition to that, we developed a survey tool, just a simple one, two, three survey tool, and these can be put on all the staff phones, or in...and could become a citizen science program in the future where if there's an event or something happened, somebody could go and take a photo, and mark the exact spot...and it goes to the GIS layer where...where this information is stored. And so, this just shows you Ho'okipa, and we...we did a...a review of that. And we can go...and where all those little blue cameras are, there's a data point, which you just go out there and click on, take a photo or write something down, it's got this information that you can capture. So, if an event comes through, it'd be helpful to know how far in did it go, what got damaged, you know, what is the status, and quickly, you know, grab that information. So, that kind of tooks...took us through that whole, as David said, quickly from this problem to implementation to actually monitoring and evaluation. And it's kind of exciting to...to have...I've been so happy to be able to work with Parks on...on this project, it's been really fun, as well as with...with Sea Grant.

MR. YAMASHITA: Okay. So, more insights and takeaways. This is both, I think, for the Council, as well as for the Department. And one of the first ones is, this is not just a Parks problem, this is...the whole County needs to be involved in this. There are departments...as the slide shows, this is South Kihei Road, and Public Works is involved because they've got all kinds of utilities, and this is also the access for many of our parks. So, when we're talking about trying to deal with access, it involves these other Departments. Public Works, and --

MS. COURTNEY: Oh. Sorry.

MR. YAMASHITA: -- then MECO, of course, is a...provides electric poles and utilities. And so, we all...we should all be working together. And another key issue is that the time to start planning for this and budget is right now. Because if you think about all the planning that needs to happen with maybe relocating South Kihei Road, we need to be thinking about it right...right now. And...and the final thing is, it's really important to engage the community on all of this so they understand what the issues are, and understand what it costs, and what the implications are, and to start thinking about

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managed retreat and how that is really going to work. And for the Department, we have...we just listed them as five-year priorities, but these are things that we're actually doing right now. So, one is to prepare adaptation plans and strategies for high-risk beach parks. And as Kitty mentioned, one of the changes we made was for beach parks, we're not calling them master plans, so you'll see that we're working on a Ho'aloa Park adaptation plan. Another Baldwin Beach Park adaptation plan is going to be starting up, I think maybe next year, but we did an interim master plan, and we got new information, and now I think we also changed our orientation and how we approach these, as Kitty said. So, there will be a Baldwin Beach Park adaptation plan as well. Another priority is to integrate adaptation strategies into capital improvement planning. So, we're already starting to do this. When I was with Parks, Sam Marvel, who's the head of CIP, would come over, and we would talk about are these idea...he would ask me, are these ideas for these beach parks good ideas, given what we know. And so, we're starting to question some of these assumptions that we have made. We also have--and again, this one of those things we learned--this is Puamana, that right now, we need to be identifying structures that it...that can be affected by high waves and coastal erosion and start to remove them instead of waiting to have another Baldwin Beach Park Pavilion. Another key takeaway was--and this is something we had to learn as these things happen--is that each of the Mokus has their own way of dealing with iwi kūpuna. So, we had to work through it and figure out what the cultural protocols might be...who we talk to, who to call, and what to do when these things first happen. And this is something that again, I think five years ago, we really weren't prepared for situations like this. And the final thing, the final takeaway, I think, or priority--and we've been trying to do this from day one--and this is, I think, so important is, we need to start coordinating more among departments, and with the State as well. There've been some challenges, and there continue to be challenges, but it...so, that's why we always include this in our presentation because it's something that needs to be done. So, the last thought I'd leave you with is that I think, as I said earlier, this is an ongoing program. It doesn't end when Kitty's contract is done, and that's one reason why we were, I think, happy...or Pat is happy to have Ericka on board because she's going to be the new person to take the program on, and she has a background in dune restoration. And so, we're really excited about that. And so, it will continue. I mean, it's not going to end. And then if you want to go and look at the application that Katie [sic] showed--Kitty--the easiest way, the way I do it, is I just go to County website, go to the Parks Department, and under Parks Planning there's a...a link to the...to the app. So, with that, I'd like to say thank you for...for your time, and we'll entertain any questions.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, David. And Members, before we go to our Q&A, we'll...Jarret, is there anyone wishing to testify to this item?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's currently no individual signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR SINENCI: Sure.

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any objections to closing testimony at this time for this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WASSP-1(24) . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Okay. Members...and again, mahalo to our panelists today for...that was a good job bringing it down to a couple slides. So, we appreciate it. Members, we'll just open it up for questions for our guests today. We have a question from Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Vice-Chair Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo for the presentation today. I know the presentation focused on Maui, and if I knew that you were going to do this, I would have suggested also including Sust'ainable Molokai, who did the Molokai Climate Change Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report--sorry for the very long title, that was my fault--but that was completed this February. And so, in the future, at a future committee meeting, perhaps if you'd like to take that up, or someone else, or I can, and then that way we can hear some of the ideas. Because I agree with a lot of what was presented, the recommendations for Parks and the...the encouraging all agencies--State, County, Federal, even private--to work together. Because we have a couple utility poles that are like on the beach on Molokai...it was once like in the easement along the side of the road, but now is like in the water. So...and I did let HECO know about that. So, yeah, lots of work to be done, and I understand the challenge with decommissioning facilities. When you build facilities, you're...you're building an asset. And so, it qualifies for bonds, and funding, et cetera. But when you're decommissioning a facility, or a built environment, there...it...it's not the same kind of finance structure. It's...it's a different kind of funding that's necessary because you're not building an asset, you're...you're removing it. But I argue that it is an asset because you're making space for ecosystem services, such as dune systems. And I...I'm really grateful for the incorporation of, you know, tech and studies like this because I know that there...in the past, you know, the...the Hawaiian community likely, you know, was not supportive of some of these facilities being built so close to the shoreline because our history, our mo'olelo, mele, oli, tell us what systems look like. And in looking at this piecemeal, I think, is also kind of a disservice because we need to be looking at ahupua'a management. Systems as a whole, managing the...the entire ahupua'a, and not just like okay, here along the shoreline, this is how this needs to be managed. Because it's...it's the whole thing. We're an island. We're the peaks of volcanos. So, I don't really have a question, just mahalo for the information that you put together and for giving voice to communities that objected to some of these built environment, the hardening walls, all those things, and finally, having western science come in to affirm that what those communities were saying before was true, and we should have listened. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So, to...also to look mauka, what is happening up mauka of all the beach park.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For the entire thing.

CHAIR SINENCI: The entire . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ahupua'a.

CHAIR SINENCI: All the way up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The whole thing again...again.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, and into the ocean.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Lewa lani all the way to kai hohono.

CHAIR SINENCI: 'Ae, honua. Eō. Next, we have Committee Vice-Chair Johnson, followed by Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And I...I just have a simple question in regards to the nature-based restorations. Can you...I...I would assume dune restorations, but can you kind of elaborate on what you actually meant by nature-based to the restorations?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Crile?

MR. CRILE: Sure, happy to. This is my...my favorite subject to talk about. So, dune restoration is...is not rocket science, it's native plants planted in the right place. And when you do that they capture sand, and that sand builds up and creates a...we call it a bank account of sand behind the beach. And then in that very dynamic area where wind and waves act regularly, when we have a big storm, the waves can...can kind of chew into that dune and replenish the beach. And then...and then the process starts all over again, and the dunes build back up.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. CRILE: It's a great restoration strategy. It's not...it's not the only restoration strategy, I just want to be clear on that, but it...it works in a lot of places in South Maui and the North Shore.

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VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Great. Thanks for that, I just...thanks for clarifying. As far as the policies goes that you guys are proposing, was any of the poli...or was...was eminent domain considered in any of these policies?

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes. Thank you for the question. The short answer is no, and the policies that we showed are actually policies with a small "p." These are...they're not carved in stone, we don't have an official document, but it's more, I think, just a general set of principles, I think, that the Department is willing to follow. I think I...but --

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. YAMASHITA: -- it also point...I'm...I'm sorry.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Feel free, go ahead.

MR. YAMASHITA: I was going to say and it also points out how I think after doing all this, and it's a lot of work, there's still so much more work to be done. And so --

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Hmm.

MR. YAMASHITA: -- when we're talking about managed retreat, that's a whole different kind of conversation. And when Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez brought up ahupua'a management, that's a whole 'nother area too that really should be part of the whole discussion of how we deal with this. I will say that for...again, this is another lesson, but when we put out the RFP for the new Baldwin Beach Park adaptation plan, we included a requirement in our RFP that there be a study of offshore water quality. Because the effects of a beach park don't end at the ocean. And the effects --

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Right.

MR. YAMASHITA: -- and so...and the impacts of what's upstream affect the beach park. So, it does speak to the whole ahupua'a management. So, we just have to be mindful of how much money we get for these contracts. But nonetheless, I think that idea I think is...is really important, and the County needs to find a way to embrace that . . .(timer sounds) . . in so many ways.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. I...I just asked because...my times up but, you know, I think of Manele Bay being a private beach park. There's homes everywhere, there's infrastructure that are not County-owned right along the...you get a really interesting picture of waterlines, sewer lines, MECO power lines...the County don't own many of those things. So, you know, what do we do when we...are we paying to fix those up? That's kind of where I was going with...if you have a quick answer to that, or--otherwise, I appreciate your time, but my time's up.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Vice-Chair. Next we have Member Paltin. You didn't have a question...answer? Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I had a few questions. My first question is, Mr. Yamashita said when he was with Parks. Is he not with Parks anymore?

MR. YAMASHITA: That's correct. In August, I transferred to the Planning Department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Got it. Good to know. And then...so, my other question is kind of, I guess, different, and not in my usual thread of questions. And I appreciate that...what you said about Baldwin pavilion, about like the stages, and if we knew it was going to go down, we should just take it down before it comes...becomes a human health hazard and a...a ecosystem health hazard. I can totally appreciate that. I was wondering about interim amenities. Like I know for a while, our fiberglass lifeguard towers are on skids, so they're moveable. And like, you know, if...if we're seeing, you know, the major effects to Baldwin pavilion in 2020, and we had torn it down in 2020, that might have been four years of memories for folks' birthday parties, graduation parties, anniversaries, and whatnot that our community didn't have. And...and in the context of, you know, I guess, all the things--the cost of housing, domestic violence, drug use, abuse, and things like that--like it is also important that we have areas to recreate. I mean, that's why we spend such a huge budget on Parks and Recreation and having parks. So, I was wondering, is there any thought to like interim amenities or, you know, I mean, maybe not permanent toilets, composting elevated toilets that can be moved out in advance of a storm, or traditional hale being built that could be relocated after? I know nowadays that the Code makes them have sprinklers, which makes it a little bit more difficult, but I just was wondering if there's any thought to interim amenities that our people could use to just have a better quality of life and enjoy our parks in the shoreline area.

MR. YAMASHITA: That's a question for Director McCall, who is moving over to the testifier's stand.

CHAIR SINENCI: Director?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Paltin. At this time, I'm not aware of any interim amenities that you mentioned. It sounds like a really good idea. I do know that in some of the plans in the managed retreat that Dave has referred to, we've looked at building things further back. Right now, it is a question of practicality. Is it a beach pavilion if it's so far back? You...you know, does someone want to have their party a quarter-mile of...you know, back from the beach, and then be walking over. And so, again, these are things we're looking at. I do want to mention while I'm up that one of the lessons learned from the Baldwin Beach Park situation within the last month, and we...that we did not have an emergency plan in place for the removal. And we got a great suggestion from the Deputy--our new Deputy over in Planning--that we're looking into now the possibility of having a standing SMA emergency permit that would allow us...that we would have been able to get to that a lot quicker to remove some of the hazard...hazards.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that leads me to my next question. Were you . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . able to access any of our Managed Retreat Funds for that project?

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MR. MCCALL: We...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because that's kind of what it was for.

MR. MCCALL: Exactly. Because of the timing of it--it was such an emergency to get it done right away--I worked with Ms. Milner from...from Budgeting Department [*sic*], and we will come to Council and ask for the reimbursement for the funds that we had put out, yes--to do that, yes. And we're happy...I didn't know of the existence of that Fund, I will be honest, and...and hearing about it made me very happy to...to allow us to do things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Yeah, that's...you guys will be like the first accessors of that fund. So, I'm super stoked about it, like that it's working.

MR. MCCALL: It...it was a very refreshing moment when I learned about that. . . .(*laughing*). . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin, for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Director. Pro Tem Kama, did you have questions about any policies, I believe...Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Well, I did want to know if we're going to write policy, but I just heard earlier the Department said that they're not...they are not yet ready to present any type of formal policy, but more toward what they would actually do in situations like this.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: But that was my question, if they're actually going to bring forth any kind of policy in the future.

CHAIR SINENCI: Wes? No?

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Oh, wait, Director is coming down again. He's...yeah, you can sit on... . . .(*laughing*). . . or just come up, he can...

MR. MCCALL: Again, thank you for the question, Councilmember Kama. I understood you to ask, do we have plans to formulate...to officially formulate the policy?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Correct.

MR. MCCALL: When I came in last year, I was overwhelmed by the work of Dave and his Department, and I was...sat for long periods of time with Dave going over this. And this

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is what I think where we will be going into our next phase. Our newly-hired planner will work with us to develop that plan, and...where we can have a policy, I...but I think it's important to note what Dave mentioned--and this is not a Parks issue--the Parks can have a policy towards our land, but it needs to be in conjunction with the rest of the community, and especially with the other departments. This also includes DLNR. As all of you know, you know, our jurisdiction ends at the high tide mark, and so, DLNR needs...needs to be on board in this discussion. I think each individual community needs to be involved in the discussion. But also, you know, one of my fears is...is what Dave and I have spoken about often, is the amount of vital infrastructure that is right along our shoreline. And so, the...working with DEM, working with Public Works, working with HECO is going to be as vital and as important as the movement of our amenities in Parks.

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Director.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. I just had a question for Dr. Courtney. You mentioned two high-profile parks in East Maui, would that be in Ke'anae? Would you know which two?

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you for that. Members, any other questions for our esteemed panel? Member...oh, any...any for first round?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I don't really have a question, but I do want to thank everyone for getting the Baldwin Park pavilion removed. It was a safety hazard. I do really appreciate everybody's help on that. Thank you so much. And I will look forward to Parks coming and asking for some Managed Retreat Funds, and some other people in Pā'ia are actually asking for that as well. So, thank you folks so much, I appreciate it.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. You're in the North Shore side, so you get all those parks. Oh. Yeah, go ahead, Mr. Crile.

MR. CRILE: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to comment on the...the Baldwin Beach Park situation was a...kind of a poster child and a good learning opportunity. You know, we're talking about policy. The...the seasonal erosion at...at that beach park is pretty...you know, it happens every year, the beach comes and goes there. And so, the way we...we worked with the planners, and Parks, and Public Works on this to get that pavilion out of there, and now, the permit for...the SMA permit is written as such that it's good for five years. And so, like, you know, they got the crew in there, they got rid of the pavilion, but there's still some rubble, there's still a few things that, you know, the sand just came back in and buried and they weren't able to get...this...this time

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around. But next year, when it all happens again, we can...we can be ready to go, and get in there, and get that stuff. So, that's...I think that's...just to emphasize the...the proactive nature, that we can...we can be kind of getting out ahead of these things, you know, as they happen. And then just to Councilmember Paltin's point, you know, we...in 2020, that decision was made to demolish the first third of the pavilion as...as it was going. That was the lifeguard storage area, but the community really wanted to keep that pavilion. And so, that...yeah, we have four years of memories and...and things like that. So, I think it's real...that just highlights the importance of the community engagement with any of these projects. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Wes. Member Rawlins-Fernandez --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And the...I don't know if it would...it's called erosion if it's like...you know, it's like sand migration. Like we...we know, since the beginning of time of the islands, like that's what the sand does every year. My question is for Director. You said that a good idea came from the deputy planning director that we should create an emergency SMA permit process? I...I don't like that. I understand why the idea was brought up, but I was actually hoping that we could be more proactive and not wait until it becomes an emergency to be removing these pavilions. And I...I hope that we would be able to plan ahead so that we're not leaving the community with this facility that will crumble there...you know, within the next five years, or nothing, and so that we can plan to like simultaneously like have something built while we're planning to demolish and remove a facility that should be because it was built too close to the shoreline. So, it is...like is that like part of this process here, or is that like going to be a...a future like planning process, or like...what does that look like?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. It is, I think, both. It's...it is part of this process because they're giving us the kind of direction, what we can expect. I do want to address what that emergency was for. What that was...for any unexpected things that we couldn't set up that wouldn't delay us get...going in and addressing the problem. That's what the...that permit I was referring to, that process that we're looking to develop with Planning. As far as building while we're waiting for another...well, you know, the transition basically, you know, getting...looking at the new car while the old one is being driven to death kind of thing. Yes, I...I agree with you, that's something we're going to do, or that we'd like to do. And...and that's working with our friend back there, Miss...Ms. Hughston from CIP, and that's what we're laying out in the CIP projects. Just, you know, with...some CIP projects were proposed pre-knowledge of the SLRXA, and we had them building in the SLRXA, so we know that we don't want to do that. So, I think with the new, improved information, we're able to, I think, make those plans a little bit more, I think, doable, and beneficial for the future generations.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. That...that's really good to hear. I...I think like for the emergency stuff, you know, like with the pavilion like . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . we all knew that was coming --

MR. MCCALL: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- it shouldn't have been...we shouldn't have waited until it became an emergency, basically. And like with like king tides and...and, you know, storm events, like there...there's so much that's like foreseeable that shouldn't be an emergency. But I...I see what you're saying like...for like unforeseeable events, I...I'm supportive of that whole emergency permitting idea.

MR. MCCALL: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I hope it's not like a process that's like abused because there's so much that we know is going to happen. Mahalo, Director.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Next we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I was wondering about the county's relationship with Canoe Beach, Hanakao'o Beach Park, and the canoe hale is not...is not on County lands; is that correct?

MR. MCCALL: Which?

CHAIR SINENCI: The canoe hale at Hanakao'o Beach Park.

MR. MCCALL: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The three of them...or the four of them.

MR. MCCALL: Again, thank you for the question. I do not have the exact answer for that. I'm not sure of that, but it's something we can look into.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not...oh, not to look into, but just to coordinate. All of Hanakao'o is in the SLRXA, I believe, but it's...backs up to a cemetery, and that cemetery backs up to the highway. And I just was wondering, if...if we're being proactive, what is the plan to partner with the community, which is the four structures on the north end of the beach? Because, you know, we know what's coming.

MR. MCCALL: Yes. Thank you. To...to my knowledge right now, no, there is not a plan in place, but that's part of, I think, what we were referring to earlier, where this makes it very obvious that this...Dave...the work done by Dave and...and...and Kitty are...it's...it's what is pointing us in that direction, showing us that those plans are

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needed. We...we're facing this, as they pointed out, in multiple locations, both east, south, and some on the North Shore as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, would the Hanakao'o be a red beach with like minimal adaptive, and so are we prioritizing those ones to work on?

MR. MCCALL: Yes. That would be...a part of the plan of theirs was...that's why they were done as the red. They would be the priority that would be the high-risk beaches.

MS. COURTNEY: Yeah. We...we do have...of those 12 high-risk parks, we do have a park-ready rapid response plan for that one. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is...are the canoe structures included in that rapid response?

MS. COURTNEY: I think any...yes. Any...anything that is...provides access...you know, the park provides access to those activities. So, yeah they would have to be included. And they're in...in the rapid response plans, we also are looking to list who are all the other stakeholders that need to be consulted in this, you know, like the canoe clubs and everything, so that if something... ..(timer sounds)... you know, I mean these readiness plans are meant to be a little more reactive, to be honest, because...but it's highlighting that if...if something really...you know, a storm surge came in, or something came in, at least we have an understanding of what's there, what's being lost, and what needs to be removed, et cetera. But they also give you an idea of the ones that are, like you say, need to be addressed earlier than later.

MR. CRILE: And...and...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I would just say like, you know, if it's...even if it's not...if there's no legal status, the history of canoe hale at Hanakao'o is...is...predates statehood, and permits, and zoning, and all of that and, you know, it's...it's part of how people originally came to this island. And so, I wouldn't just leave the canoe clubs out to dry on, you know, all the things, whether there's permits or whatever because that's part of our existence.

MR. CRILE: And I'll just add to that. There are...I've been working with--I think it's--there's two different community groups that are work...they're looking to apply for grants to do work in Hanakao'o Beach Park, and both of those organizations utilize the Park's adaptation tool because it is a red...you know, it is clearly a red one, and like you said, it's sandwiched between the road and the...and the cemetery. And so, they utilize that to justify the...the need for an adaptation plan for that park. I'm not sure the status of those...those efforts, but there was talk about that, and then also, the need to start looking at land on the other side of the road as well. I mean, there...there's some state-owned land over there. But that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, they reached out --

MR. CRILE: -- they included the park.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- they were having a hard time dealing with Parks.

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

MR. YAMASHITA: I...I just wanted to add on...on top of Wes' comment as well that that situation is similar to what we were finding at Ho'aloa Park because there are canoe clubs that go way back several decades. And so, Ho'aloa, I think, could yield some lessons that can be applied when we get to Hanakao'o. But it seems to be a...I don't know if it's...I don't know if it's common, but at least we have other precedents. But anyway, Ho'a...Ho'aloa Park is in the middle of its planning process.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. You good, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. Okay. Mahalo. It sounds like, Members, that dentist is back in session. Mahalo, everyone, for staying a little bit late and...and answering the questions. Mahalo to Mr. Crile, Mr. Yamashita, Dr. Courtney, Director McCall, and Erika. Thank you guys for staying late with us. Members, if there are no objections, I'll defer this item.

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

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Staff, anything else before we adjourn this meeting?

MS. MACDONALD: No, Chair. There is nothing else outstanding.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Members. And just a friendly reminder, we have an afternoon ESCS meeting under the chairmanship of Member Rawlins-Fernandez at 1:30. Yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chairwoman.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Chairwoman, excuse me. Okay, Members, anything else? The WASSP Committee of Monday, October 7th, is now adjourned. It is 12:19. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

ADJOURN: 12:19 p.m.

APPROVED:



SHANE M. SINENCI, Chair
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks
Committee

wassp:min:241007:crp/cvk

Transcribed by: Cheryl von Kugler

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CERTIFICATION

I, Cheryl von Kugler, hereby certify that pages 1 through 53 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 8th day of November 2024, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Cheryl von Kugler