

AGRICULTURE, DIVERSIFICATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

October 3, 2023

Online via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 9:03 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Chair
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Vice-Chair (out 11:50 a.m.)
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (in 9:57 a.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (in 9:40 a.m.)
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (in 9:13 a.m.)
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF:

James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Samantha Tanck, Legislative Analyst
Nālani Fujihara, Hawaiian Language Communications Specialist
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Clarita Balala, Senior Committee Secretary
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office
Zhanell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office

Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Angela Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin
Haunani Madela, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez
Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Laura McDowell, Executive Assistant to Councilmember U'u-Hodgins

ADMIN.:

Christie Trenholme, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Joshua Cooper, Economic Development Specialist, The Office of Innovation and
Sustainability, Office of the Mayor

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Aaron “Tuki” Drake, Economic Development Specialist, The Office of Innovation and Sustainability, Office of the Mayor
Kaiea Medeiros, Economic Development Specialist, The Office of Innovation and Sustainability, Office of the Mayor

OTHERS: Dr. Kim Falinski, West Maui Ridge to Reef Partner and Coastal and Estuarine Scientist with The Nature Conservancy
Dr. Renee Takesue, Research Geologist, United States Geological Survey Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center
Stephen Zahniser, Deputy Director, United States Geological Survey Pacific Island Water Science Center
John Starmer, Chief Scientist, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council
Ekolu Lindsey, Maui Cultural Lands
Duane Sparkman, Kipuka Olowalu

Manuel Kuloloio
Robert Bence
Jacee Law
Rebekah Uccellini Kuby
(8) additional attendees

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

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha. Will the Agriculture, Diversification, Environment, and Public Transportation Committee of October 3rd, 2023, please come to order. It is now October 3rd, 2023, and the time is 9:03 a.m. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you are not in the Council Chambers, please identify by name if...who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be included. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity, and remember to silence all cell phones. Good afternoon, everyone. I look forward to a productive meeting...or good morning, everyone. I look forward to a productive meeting. I’m Gabe Johnson, your Committee Chair. Also joining with us today is Vice-Chair Shane Sinenci. Good morning.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: ‘Ae, aloha kakahiaka kākou, happy to be here. No testifiers at the Hāna Office. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you for that. Council Chair Alice Lee is going to come in a little bit late today. And we’re going to move on to Councilmember Tom Cook. Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha and good morning, Chair.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Good morning. And Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez will be coming...joining us a little later on, as well as Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. So, let's move on to Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. Good morning.

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

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Of course, all of our Non-Voting Committee Members are always welcome, that would be Councilmember Tasha Kama and Councilmember Tamara Paltin. From the Administration today, we have many folks from the Office of Innovation and Sustainability. We have with us today Joshua Cooper, Tuki Drake, Kaiea Medeiros, so happy they are joining us today. And from the Corporation Counsel, we have Christie Trenholme, Deputy Corporation Counsel. From the Committee Staff, we have Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary, welcome; James Krueger, Senior Committee Analyst; Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst; Samantha Tanck, Legislative Analyst; Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney; Lei Dinneen, Assistant Clerk. All right, Members. The agenda today, we only have one informational item within the ADEPT Committee subject matter, which is ADEPT-1(10), Post-Wildfire Environmental Issues. There is no legislation...no legislative action planned for today. Let's begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. In accordance with 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 and as the item is called up on the agenda. When testifiers sign up to testify, they must let Staff know whether they wish to testify at the beginning of the meeting or before an agenda item. Otherwise, Staff will assume the testifier will testify at the beginning of the meeting. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans link or the phone number noted on today's agenda. 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 deliberation on each item on the agenda. If you are still testifying beyond that point, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. We ask that you state your full name and organization, but if you prefer to testify anonymously, Staff will identify and refer to you as "Testifier" and assign you a number. Please also indicate the agenda item or items you are testifying on. You may indicate in the chat if you do not wish to testify. However, chat should not be used for discussion or comments. Please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you're done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live or mauicounty.us/agendas. Thank you all for your cooperation. The Chair will maintain decorum at all times. Any person who behaves in a manner that disrupts, disturbs, or impedes the orderly conduct of any Council meeting can, at the discretion of the presiding officer or majority of the Council...present Councilmembers, be ejected or banned from Council meetings; or if participating remotely, muted or dropped from the meeting. Examples of disruptive behavior include heckling, shouting, use of profanity, threatening, slanderous remarks made to any of the Councilmembers, Staff, or general public. As

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a reminder, the chat should be used only to sign up for testimony, and not for public commentary on the meeting. It will be considered a breach of decorum for members of the public to use the chat for anything other than the testimony sign up. Staff has been monitoring individuals joining us...joining today's meeting by phone and video, and we'll do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. At this time, we will call on testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. So, Ms. McKinley, will you call the first testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the first testifier is Manuel Kuloloio, to be followed by someone calling in with the last four digits 2896.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So, with that, Manuel, are you ready to testify?

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. KULOLOIO: Good morning, Mr. Johnson. Can you hear me?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Loud and clear.

MR. KULOLOIO: Okay. Aloha, Mr. Johnson. Aloha, Mr. Cook, Cousin U'u, Mr. Sinenci. Aloha.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha.

MR. KULOLOIO: On tomorrow's agenda item for the Board of Education, they list 35 individuals on their active contact not yet achieved listing. Cousin U'u, if you hadn't read it already, I want you to read the County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety, a report 2016 by Mayor Arakawa with Fire Chief Jeff Murray's name. It's something called, "Standard of Cover." Okay. My testimony today is, I'm deeply concerned about the use of this Soiltac, a product of a company called Soilworks. In my younger days, we would be demanded to read and be briefed on an MSDS. Now it's called an SDS. The SDS for this product says for industrial use only. Major industries include construction, mining, military, municipal, oil and gas, energy and renewable energy, and transportation. Material disposal, it says recover or recycle if possible. Do not dispose into the environment, in drains, or in water...water courses. Solidify and dispose of in an approved landfill. It is the responsibility of the waste generator to determine the toxicity and physical properties of the material generated to determine the proper waste classification and disposal methods in compliance with applicable regulations. Okay. Maui--I see you three gentlemen over there--is not the testing ground, yeah. Like how we were the testing ground during COVID for Moderna shots, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, where the previous Mayor said, come on, what you got to lose? Just take the shot. I think we're smarter than that, huh? Do you agree? So, I'm looking at all of you. I was hoping, Chair, that you would allow the U.S. Coast...USGS, Dr. Takesue, to speak first as opposed to The Nature Conservancy.

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There's too much interlocking directorates in Hawai'i, Gabe, okay. We need to be transparent. So, thank you . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . for allowing me to testify.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Manny. Let me see if we have any questions for you. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Okay. Thank you for coming and testifying. Mahalo. Ms. McKinley, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, we have an indication that there are testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office and we're ready to hear them now, to be followed by someone calling in with the last four digits 9228.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Wonderful. Okay, great. I don't know who that's from the Lāna'i District Office. So, Roxanne, if you're there, you can unmute them and get them set up.

MS. MORITA: My apologies, Chair. I forgot to put the word no testifiers. So, there's no one here to testify.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you for that clarification, Ms. Morita. Will you call the next testifier for us, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is calling in with the last four digits 9228. Please unmute yourself now.

MR. BENICE: Aloha. Good morning. Robert Benice.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Good morning.

MR. BENICE: I believe the previous testifier brought up some good points that this agenda item is focusing on the potential runoffs of the fires going into the ocean. Okay, that's something we've been trying to address as farmers for a long time. Guess my previous recommendation to try to support the locals and develop funding for the small guys that . . .*(inaudible)*. . . the water doesn't flow from our farms down that innovate problems. And then, I think the previous doctor's testimony believes that the big landowners that live down there, possibly they should have --

CHAIR JOHNSON: I'm sorry, we can barely hear you. Can you speak in your phone a little closer?

MR. BENICE: Oh, sorry. My reception might be bad. But the big landowners, those are the ones that are the problems. So, support the small landowner, but incentivize the big landowners by charging higher taxes because the property taxes that like Larry Ellison and Black Rock, Vanguard-owned corporations, that pay really low property taxes, so they . . .*(inaudible)*. . . So charge the millionaires and the trillionaires more money so that the locals have green jobs, reforestation . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for your testimony. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none. Thank you once again for your testimony. Ms. McKinley, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there's no one currently signed up to testify at the beginning of the meeting. If anyone would like to, you can make yourself known right now, unmute, or come to the podium, please.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. We got someone coming down here. Go ahead.

MR. LAW: Aloha kakahiaka. Aloha kākou, Chair Johnson and Councilmembers, and aloha *Akakū* and everybody out there. Don't turn the channel because I've seen this guy before. He's pretty good. My name is Jacee Law from Kula Uka. . . .*(audio echoing)*. . . I wonder, Mr. Chair, if you could have...help...Mr. Sinenci help if you don't know the meaning of 'a'ako aku i ka hana, get going with the work. That's from the Hawaiian dictionary.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thank you. Let's see if we have any questions from the testifiers...or from our Members. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier?

MR. LAW: And thank you, Staff, for all the hard work. I know...I know you...that you're hard to keep up with.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Thank you, Mr. Testifier. I don't know if he gave his name. Okay. Ms. McKinley, any last...any last testifiers? Last call?

MS. MCKINLEY: No one else has signed up to testify currently. Last call. Please, if there is anyone that would like to testify at the beginning of the meeting, please unmute yourself now or come to the podium. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Okay. Seeing none, we'll move on with our agenda...one agenda item.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

ADEPT-1(10): POST-WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (RULE 7(B))

CHAIR JOHNSON: In accordance...so, ADEPT-1(10), Post-Wildfire Environmental Issues. Oh, excuse me. Okay. In accordance with Rule 7(B) of the Rules of the Council, the Committee will receive presentations and discuss matters related to post-wildfire environmental issues. No legislative action will be taken today. Members, when we were in West Maui last week for our GREAT Committee week...meeting, we heard many concerns and suggestions from our community regarding Lāhainā. One testifier mentioned the potential for another disaster, a disaster that will come if and when strong rains wash the ash, debris, and other toxins from the burn zone into streams,

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groundwater, storm drains, and shores before clean up. Many of us are concerned. This could have long-lasting impacts on our reefs, limu, fish populations, and natural resources, which are so important for sustenance of our island's health. Today's...today, experts have been invited to this Committee to share their work in and around the burn zone. Again, the purpose of this meeting is not legislative action, but to share information to help us all be engaged in post-wildfire environmental efforts. It will also help everyone watching be aware of any gaps or needs that we can support, and any data points or projects that we should follow up in the future. Ultimately, we want to be collaborative stewards of our environment at a time when our land and waters need special care. Without further ado, Members, if there are no objections, I would like to designate our presenters and speakers as resource personnel under Council Rule 18(A), given their expertise and experience in addressing the post-wildfire issues impacting the island. Any objections, Members?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. So, they are Dr. Kim Falinski, West Maui Ridge to Reef Partner and Coastal and Estuarine Scientist with The Nature Conservancy; Dr. Renee Takesue, Research Geologist with the United States Geological Survey Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center; Stephen Zahniser, Deputy Director of the United States Geological Survey Pacific Island Water Science Center; John Starmer, Chief Scientist of Maui Nui Marine Resource Council; Ekolu Lindsey of Maui Cultural Lands; and Duane Sparkman of Kipuka Olowalu. No objections? Okay. Thank you, Members. Let's start with a presentation from Dr. Kim Falinski. Dr. Kim Falinski is a scientist with The Nature Conservancy, and a partner with the West Maui Ridge to Reef initiative. Doctor...oh, okay, she's on the call. Dr. Falinski, thank you so much for being here. Please proceed with your presentation.

MS. FALINKSI: Aloha mai kākou. Oh, good, you have it up. I'm humbled. Thank you very much for allowing the Ridge to Reef Initiatives Partnership to speak today. As I was introduced, my name is Dr. Kim Falinski, but I am here representing a larger collaborative that has come together to support the environmental response in Lāhainā. I'm specifically talking for Tova Callender, who many of you might know, who has organized the West Maui Ridge to Reef and is currently out in the field collecting samples, so wasn't able to...to give this presentation. I understand the gravity of the situation in West Maui, and as the fires happened, this group convened that we'll talk about today in order to try to gather all of the environmental work that was being done as...as well as possible, given that the human demands are really of the utmost concern. And so, as soon as the fire happened, this group came together to try to start sharing information and figuring out who could do what within the great landscape of partners out there. The goal of the group is to work collaboratively, so instead of kind of having a typical research environment where everyone does their thing, the goal is to share resources, and everyone is welcome for our weekly meetings right now. We worked first to try to assess who was doing monitoring, who was doing the research, and then to identify all of the funding gaps that might be standing in the way of us being able to work most effectively to try to address the needs that are in our

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coastal environment, our groundwater, our storm water, as Council...Council Chair just described. Next slide, please. I guess...so, this...this slide here, which I hope you all can see, represents all of the different partners that are working in this space to try to solve some of the problems that we've described. I want to mention that a lot of this had started from Tova and my role on Hui O Ka Wai Ola. Hui O Ka Wai Ola is the West Maui, Leeward Maui based community group that is a collaboration between a couple partners--West Maui Ridge to Reef, TNC, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. But, we've been working in West Maui now for seven years to try to figure out other water quality problems, right. So, your regular...your everyday sedimentation, wastewater, agricultural influences. So, when the fires happened, we decided to add sites into the burn zone and get access as soon as possible. So, that...that one thing in the middle there, the West Maui Coastal Water Quality Monitoring, that's Hui O Ka Wai Ola there. And as a community group, we were able to mobilize resources and act instead of the Department of Health using the same types of protocols to measure the water quality parameters that we could, and I'll give you another slide on that in a minute. But I wanted to highlight that it is a community-based organization that was able to get in and take some of the first samples. All of these partners are really deeply interested in helping to solve this issue. So, there's enterococcus, which is an indicator of possible wastewater issues, and Surfrider is leading that. There are samples being taken by organizations with much more lab capacity than any of the kind of more simple organizations can handle. Renee Takesue will be talking next about the work of the USGS. But UH Manoa's Water Resources Research Council, including Leo Geng, up on the top left there; Chris Shuler has been focusing on drinking water in Kula. And down here, you'll hear about Steve Zahniser's work at the USGS working on stream water quality, but also, Ying Fan Sing (*phonetic*) has been involved in streams. So, the point of all of this...oh, I'm sorry. The Coastal Ecosystem piece, like how is the ecosystem itself going to respond? We might not see that right away, but the reef might show us the answer off the shore there. So, where is the reef? How might it respond? And then, how might the fishing and invertebrate, like 'opihi, take up some of the contaminants that might come. So, all of these partners here have been working on this call to try to first off, getting information from the unified command, the EPA guys, the FEMA guys, on what's happening, and then trying to translate it into the research that might be needed for the six month to the one year and the two years...the long-term coming forward. Next slide, please. This is our hui fearless leader, Liz Yannell, sampling. It's hard work, hot work, sampling, but I wanted to show you the sites that we're collecting samples, and that it's intended to not just collect what the normal DOH would collect. So, they're collecting sediment and nutrients, which only gives us so much of the story, but that we've been attempting to work on all those other partners to add in different parameters. So, we've been going out every week now for four weeks, and have continued to be a resource on the ground for anyone who doesn't necessarily have the resources to mobilize right away. Next slide, please. And so, there are implementation actions that are also involved here, and I just want to highlight the work of two partners. One is the Maui Bioremediation Coalition, which is looking for other solutions, biological and stabilization treatments. This is not the Soiltac solution, but other solutions to try to figure out how to hold the soil in place in the long term. And then the NRCS, the

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Natural Resources Conservation Service, has been working on emergency watershed protection measures to work with the big landowners to figure out how to fund activities that would reduce that grass load, and protect the soil and keep it in place. Next slide, please. The other role of this group, this coalition, which doesn't have a great name right now, is to communicate what...what those academic and USGS partners are doing, to communicate it back to the counties and to the agencies who are in charge. And so, we've been able to review some of the BMP, Best Management Practice, plans for stormwater protection, and to elevate these concerns to the different teams. All of these updates are provided at these weekly meetings, so we're hoping that these meetings can serve as a bridge between the agencies on the ground and between the County and other partners who are trying to do the work, and to be able to have comments on those. So, that's been the point of this, is to try to keep everybody on the same page. Next slide, please. And then the last thing is to put together a funding package...funding...a funding needs package. And so, we've assembled a spreadsheet and short blurbs on upwards of five to ten projects that are currently ongoing. So, all of the work we showed, all of it had to get funded right away, right. Like from the moment you start, we need to take a sample and get it to labs and figure out how to resource all of that without necessarily immediately accessing the great Federal EPA FEMA monies. So, looking for the partners that want to fund, and connecting them to the funding profiles. So, here's just a short list of some of those projects that have unfunded needs that we've been working to try to connect people who have extra money or capacity with the projects on the ground. And one of those...I just want to pilot number two there because there's so much work being done. But some very expensive work is thinking about the contamination piece for our ecosystem. So, analyzing fish samples, 'opihi samples, samples that things that people might eat...the timeline is very long, right. How long will it take if there is a contamination for that to show up? But also, it's very, very expensive. So, we're talking hundreds of thousand dollars for that type of analysis. And so, that kind of thing, which is really top of mind for the interaction between people and place, is really expensive work, and hard work, and hasn't necessarily been funded yet. Next slide. Once all of this is done, we look forward to being able to put together a hub, so we've been working with PacIOOS and the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center. There's a number of us on here that have kind of communicated with these guys. But given that the Red Hill disaster took so much energy over the last couple of years...the good thing to come out of that is that we've learned how to put together an information hub. And so, based on that model from the Red Hill, we've been able to think about how to share all of this data and...and information in a single place so people can feel looped in without having to come to the meetings, and so that this data has a place to live. And so, we're currently in need of funding for this. It's not a big lift, but we've been working to get this piece funded so that the...the guys at PacIOOS can start working on this product so that there's a place to land for folks. And there's other types of models like this happening, and we're very conscious of that, that everybody has kind of a different way of doing things, but we still see some strength in building something like the Red Hill tool for our West Maui community. And that's all I have to share. I'm happy to answer any questions, and I look forward to hearing the other presentations myself. Thank you.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Dr. Falinski. We're going to go into just clarifying questions. More of the debate or the discussion will happen after...at the end of all of the presentations. So, thank you for that, Doctor. Members, any clarifying questions for our presenter? Just a reminder, Members, please hold on to any nonclarifying questions until we're able to close testimony after all the presentations. So, any clarifying questions for our...our presenter? Okay. I want to thank you again, Doctor, for your testimony. And we're going to move on to the next...all right. Thank you for your presentation. We're going to move on to the next presentation. Our next presenters are Dr. Renee Takesue, a Research Geologist with the United States Geological Survey Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center, and Stephen Zahniser, the Deputy Director of the United States Geological Survey Pacific Island Water Science Center. I see you folks on the call. Thank you so much for joining us today. Do you have slides to share?

MS. TAKESUE: I do, yes. And --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. TAKESUE: -- you have them.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Staff, are we going to pull up the slides? Okay, they're pulling them up right now.

MS. TAKESUE: Thank you to the Council for inviting us to share the work that the USGS is doing in response to coastal effects of the Lāhainā wildfire, what that means for the public and environmental health risk, and how we think we would like to contribute towards Maui recovery and future resilience. I'm Renee Takesue. I am with the Pacific Coastal Marine Science Center in Santa Cruz, California. And I'm a Wildfire Geochemist, and I also work on land-based sources of pollution and how those affect coastal ecosystems. So, I've done a lot of work in Hawai'i and unfortunately, the coincidence of my wildfire work . . . *(inaudible)* . . . to Kaua'i recently. So, it's...it's hard to see what's happening, but we hope that we can contribute to the public understanding and recovery. I'm working with a team of researchers from a diverse range of backgrounds--from contaminants, hydrology, ecotoxicology, groundwater, how that affects reef health, circulation, and protection of...of the shoreline from...from the reef, and mapping. And we can't do any of this work without our local partners, Russell Sparks at DLNR, Division of Aquatic Resources; Tova Callender, who is the West Maui Watershed Coordinator for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, and of course, involved in the Ridge to Reef Initiative; Maui Nui Marine Resource Council; and we're partnering with the Pacific Island Water Science Center--you will hear from next--and also the USGS Geographic Incident Response Team, who is helping us provide visualization and communication portal for the data. And we do know about the hub that will be created...the community hub that we will link to that once it's usable and up and running. Next, please. So, being coastal studies researchers, we think of things in terms of coastal watersheds. So, there's ahupua'a, Ridge to Reef, holistic

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ecosystem-based science is what we do. And so, that involves fluxes coming from land and into the ocean. The shoreline is the mixing zone. So, we need to consider both. And that's entirely suited for the concerns that the community has--the State and County has--for what's going to happen with the wildfire materials in terms of the reef health. And so, this type of work, of course, involves many different time scales. The first bullet addresses the immediate effects. What happens right after the fire? What kind of public and environmental health risks are there? Where do these contaminants go? But we'd also like to consider the longer term, and these studies, some of we have already begun. The first bullet point, the immediate response, we were able to get on the ground with some limited funding. But we also are searching for...we've explored avenues to get funding for the longer term, which is the reef health in the long term, and also, the recovery and protection benefits of the reef to Maui. So, we also...throughout this whole process, we recognize the importance of engagement with our partners, our stakeholders, and the native Hawaiian community. We'd like to know what science is important to you, and what products we can produce in a way that is meaningful for the people who will use them. And so, we hope this is a process where you feel like you can provide us feedback. We definitely want to talk to all the groups involved and find out how we can have the most impact for you. And so, let me go through this conceptual model of how we want to contribute. We've already been in the field collecting soil samples from the area around Lāhainā Town, and inside of Lāhainā Town, and the beaches, and with Russell and Tova's help to collect those initial samples from the reef to see what kind of contaminants are there. We've also put out samplers that will measure not just the sediment, but also what's in the water, and that takes a longer time. It's a three- to four-week interval, and Tova and Russell, I believe, are recovering those samplers today and taking a second round of sediment samples, so that that's the solid particulate phases, and these will be analyzed. Hopefully, we'll get funding, and we're looking to hopefully Federal sources of funding for these analyses to look at the immediate effects of the wildfire, right, within a...a month or two after the fire. But then the question being, once it starts raining, what's going to happen? So, we'd like to come back, do another round of sampling during the wet season to find out when the material moves from the land to the sea, what is the effect both on land, and also on the reef. And then we have some other studies that we're proposing through hopefully the Federal funding, which will be to look at damage to the reef itself. You know, coral reefs have a very important protective value for the shoreline, and there could have been some damage. Activities associated with the fires, especially a lot of the vessels that could have been on the reef and damaged the reef itself. And we'd like to do some mapping to characterize what happened to the reef. And then that will feed into modeling, which is an assessment of how the reefs actually protect...provide socio-economic and natural hazard benefits to Maui, and how reef restoration could provide future benefits. And this is the initiative that's funded by FEMA. It's a hazard mitigation grant, and so, this information would feed into that grant process, which is...which would be a tremendous benefit for...for Maui. And again, throughout this all, we'd like your feedback on what is important to you, what you would like to see done. None of this is fixed in stone, and even the sites can be added or adjusted. So, we really do want to serve the community needs, the State, and the local needs of our partners. Next,

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please. So, I'm just going to briefly describe the work that's specifically what has been done, and this is the...so, we have...this is the contaminants, right after the fire within a month, we will...we have collected...on the map, you see the yellow circles? Those are the soil and ash samples, and those will be analyzed for a suite of contaminants, both associated with the wildfire itself, such as the pHs and the dioxins, and then other contaminants that are more indicative just of an urban environment, like the metals, the forever chemicals, those are PFAS, and then other parameters which are ancillary, but important to the overall understanding...the carbon and the charcoal in these soils. We've collected the marine sediment, which are the green symbols offshore of the reef. We don't yet have funds to analyze those. Similarly, with the dissolved phases in the water, so the contaminants in the water, which is the phase that's actually more irrelevant from the ecosystem, the corals and the fish. And we're also measuring the circulation, and we have some oceanographic instruments on the platforms in front of the reef, and we will have salinity temperature water quality parameters. And in front of Lāhainā Harbor, my colleague...one of my colleagues put out a continuous nitrate sensor, which we will use to look at groundwater fluxes in front of the harbor, so...in view of that stretch. And so, this is what is ongoing right now, and again, we hope to return during the wet season. We can certainly be there to collect the materials. We will hopefully get funding to analyze the materials. The collection is the easy part, especially with our partners, and then we put everything in freezers and store. Freezers and freezers full of materials that we hope we will be able to analyze. But because the wet season is moving the material from the landscape, we are actually...we will plan to increase the list of things we measure to, like the pesticides which would be from the agricultural lands, PCBs, PBDEs, many of these persistent organic pollutants which are in the environment, and then some newer ones which are toxic to aquatic organisms. The last one on the list, 6PPD-q, is from tire particles, and have been found certainly in the Pacific Northwest to be toxic to salmon and other organisms. So, we also want to look at groundwater itself. Are there wildfire contaminants making it into the...the groundwater? So, all of these things we see as important the next maybe six-month window that we'd like to...that we plan to do, and hope to be able to get data for. And next, please. I...and if you have any clarifying questions. Again, your feedback is so important to us. I hope these slides will be available in the public record, and feel free to contact...I put our emails on the title slide. You can contact any of us, and this is my email address. If you do have feedback, please reach out. We're happy to talk to you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Dr. Takesue. And then how about...Mr. Zahniser, are you...you just following up, or do you have anything...anything to add? Okay. Let's see if we can get any clarifying questions. Oh, go ahead. I'm sorry.

MR. ZAHNISER: Is my audio going through?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah.

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MR. ZAHNISER: I was clicking on the unmute and I was getting nothing. Oh, good. Video is up as well. I do have a couple of slides. Screen share is disabled. I did...I was speaking with --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. As we get set up for that...we'll let you get set up. I just want to welcome our...our Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura has joined us. Welcome, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning. I'm sorry that I was late. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That's fine. And then I think we see Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez? Oh, there she is. Yep, she's on the call. Welcome, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office, alone on my side of the office, and I have our Committee Outreach Specialist Zhantell Lindo and Haunani Madela on the other side of the office, reporting no testifiers at this time. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much. Welcome, welcome. Okay. Mr. Zahniser, I'm sorry. Are you...and we have his slides in case? Okay. So, we'll pull up the slides, and you can just tell us next.

MR. ZAHNISER: All right. Thank you. First and foremost, I want to really...direct on two points that were made by the previous speakers. You know, feedback is...is incredibly important to us. This is an ongoing process for all of us, and it's important that we understand what is most critical to the community, as well as the...the recovery side of what's going on. We have ideas, but...but we certainly would like to hear back from everybody else to make sure that we're...we're proceeding in the right way. Also, I really want to thank Dr. Falinski, as well as Tova, for all the work they've done in kind of getting the partners together, and identifying those gaps, and really, from day one, holding those meetings to get all the responsible parties together to talk about different ways in which we could kind of support this effort, understand the impacts, and...and really kind of speed that whole process towards recovery, and try to come to some sort of new normal for...for what the Lāhainā community will be able to...when they'll be able to return to...to their...their...their community there. So, just a quick introduction for myself. Stephen Zahniser, I'm the Deputy Center Director here at the Pacific Island Water Science Center. We're located in Honolulu over on O'ahu. If we can go to the next slide. Our goal is really to collect, analyze, and disseminate the partial hydrologic data for...for management of those water resources across the Hawaiian islands, as well as the affiliated U.S. Pacific Islands. We're very active in Hawai'i right now, working with a number of our local partners, specifically the Commission for Water Resource Management in the operation of some of the stream gauges. One in particular that we'll be talking about here in a minute, Maui Department of Water...Water Supply, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture. We work with a number of different State partners just to make sure that

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we're providing them that impartial scientific data so they can make those...those informed decisions. As we...as we collect this information--if we can go to the next slide--we are really, for the Lāhainā area, focusing in on what are the main arteries kind of coming through town there...that being the Kahoma Stream. You know, Renee was able to...to talk a bit about the terrestrial side of what they're sampling. That is very important for now in understanding what kind of impacts may be present within the soils. And our focus really is in as those soils and those ashes start to mobilize and come into the surface water environment, how does that impact the surface water environment? What kind of impacts might be headed towards the near shore marine environment? And then while it won't be covered specifically here today, one of the areas that we're starting to focus in is the groundwater side of life, and the longer-term recovery side of things as these contaminants and impacts tend to mobilize. What kind of impacts might we have to the...to the groundwater environment? So, in order to kind of address the immediate questions when it comes to what's going on with the surface water side of life? We identified three primary areas along Kahoma Stream in which we wanted to do some initial water quality studies. One location, located on the upstream by the Lāhainā Bypass, this was just outside of the burn zone, giving us a good understanding of what the...what the...the base load and the...the baseline is for the overall water quality of the system. One located coincident with our stream gauge at Kahoma Stream in the middle there. If you look at the picture on the lower right-hand corner, you'll see a finger kind of pointing off to the stream, and you see a couple of our scientists up on the stream bank analyzing some water samples. But that vertical line coming down into the stream is...is what we're using to gauge the stream...the stream height...the stream stage, and whatnot. So, we wanted to be able to make sure we have a good understanding of discharge within the area so we can kind of compare that to what's going on with the impacts as there are potential impacts as they move through the system. The last location is along Front Street, kind of near the Front Street Bridge, just outside of the tidal influence zone, and that's the picture you see in the lower kind of left side. We're just upstream from the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . legacy, the orange boom going across the...the stream there. The idea there is to really understand...now that the water has passed through this artery out towards the...towards the nearshore environment, what kind of impacts are immediately potentially impacting the reefs and the ocean in that area. We much...much like the constituents that Renee has talked about, we are looking at a whole host of various . . . *(inaudible)*. . . as well as parameters that are really kind of those key constituents we would see in some sort of urban or wild...wildfire environment. Those samples were collected on September 6th that had been sent off to the USGS National Water Labs, and they are currently being analyzed. We hope to get those infor...or those results back soon. And as Renee mentioned, our goal is to work with our Geospatial Information Response Team, the GIRT team, to develop some sort of data visualization dashboard to kind of display that out to everybody. We want to make sure that as the data is being collected, and as it is being qualified and reviewed, it is being made publicly available for both the decision makers, as well as the community, to better understand kind of what...what they're potentially being exposed to, or the overall health of that stream as it comes through. That information can very easily be integrated into the data hub, the information hub that Dr. Falinski

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was talking about a little bit earlier. If we can go on to the next slide. This is just kind of an example of...of one of the dashboards that we currently have put together on a national scale. This is the USGS National Water Dashboard. On Maui, you can see a number of different circles, dots, diamond shapes, and whatnot. They all represent various aspects of near real time...real time or historical information that's being collected about surface water and groundwater type of . . .(*inaudible*). . . All those are interactive. You can kind of see what the information is being collected there. In particular, the...the gauge that I was speaking about, Kahoma Stream gauge, has been in operations for over 50 years. So, we have a long data set and, you know, we're thankful for the partnership with Commission for Water Resource Management, CWRM, there to help fund that gauge along with us to collect these data. And I think that should kind of wrap it up. We're in the beginning stages of what we're doing, and we've got one round of samples done as kind of our baseline. We are currently prepping right now to go back out and take a second round of samples and kind of understand what has changed over the last month. We've had several minor precipitation events. We know that those are the areas, as Renee has mentioned, Dr. Takesue has mentioned, that will mobilize some of those...those impacts, and we would like to see if there's any changes overall within the stream from that time. We're also targeting additional sampling for the December, January, as we move into the wet season here in Hawai'i to determine whether or not additional mobilization has gone on. So, we'll continue to monitor, and we have one of our scientists on island now. The rest of us are a quick trip away to...to collecting information as it becomes needed. So, again, we're open to any feedback. We're very thankful for the partnerships. We're really here to support the community of Maui and Lāhainā, and really kind of move towards that...that state of recovery. How can we get people back to...to where they belong? So, we really appreciate the opportunity to speak here today, and look forward to any sort of clarifying questions and any other questions that might come up at the end of the presentations.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much, Mr. Zahniser. Members, do we have any clarifying questions for his presentation, as well as for the presenting...the presentation by Dr. Takesue? Do you guys have any clarifying questions, we can ask them now. Otherwise, we can move on and...and we can get to the deliberations as...at the end of the presentation. So, I don't see any hands up for clarifying questions. So, all right. Thank you so much, Dr. Takesue and Mr. Zahniser, for that. Our next presenter is John Starmer, Chief Scientist of Maui Nui Marine Resource Center...or Maui...I'm sorry, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. And let's see if he's on the call. There he is. Mr. Starmer, thank you so much for joining us, and we've got your presentation up, and the floor is yours.

MR. STARMER: Awesome. Aloha, Maui kākou. Thank you for having me. As you said, I'm John Starmer, Chief Scientist with Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. I've been working with them out here on Maui for about six years, but I've been dealing with watershed issues and coral reef management for about 25 years throughout Micronesia and the Greater Pacific. Next slide, please. So, just a short perspective on how things get from land into the ocean, one of which I have really not thought about

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too much prior to this wildfire event, though it's pretty obvious if you live down in Kihei that this is perhaps an important process here on Maui. But typically, when we look at watersheds and...and transport, we're looking at surface runoff, stuff that happens when it rains. If you live in North Kihei, or see on the news last winter, very clear that we have a problem with that in terms of just sediment transport. The thing that is becoming more of a concern, is a concern in terms of nutrients, and is groundwater transport, so basically things that soak into the ground, get dissolved in water, carried along with it, less particles and more chemistry happening there. It gets down into the water...typically we have a freshwater lens, which often means that we have discharge right at the coastline. If you've ever been to the beach at low tide and seen the little rivers flowing down in the sand, that's...that's groundwater coming out, and that happens dry season, wet season...doesn't really matter. Sometimes wet season causes those things to...to crank up a little bit. Next slide, please. So, the reason I mentioned wind transport is that basically since the fires have happened, we've had wind transport happening...the fires, the smoke transmitted products from the...from the land to the ocean. About going on two weeks ago now, we had event...an event happen which is not unheard of, this sort of thing happens throughout the Pacific, varying frequencies as part of a natural...of natural cycles. But the reason I highlight it here is that this is a sign of bacterial or blue-green algal bloom. These are little multi-cellular, but tiny algae that are part of the ocean environment, and when you get things like nutrients into the ocean, these things will grow prolifically because...especially in the Pacific, our waters are typically nutrient depleted. So, any sort of additional nutrients, which is a problem when we have leaking sewage lines and things like that, will encourage algae to bloom. So, in the near-shore environment, we have problems on our coral reefs, but if we get large amounts of dust or smoke or other nutrients that are fire-driven, we can have blooms out in the ocean of these planktonic types of algae. I happened to be out doing a survey related to the wildfires with a team we had out doing coral reef surveys, and saw these both in...for myself in Kihei and off of Lāhainā. There was actually a bloom that was washing ashore at Polo Beach in Kihei that caused that beach to be closed because people didn't...weren't sure what it was. It looks sort of like oily ashy stuff. The same event was happening at Kā'anapali at the same time. It's just because people really aren't up there, I don't think it was noticed as much and, you know, no...no response was taken. The thing that is known to drive this is that you do have things like phosphorus and iron in...in ash, and it doesn't seem like necessarily a nutrient, but it is limited in...in the ocean, so when these things get into the water, they can cause blooms. Next slide, please. And I'll just say this as a...it's a correlation. We're not sure that the fires and the results...you know, the ash blowing into the water caused this, but they're sort of...the timeline is correct. And from what we know about these sorts of blooms being triggered by fires, there's a potential that this happened. Just a quick slide, I think here on Maui we're familiar with this sort of thing. This is just typical runoff from land that has been denuded through wildfires, right. This is Pohakea watershed coming out of Mā'alaea Harbor after a rain. This is a sort of thing that we are currently going to face with a serious rainstorm in Lāhainā, given that we really don't have the right preventions in place to stop it. Next slide, please. And so, this is...this is surface runoff. As part of trying to understand what

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happens throughout Maui really, but now obviously focusing on wildfire areas, MNMRC has been using this multi-parameter Datasonde, an instrument that measures a bunch of different water quality parameters, turbidity, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and does it all at once, and we've been pulling this along behind a boat to get very, very, long series of measurements along the coastline. So, this...this would all happen during one day. But versus any other sampling where you go from spot to spot to spot and you get, you know, five or six along coastline, here we're taking thousands upon thousands of measurements. So, it gives us a...a larger spatial understanding. We've been doing it since 2019. You can see the red line that is from Kahului Harbor, goes around North and West Maui...and actually, we have gotten as far as Kaupō. We've only really done that once, but in other areas, such as West Maui and in Kihei, we've done it multiple times. The two yellow lines are areas that we have gotten to post-wildfire, and have...actually have two sets of measurements now for those. When we originally started we had a funding for this, right now we have the instrumentation and we're basically piggybacking on anything that...if we can catch a ride with somebody, we'll take it out and...and drag along. Next slide, please. Another thing that...so, one of the things that...that a multi-parameter instrument does is measure salinity. And one of the questions we've been asking is...is, where is groundwater coming out along the coastline in Maui? On the right, you can see a study we recently completed looking at Ulva, which is a green limu that is known to associate with freshwater discharge. It's especially happy if you have nutrient discharge, and using the N15 nitrogen isotope, you can actually determine whether you have wastewater influencing that growth. Where are the nutrients coming from? So, we've done this in South...South Maui, and we're hoping to extend that further up into...to West Maui to understand both the influence of the different types of pollution, but also to help us identify sources of groundwater. A larger scale effort along with all of this is...that we're hoping to do is use infrared technology basically, drone overflights with an infrared camera, to be able to understand what the groundwater flow is doing. Groundwater is...fresh...freshwater floats on top of saltwater, and as it comes out from the ground, it's a lot cooler than the ocean water. So, you can basically, through thermal imaging, tell where the groundwater is coming up, and identify places where you have more...you have stronger discharge. So, the red and blue image there, the blue is the cooler...cold water coming out, and then the red would be the typical ocean temperature. And this is out of East Maui...or East Hawai'i. So, next slide, please. Or next slide. One of our major efforts in trying to understand the impacts of these fires on our reefs was to get a...a baseline understanding. And one of the challenges of doing coral reef surveys is they tend to be very time- and personnel-intensive. So, typically, you get multiple people on a boat, you hop in the water, and you spend a day doing maybe one or two sites. I happen to be...know a group out of Australia that had a...a towed ROV, a little remotely operated glider, that is very much a start-up, but they were producing results where they were able to cover large swaths of...of area very, very quickly. So, over six days, they were able to cover parts of West and South Maui coastline at three and eight meters, and you can see this from the stats here. Just the fact that they collected close to a million photos of our seabed is...is really, really amazing. I don't want to get too wrapped up into this, but they gave us a presentation at Maui Ocean

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Center at the end of their trip, and the link is there. I would encourage you to watch it. Next slide, please. Part of the reason that we were doing this study was to try and document the current condition of the reefs. So, we were really pushing hard...and I have to say, this was an unfunded project. The folks from Flying Fish Technologies were the company that did this, donated their time. They paid for the plane ticket. We had Maui Ocean Center helping fund the boat. We had people that donated a place for them to stay and a vehicle. So, this was definitely a collaborative and community effort to get this done. And we were really pushing because to get a baseline, you want to do something before any additional impacts happen. Like I said, we've already had smoke on the water, we still have ash blowing, but we wanted to get the state of the reef before the rain came, and when we expect to start seeing more severe impacts. The long line on the right was driven in part because of the CRAMP program, which is a program that was started at UH, and is currently managed by DAR, which is sort of their standard long-term monitoring protocol. So, we hopefully hit a couple of their sites along the way, but this would allow us to basically go in anywhere along these...this line and replicate that protocol, so collect data equivalent to what DAR is collecting. DAR also provided input on the two sites to the left there. One is near Mala Wharf, and one is up in front of Kā'anapali, Wahikuli area. These are the best areas of coral reef up there in Lāhainā, and these are in the area that we would expect to have groundwater and runoff affect the reef. So, these are the...kind of the two best patches of reef in that area. And they are kind of in the middle and to the north, and the expectation is water will generally flow with the currents up in that direction. So, these...we did a little bit more work to...to try and document not just the shallow areas, but get a little bit deeper, so if we do see changes, we can hopefully be able to go and reference this stuff to see what's actually changed. Next slide, please. There's a lot of gee whiz things that this...this tool is able to do. You can see it's a little...little beast being put in the water there off of Kihei on the left. The typical image it takes is there in the center. And the cool thing it does is because it's able to basically take...because it keeps taking photos, each of those photos can be turned into a stereo pair, which means that you can create a 3D model. So, through computer magic, you end up with a polygon shape, the little blue line in the middle is sort of the texture that you have, but then you can overlay the photo. So, you can actually get a 3D model which allows you to look at things as if coral start breaking down, if you're starting to have slower reef growth, you can actually measure that. And the...the power of this thing is that it's super accurate. You can get...you can get some centimeter measurements on this sort of stuff. So, really, what we've managed to do is collect a data set that's going to be super important and valuable for us understanding reef changes in Lāhainā, but also just throughout Maui. And it's probably going to be something where we can keep coming back to this and keep asking different questions. And that...that was really the point of trying to get a large amount of coverage. Typically we say, all right, we're going to monitor Lāhainā. Let's pick five sites. This way we can actually figure out where the effects are, and go in after the fact and say we're seeing things going bad in this area, we'll be able to go and say, all right, well, what did it look like, you know, right after the fires. I should add that there...you know, we were also working with trying to address the fact that other organizations, in addition to DAR and the CRAMP program, Scripps Institute of

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Oceanography has been managing [sic] little patches of reef, and we tried to...to hit a couple of those in the Wahikuli area. And TNC has also done an extensive amount of monitoring in the area. So, we were trying to also, as best we could within the parameters of...of doing something consistent and matching CRAMP, hit some of those other sites that have hopefully a longer history of survey...survey work. Next slide, please. Some of the gee whiz stuff that this tool...that the...this company is producing is also the ability to do automated analysis. This is just a quick example, where in this case, their AI is able to...if you look on the left versus right, it would be tedious, to say the least, for a human to go through and tick off and count all of the urchins or all of the fish. The AI is able to do that basically instantaneously, and because of this long data set that they've gotten, they're able to now train their AI to do this for Hawai'i's fish in particular. They've done a lot of work in Australia and Saudi Arabia. But even with just minimal training during their visit, they were able to get pretty good results, which you can see here. Next slide, please. I would say that...that all of this stuff is...you know, going back to really all of the previous speakers, this is...all of the response I've heard from all of the environmental organizations has been extremely collaborative. And all of the data that we're collecting isn't something that is necessarily for us. This big coral reef is...set in particular, we were really trying to map up with partners' needs and say, hey, you know, what can you do with this, right? What is going to be useful for you in the long-term, and as well as the short-term in terms of responding to the fires, and just coral reef management in Maui in general. All of these other sorts of projects, honestly, we're...we're very much South Maui-focused, this is where all our grants are. We really didn't have money to move up into West Maui and do this stuff. So, again, it's...it's really been partnership, teamwork, people donating time, money, and resources to make this all happen. We actually do have money to go up and do nitrogen isotope testing, it's not that expensive, and County of Maui has already given us some money to do water quality monitoring in general. The coral reef mapping...so all of those...all of the pictures that were captured by this group, Flying Fish, we have the data, so to speak, right. But sort of like the USGS was mentioning, that's maybe not the hardest part. The challenge then is doing the analysis after the fact. And although the Flying Fish guys kindly donated their time for that, they were like, well, if we're going to spend a lot of time doing a lot of analyses, you know, we're going to have to find funding. So, we're currently trying to track that down. We've got some leads on stuff, but it's not funded at the moment. And as...as time continues, we will probably need other analyses on that same data set and, you know, not super critical at the moment, but we look at this as something that will over time continue to need funding as people want to come back to it. The other thing is this infrared groundwater mapping. Again, we're tracking down funds. We've got leads on some money...Nature Conservancy is interested in some...possibly supporting it for some of their projects. So, again, probably going to be multiple sources of funding to move that forward. Looking forward, really, what we've been addressing is the baseline. What happens before the big storm? Once that changes and we have stuff in the water, we're going to need to start kind of shifting our mindset to more monitoring. What's happening in the water? How are things changing? So, right now, this towed water quality work, we can continue to do that in an ad hoc manner. It's going to be challenging like when we

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need to get right out there. This has...this has been a...long been a challenge where it's...the event is driving what you need to do. So, in this case, we've had the fire driving us needing to capture a baseline. When the rains come, we're going to be driven to need to go sample that stuff that's coming off the land right then and there because that...especially right as what's called the first flush happens, which is the first bit of dirt coming into the water, that's the most polluted, that's the most concentrated, that's really what you want to capture to understand what might be...continue to come off the land, but at...at lower levels. I think that's the last slide.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. STARMER: Thank you very much.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Starmer, for your presentation. Thank you so much. Members, do we have any clarifying questions...clarifying ques...oh, before we get to clarifying questions, let me welcome Councilmember Alice Lee. I saw you come on. Thank you for joining us, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I'm sorry for my tardiness, and I have another meeting as well. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah, we're spinning a lot of plates. Any clarifying questions for our presenter, Mr. Starmer? Seeing none. We're going to go right on to the next one. Thank you, Members. Our final speaker here is Ekolu Lindsey of Maui Cultural Lands. He wears many hats. Mr. Lindsey and his 'ohana have deep ties to Lāhainā, and have been involved in conservation and natural resource stewardship work with the County. Mr. Lindsey...or...yeah, Mr. Lindsey will co-present with Duane Sparkman of Kipuka Olowalu. Mr. Lindsey, I see your camera on. Thank you so much for being here. The floor is yours.

MR. LINDSEY: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, County Councilmembers. I appreciate the time that I am able to spend with you this morning to just share some of my mana'o and what I've been hearing from the community. And I really want to thank all support services and distribution hubs, you know. My family is one of those...or my home was one of those that was impacted, so we lost everything as well. And having gone through the system, I have first-hand knowledge of all the challenges that exist, but also being held up here at the Kā'anapali Shores, I'm able to actually talk to a lot of people in similar situations, and I find similar stories. And a lot of could've, should've, but didn't, stories as well. So, thank you for your time today. I want to thank the previous speakers. What you've heard is just mind blowing. The amount of mana'o out there, the science, the baseline, the things that need to get things done are there. What you heard today--and I just love to listen to the science portion of it--is what is the baseline, what is being impacted, and how we're going to make some changes to it? And I think the common thread throughout all of that was funding. And I kind of was just listening to this and thinking, you know, this science...the information that was just given to us, it's like a science distribution

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center, if you will. They've hui'd up with minimal funding, and have the ability to share that so that we can take these next steps. There is a new ecological disaster that is looming. This threat is not if, it's just a matter of when. So, I appreciate the time to see what we can do to mitigate anything...a small percentage would help. Anything would help from getting that stuff into the ocean. Because once it gets into the ocean, we're not going to be able to fix any of that. So, from the...when Axel asked me to speak to you, he kind of wanted the cultural perspective. So, my perspective on this is, we take it back a little bit as to why, and we'll tie it all together for you briefly is...the Kumulipo. We've all heard of that, right. Do we know that Queen Lili'uokalani, who was imprisoned in Iolani Palace during the overthrow, translated that Kumulipo with the hopes that it may be used some time in the future. That time in the future is now with the many threats that are being exposed, you know, including other things in deep sea mining, changes in climate, and all that. But I think what's more important is for us on what we can do here today, now, in the near future to help to stop some of that. So, I will just express to you that the Kumulipo, on lines 15, will say, "Hanau Kumulipo I ka po, he kane. Hanau Po'ele I ka po, he wahine. Hanau ka 'Uku-ko'ako'a, hanau kana, he 'Ako'ako'a, puka." Born was Kumulipo in the night, a male. Born was Po'ele in the night, a female. Born was the coral polyp, born was the coral, came forth, is the translation. Why is this important? The coral polyp is the foundational creature species of that reef. If we cannot take care of that foundation of life, the foundation of life becomes eroded, just as the fire has eroded our foundation. And it also speaks to the duality. For everything on land, there's a protector on land for everything in the sea. In this case, and given our present situation, we need to ensure that we protect those things on land that are coming down into the ocean. So, this ecological threat is going to impact us in so many ways. And funding being huge on this, I would implore the Council to try to see what we can do to support any of these agencies. Because I...you know, for clarification sake, I am a Director of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. I have worked...I am working with The Nature Conservancy and Community Conservation Action Planning. Our family home is...we started a community managed makai area called Polanui Hiu. We've done a lot of baseline studies, and worked with a lot of the scientists, and it's really opened my mind to experiential learning direct through understanding how science fit cultural integrity, right. How do those two fit? So, to...to try to live in both worlds is very challenging, but a necessary part of where we need to go today. And very much heartfelt when I see students coming through the...the realms of college and beyond that can fit in both worlds. So, we have the knowledge that's out there and the passion that's out there by our local students that can do this kind of work. And part of taking care of that ocean is taking care of that land. And that's why I wanted to invite Duane Sparkman up here. You know, I've worked with Duane for many years. He's a Director on a couple of the boards that I sit on, and he is also the Chair of the Maui County Arborist Committee. Okay. So, part of what's important of what he was doing that I felt that was...that you guys needed to hear is the work that he is doing on land, and much love to him because he is the science portion of everything you just heard, but on land. So, I want to just kind of pass the baton to Duane. Duane, if you could just kind of give us some of your mana'o. Mahalo.

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MR. SPARKMAN: Aloha, team. I really appreciate the time this morning. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, County Council. We appreciate Ekolū Lindsey for inviting me. All the speakers we had before are extremely important to what we're doing...is they're collecting all the data in which we get to utilize to make this better. The work that I've been doing working with Maui Nui Marine Resource Council is trying to get a lot of our properties organic, trying to stop heavy metal, trying to stop, you know, any type of reef unfriendly stuff getting onto our land, that way it goes into the ocean, and that was what I've been doing for the past five, six years here already. But, now that we have all of these contaminants sitting around on top of the soil in Lāhainā Town, I have been working with Steve Nimz and a team working on the Lāhainā Banyan Tree and the treescape recovery there. And we've actually been doing a lot of what we call inoculating of the soil, and that's adding in fungus and bacteria there to help, you know, utilize the material to get it up into the tree. Well, also, that fungus can actually help slow down some of that material from going into the ocean. So, it's really important that we look at the Maui Bioremediation team, and try to get them down there to inoculate all the wattles. You know, Goodfellow Brothers has done a great job getting all the wattles put in as a protective layer, a measure that goes in along all the fire areas. That way if it does rain, it has filtration prior to going into our ocean. But if those can be inoculated with a fungus, then that fungus can help actually trap some of that heavy metal and some of those contaminants inside the fungus, and it doesn't go into the ocean. So, there's the little things that we can do to help that. What we've done already actually helped it more by adding things, micronutrients are important to make that happen. I'm very, very concerned about what could happen during a big rain. Obviously, I have seen the areas, and...and it could be very bad. So, we've really got to pay attention to those things. So, all of this information is...is very critical for us to act upon it. The funding is critical because we need to continue this monitoring, especially if we do have a rain event, and we have to go out there and collect this data...somebody has to do the work. So, I'm...I'm just here as a...as a source of knowledge for our trees, for our plants as well. I'm the land-based guy, very, very 'āina based. So, please reach out to me with anything. If you need anything, let me know. We're very into getting our treescape of Lāhainā Town back in shape, that way those trees can actually start drawing, you know, fresh water back down to our water table. We can actually create more shade, get more moisture down in that area, and we can actually start to prevent fires in Lāhainā. So, that...that's the big push. But guys, thank you for your time. I really appreciate being on here. I appreciate everything you guys are doing.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Sparkman. Oh, Mr. Lindsey.

MR. LINDSEY: Thanks, Duane. Yeah. I just kind of wanted to close up and ensure that one of the asks I has for Council or anybody that can provide is access for Duane's team to get in there and do the remediation and the mitigation work for the trees and everything else that he just mentioned. But also, for the science teams, specifically The Nature Conservancy because they have the ability to put boots on the ground, and mitigate and capture all those contaminants around the cars or on everything. I spoke

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with Scott Crawford recently, and he said they have a plan, they need access, let's get this done. We need to do it now, and time is of the essence. Mahalo for your patience with me today. I appreciate every one of you. Aloha.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Sparkman. Members, do we have any clarifying questions for our two gentlemen who just spoke? Seeing none. Oh, we got Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, I'm just curious. Because I have been collecting questions from your previous speakers, I'm so grateful. Thank you for doing this. Are...are you going to do testimony and then we go through rounds of questions?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Exactly right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. I'll...I'll just wait then.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That's right. Yeah. Right now, we're just going to do the clarifying questions, and just like you said, we'll open it up to testimony, and then get back into our deliberations.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, we have one from Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a quick one. Is Mr. Sparkman going to be available later for questions?

MR. SPARKMAN: Yes.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Sparkman? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

MR. SPARKMAN: Yes.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay, great. Well, I thank you all, Members, for...for that. And now we're going to hear from the Administration for any comments or feedback that have been about post-wildfire environmental issues and work they are involving...they are involved with. So, with us today is Mr. Cooper, Mr. Drake, and Mr. Medeiros, all from the Office of--what's your office?--Innovation, that's it. Thank you, thank you. Yeah. Okay, that's right. So, do you guys have any...anything to add at this time?

MR. MEDEIROS: Well, first, just mahalo for all of our presenters for sharing a lot of valuable information that was shared, and I just want to ultimately echo the sense of urgency that's needed for this effort. Like a lot of our presenters and subject matter experts have shared, you know, time is of the essence, and I know that there have been a lot

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of groups that have been working on this effort for over a month now. So, ultimately, you know, this is our collective kuleana to really start implementing these actions that...we'll definitely have a question or two later. But, yeah, it's just as our first in-person testifiers here today, we got to start putting action into progress. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Anyone else?

MR. DRAKE: Aloha. I just want to say thank you and mahalo for the presentations, testimonies, and for the invitation for the Office of Innovation and Sustainability to attend. As my colleague said, you know, the people and the land are deeply interwoven, and in like many places across the Pacific, the land and the people are one and the same. So, the restoration of the land must be in tandem with her people. And I think that we defer to the Lāhainā community, and we support whatever the Lāhainā community wants. And that is kind of our role is a supportive role, and to collaborate in any way that we can to help in the restoration. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Drake. Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER: Hi. Aloha. It's an honor to be here, and I really do want to thank all of the previous speakers. I think that testimony showed how much science is involved, and how crucial it is as we make decisions going forward. I think prevention is really the principle that is guiding us in the work that we're doing. And it was great to see Ekoru as well after connecting with him last week there in Lāhainā to really discuss what must matter. I really believe the Lāhainā Advisory Team and the board is really crucial in this process, and that's how we have to coordinate. It must be centered around community engagement and looking towards a larger aspect of circular economy going forward. And I'll stop there and look forward to our conversation.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Well said. Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen for joining us and all your work with us on collaboration. Let's go into public testimony. At this time, if there is anyone wishing to testify on this item, please unmute and identify yourself. Staff, is there anyone wishing to testify?

MS. MCKINLEY: Yes, Chair. The first person signed up is Rebekah Uccellini Kuby, to be followed by Robin Knox.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Rebekah, are you on the call?

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. KUBY: I am. Mahalo, everyone. So, for the past 55 days I have sat with over 340 fire survivors, helping them to navigate through the steps ahead. I am not paid to be here. I'm here because I love this community. I love this land deeply, and it has been home to me for longer than I've lived anywhere else. And I'd do anything to support and protect the people who have become my 'ohana and for the 'āina that has helped me

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and guided me. I have been supporting disaster relief efforts around the globe since 2004. Some of you might know me from the Department of Health grant that I worked at, aiming at reducing health disparities among native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, across Maui, Molokaʻi, and Lānaʻi. I worked on getting GMOs off of our island with . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I've worked on land restoration projects across the islands. I've also worked with the United Nations. I've worked across six different fire communities. And right now though, the...the many titles I've been given, working at the school systems in Lahainaluna, at Kam III, and at Princess, being called Auntie by these children, that is who I'm here today to be able to support. I am not a mother yet myself, and...but I have a fierce mother part of me that wants to protect the keiki and the future generations of the land and the oceans and all living beings. While I really deeply respect and I'm so grateful for the science that is happening right now in the ground, the monitoring, the watershed management, Marine Resource Council, bioremediation, et cetera, I feel right now that the focus and urgency and priority needs to be on preventing this from becoming a worse disaster right now. The irony that I'm seeing right now is we're making PowerPoints, and talking about data collection, and talking about how we're going to capture over the next five or ten years the toxicity that's going to be happening flowing into our oceans, why we might be arguing about a 1 percent of what's in a material, the ashes blowing into the air and into our ecosystems right now. The kūpuna and the keiki and the ocean and the ʻāina are going to get sick, and I don't want to be here in five years having a presentation by John Starmer showing us images of how the coral reef has broken down, and the algae blooms, and how much of our coral reef has died, and how many people in our community are sick because we didn't cover the ash footprint right now. We need to act with urgency to ensure that no more ash is blowing into our ocean, into our residential areas. We're going to be opening the school systems there in just a couple of weeks. Right now, you can see through there on the ground, the winds are blowing up into where the kids are going to be going back to school. Right now, as I've worked on three different fires, every single part of these areas that has been deemed a red zone or an orange zone by the EPA, they...they should have been covered by now. We're 55 days in, and this ash is blowing through the air right now. I'm meeting with families that have been . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . who are getting sick, who are having respiratory issues. We've given out hundreds of air purifiers from Kāko'o Maui as a Band-Aid, and there's so much I know we can talk about. I know my time is up. So, I just want to say, please, with urgency, everything else you guys are talking about is wonderful, but we have to be able to cover the ash footprint now. I can share with you guys how we've done it in other communities. If you don't use the Soiltac, it's a coalition-led movement, but we have to get on it now. We've had groups here on the islands for the last four weeks ready to get this happening, and there needs to be some measures in place. Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Uccellini [*sic*]. Members, do we have any questions for our testifier? If...if...if there...if there isn't any objections, I would like to make Ms. Uccellini a resource. Are you free, Ms. Uccellini, to be a resource?

MS. KUBY: I'm not free, but I will make this top priority.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Any objections to that?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you so much for your testimony. Staff, will you call the next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is the person calling in from the last four digits 1535.

CHAIR JOHNSON: 1535, are you on the call? Are you ready to testify?

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

CHAIR JOHNSON: Hello?

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

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, I don't think she's testifying.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah, I think --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You might want to mute her.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Staff, will you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there's currently no one else signed up to testify. If there is anyone that would like to testify, please let us know now by unmuting yourself or coming to the podium.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Members, seeing there are no more individuals wishing to testify, are there any objections to closing oral testimony for ADEPT-1(10)?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I'll now close public testimony for this item. And we can jump into our deliberations. Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but we have to deliberate before we break? Okay. Let's do...since we just had one informational item on today's agenda, we should have time today to hear everyone's questions and comments. I won't institute a timer or limited rounds today unless this becomes a need due to

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time. I'd like to start by calling Committee Vice-Chair Sinenci, and then go...then go to any Members who indicate they would like to speak. And after we go with Member...Committee Vice-Chair Sinenci, we'll take our...our 15-minute break. Councilmember?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo for all of the presentations. I guess for the last testifier, Ms. Uccellini [sic], we've had responses from EPA that approve Soiltac, and I know that Mr. Kuloloio also brought it up. So, are there...did you...you mentioned that there are alternatives, or your...have had dealt with the...the ash situation? Ms. Uccellini?

MS. KUBY: Yes. Aloha. It's Uccellini.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Uccellini.

MS. KUBY: And yes, I would say as far as what we were able to do in other communities, we actually...we did not have access to Soiltac...I just want to be clear, in Sonoma County, Butte County, or the CCU fire. That being said, I initially had been sent a lot of information about the Soiltac product, and I went in pretty deep into research over the last week, and I called in a lot of my other colleagues to look at it as well because I had been hearing things like it had UV blockers or biocides, fungicides, things like that in it. And I wanted to see for myself to make sure that this is not something we're using the islands as a testing grounds for. That being said, the product that they are intending to use, and that they've used in Kula, has already been used on the island for 20 years, and it indeed does not have the microplastics, the UV blockers, or the other products that I think that they had...they have it in a few other products in their line that do have those things that were used in Alaska. That being said, the alternatives that we used was sort of a coalition-led movement. It was not necessarily the most cost-effective or time-effective, in that it put...we have thousands of volunteers. We also worked with groups like Team Rubicon, Army Corps, to be able to go in, and we quite literally tarped everything that was a red zone, orange zone, and at the footprint of the house as soon as people were completed with the...the sifting. And we ensured that everybody went in to do the sifting with...with Samaritan's Purse or other organizations that knew how to do proper sifting without getting people sick. We also included biotoxer...biotoxin binders for our community so that when they went in to the ash footprint, they were able to take those which have been studied to chelate the toxins so that people don't have to filter it through their liver and kidneys and thyroid. I have personally purchased over 500 bottles that are available for reentry and have been at the reentry area trying to ensure people or at least getting those best practices. As far as the tarping goes for this location, we'd have to have over 25,000 tarps. We also used compost Filtrex socks, straw wattles, and we did micro-remediation efforts. We did three-year studies with CoRenewal for the micro-remediation, and we've shared all of that data with the Maui Bioremediation Group and many others who have access to all of that. So, we're...we've also shared how we were able to get this paid for by FEMA and the County. One other thing I just wanted to mention that I really encourage, and I spoke with some of you already about

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is, the State has not asked FEMA for extensions. They should have been granted extensions for all of their dates...their ending dates, the 45-day window and the 60-day window where FEMA covers 100 percent of costs. It goes into a cost-share where that 25 percent is going to have to be picked up by State and County, and even by some of the local businesses, schools, and nonprofits later. That day one shouldn't have begun until search and rescue was over. I spoke to the Federal Government, and they said that no one from the State has asked yet for that to be extended. So, I just want to continue to encourage you guys to please ask for that extension.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Uccellini. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. Members, let's take a 15-minute break. We'll come back at 10:50. The ADEPT meeting of 10/3/2023 is in recess until 10:50 a.m. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:36 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:53 a.m.

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the ADEPT Committee of 10/3/2023 come back from our short recess. Now the time is 10:53 a.m. We were going to move on to Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, but she is not in the Chambers yet, so we will continue on with...anyone who has their hands up, we can...we can start doing some questions. Does any Members have their hands up for questions? We do have one from Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And before I start my questions, how long do we have? Three minutes, you said?

CHAIR JOHNSON: I didn't put a time on it, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: We're short folks, and it's a smaller Committee, and I think we have time to really get into the...get in the...get in the goods, if you like.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I love it. Okay. And I will be considerate to my colleagues as well.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mahalo for that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo to all of our presenters, and mahalo, Chair, for inviting all of our resource personnel. The presentations were incredible and super informative. So, my first question is for the Office of Innovation. Prior to the recess, we had some...Member Sinenci asked one of our resource persons to share some information, and then there was some information that she shared that I wanted

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to get either like a response from the Administration on things that are or are not happening, such as extension of deadlines. And if the Administration need a refresher on that, I'm happy to read through the transcripts, which is one of the features in BlueJeans, to cite some of the things that the previous resource personnel mentioned.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Medeiros or Mr. Drake?

MR. MEDEIROS: All right. Yeah, mahalo. So, I...I don't know exactly where the extension is relative to the State asking for an extension of FEMA resources. I do know our primary kuleana as the Office of Innovation and Sustainability is really to champion our Lāhainā community, especially our Kaliko Storer, who is the Lāhainā Advisory Team's lead for cultural and natural resources. So, we're going to be coordinating a lot of our efforts relative to the regeneration of 'āina between the debris clean-up phases and beyond with her. So, I can't speak exactly to the extension with FEMA.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Medeiros. Nice to see you. And so, I guess, tomorrow in the DRIP Committee we'll have FEMA representatives, so perhaps we can ask them that question tomorrow. My next question is also for the Administration, and it's regarding comments from Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Sparkman about access. I guess like seeing some posts on social media, I had assumed that access...regular access was something that the Administration was working with them on already, but it sounds like it hasn't been. Can anyone speak to that concern about access being given to malama the...the different trees that are there, and for the other purposes that were mentioned?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Medeiros?

MR. LINDSEY: Go ahead, Duane.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

MR. SPARKMAN: Okay. So, just give you guys a heads up. I...I pretty much flipped over every rock that I can flip to try to gain access for the team that...that we have. We're all volunteers. We're just simply a hui of folks that...that have passion for wanting to do this. We are professionals, and we understand safety, we understand regulations. We just don't know who to talk to about getting badges, or getting passes, or getting on the list, or whatever that may be. I have been brought in by...DOCARE has brought me in. The State Transportation Department Arborists have brought me in. Those guys are bringing me in, but I'm getting in with them, and I have to be on the list with them. And even at that, whenever I'm...I'm following in DOCARE, they question me like I'm some looter or something, and I'm like, I'm with that guy. And it's crazy because they don't even know what the banyan tree is because these guys aren't even from here. So, I...I understand, maybe they don't understand how important it is to us, but we have a whole coalition that it is important to. So, it would be nice to give me at least somebody I can talk to, or a direction I can go to, to be able to get proper, you know, entry for our people.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's also the kumu ulu trees, right --

MR. SPARKMAN: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that you're taking care of? Okay.

MR. SPARKMAN: Yes. Yes. Where...we were in with Noa Lincoln, we got a bunch of root cuttings, those have been sent to Hilo to be grown out so we can have a couple hundred variety...a couple hundred different trees so we can bring back and replant. We've got a big...huge program to reforest, whatever we need to replant the trees in all of the private homes, but I...I need direction from the locals. I need to know what they want. All of this stuff is based upon what Lāhainā wants. All the folks that are wanting to help, they are not from Lāhainā. We have...we have gumption, we have energy, we have passion, we got money, we got all the stuff, but we don't have the information we need necessarily from the locals in Lāhainā, as like, for instance, what kind of trees do they want? I understand this might not be the best time because we're still just grieving. We're still getting to see the properties for the first time. So, it's a little early on asking about what they may want, but I do know the liaison with the Red Cross and...and the guys that are actually boots on the ground with the families there, they're getting...the big questions are, can you have somebody come look at my tree? Can you have somebody come and look at these bushes? Can we find out if they're going to survive? These are my aunties or my uncles or so and so, or whatever, they have big ties to these trees in their yards that they've taken care of for many, many years. We are offering the service to come in. We just don't have access, and that's the hardest part. We're working on a flyer right now to go into the binders that all of the reentry folks get, so that way they can email us or call us and ask, can you guys come out? Can you give us an assessment? And then figure out what kind of trees do they want when it comes time to rebuild.

MR. LINDSEY: I do have a follow-up comment, and perhaps Kim can...can speak to access from The Nature Conservancy gang who really has the ability to do some good work. Kim, can you answer that question?

MS. FALINSKI: I can answer to the extent that I know. Right now, the Hui O Ka Wai Ola, who have been trying to coordinate on the ground, has had difficulties getting access as well. And so, I'm just reflecting the same...the same things, that we have to pair with a State partner in order to get access, which just means an awful lot of coordination with trucks and going out on the right time on the right day...which we're doing, and we're integrating that way, but it would be important to come up with a mechanism, I think, for this next level environmental bioremediation to think of a way to get passes, if possible, as we start the reopening. Thank you.

MR. LINDSEY: Thanks, Kim. And one more comment, and I think this should come from John Starmer, he's with the MNMRC, who also is a part of the team, and I would like for him to reflect on the...their access challenges. Thank you.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Starmer?

MR. STARMER: Yeah. Thanks, Ekolū, for the call out there. For the most part, we've been...been working off of Lāhainā on the water. The Coast Guard has been super helpful, super gracious. We did have, I assume, somebody in Lāhainā harass the group when they were off...off shore towing their instrument for...for whatever reason. Somebody official had the Coast Guard come and check them out. I don't know that there was actually any restriction. They weren't near the harbor, which is the only restriction that I'm aware of on the water. As we're looking at, you know, doing things like the...the limu sampling, or other sorts of, you know, shoreline groundwater type things, access is going to become an issue for us. You know, basically echoing the same sort of thing as being part of the Hui O Ka Wai Ola. There's not a process for anyone local that is not a State or County Government employee to kind of get in there on a regular basis at the moment. That's all.

MR. SPARKMAN: I do have to say one more thing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, everyone. And then --

MR. SPARKMAN: Oh, I'm so sorry. If you don't mind, real quick.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mr. Sparkman.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. SPARKMAN: We have been sponsored by a company called Tree Plotter, they've given us all the instrumentation to go and actually plot and map every single tree that is alive to get them on a watering schedule. So, we do know that we're not going to have water down in the Lāhainā area for quite a long time. We know the infrastructure is very damaged, it's going to take a while to get it there. So, we have to get into a water scheduling, that's really priority right now, and that comes all the way from Steve Nimz, you know, State level from O'ahu, who came over to initially start the...the repairs of the banyan tree. So, we've got to be able to get in and begin this process of mapping and watering. Lāhainā has the water. And also, in talking with the EPA, we've got to watch how much water we put down. And so, Goodfellow Brothers, yes, they've been helping a lot, but in some cases they're overwatering and putting too much water down. And so, we've got to really kind of...I've got to get in with those guys and explain to them how much we need to get down on the ground, put in...moisture sensors or obvious things so that way these guys can see it as they go by. Does it need water today? No, don't water it. We've got to get on a protocol. It can't just be willy nilly watering, because it's too much going down. EPA has already climbed up the...what you call it, the--what do you call them?--the Public Works guys, they've already gotten upset with those guys, too much water going down on the ground, causing a lot of runoff going down the roads. So, we do need to watch all of this stuff, which could actually adversely impact the ocean, obviously. So, we got to

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pay attention to those things. So, access is paramount for us, especially trying to get the...you know, assessment of the trees, number one; number two is getting the water schedule. So, thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, was your question answered?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. But I wanted to also hear from the Administration.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yes, I was going to follow that up. Administration, can we help with these passes, and what Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez is asking?

MR. MEDEIROS: Yeah, definitely. So, as we know, from the start of this emergency management situation, early on in the reaction phase, it was just putting a thousand different pieces together. And as we continue to still put a thousand pieces together while we're firmly in the response phase, this is part of it. So, we do have some organizational structure now, and some lines of communication that will make all of our efforts more efficient ultimately, so as I share it...and probably offline, I can share my contact information with the subject-matter experts. But ultimately, all of our efforts from the Administration side that we're going to be supporting specific to our cultural and natural resources are going to be through Kaliko Storer. So, she's already working with Kaipo Kekona, and Noa Lincoln, and a lot of...I'm sure most of you on this call know her personally. So, for me, what I would recommend is to go and communicate with her, and Kaliko and I speak almost every day, if not every other day, and we can coordinate everything from access to fully integrating our collective efforts.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Now I was going to call on Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, and your turn is up if you're ready for it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. So, the last testifier, you were talking about the request from the Governor to FEMA for a 30-day extension or so, and I heard from FEMA that that request was made. And of course, if you...if you look at what's happening with the reentry, right, the zones that are happening, there is a need for that extension, and I...I support that 100 percent, you know, we're not going to be done by October 10th, which is the date...initial date with...tied into President Biden's disaster declaration...October 10th is the...is the deadline date, but that needs to be extended. And that can be confirmed tomorrow when...I think Curtis is going to come to represent FEMA. And then, the person that you mentioned just now, Kaliko Storer, does that person work with Administration, or what organization is it?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Medeiros.

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MR. MEDEIROS: So, she's actually a part of the Lāhainā Advisory Team, so Mayor's Lāhainā Advisory Team, along with --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, she's the PTSA person from Lahainaluna?

MR. MEDEIROS: She's not the PTSA. She actually wasn't at either of the community events in Lāhainā and at the MACC.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, she was the one that was on O'ahu?

MR. MEDEIROS: Right, right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And not present.

MR. MEDEIROS: Yes. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So...

MR. MEDEIROS: She's the lead for cultural and natural resource management.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, if anybody on this call wanted to have access to Lāhainā, they need to go through her and not your office?

MR. MEDEIROS: I wouldn't say access, I would say coordinated efforts with her. And if...if she, on behalf of the Lāhainā community, coordinates with us that we want access for this person, or this entity, or this is an effort worth pursuing and championing and funding for on our end, then just our office will do our best to, you know, work with the chain of command and ultimately get access or integrate efforts or however that works out.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. I mean it sounds like Duane Sparkman and all the work that he knows and his knowledge, I think it would be so valuable. I mean the questions about shall I keep this tree, or whatever, that's on personal private property, it sounds like valid questions. I think I heard in one of the presentations, either West Maui or the MACC from the Mayor's...you know, his presentations that you all did, five years was the...what the gauge was for a life of a tree to be saved or not. And it sounds like Duane Sparkman has that knowledge, or his team. And then I really appreciate Ekolū Lindsey and what he has shared, the team that he's put together. Because all of this with...and...and the questions that we get from national media about what's happening in Lāhainā is very unique because of that cultural aspect. And so, to have, you know, his expertise and working with The Nature Conservancy and how all of that comes together, I think is...is really the spark that's going to make the West Maui recovery depth and meaningful. So, I have a question to you about funding. So, every...the earlier presenters talked about funding. So, what is the Mayor's Office doing regarding that...their requests? Because it sounds like valid

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requests that they may have. I don't know if you've put together a package and have talked to all of them. I mean, what is the Mayor's position on this work?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Good question. Mr. Medeiros?

MR. MEDEIROS: Yeah. I mean I cannot...I can't speak on behalf of Mayor, of course, but from what I understand, the process is, you know, ultimately if there are efforts that do need funding relative to the emergency response and recovery and relief, it ultimately goes through MEMA, that's who, from what I understand, we have to work through. Again, I'm not speaking for Mayor, I don't...and I don't know the exact process. We're just here to ultimately learn about all of our community efforts, especially the ones that are pono, which, on a side note, you know, mahalo to Eklou for sharing because this is such a unique and culturally sensitive...I mean all of Hawai'i ultimately is, but, you know, Lāhainā in this case. It's really our kuleana to champion what our Lāhainā community wants relative to the care and malama of its cultural and natural resources, and then we go up the chain of command and kind of see where that goes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, what you're saying is, all the previous speakers should talk to Darryl Oliveira?

MR. MEDEIROS: No. All the previous speakers should reach out to Kaliko Storer, and they also reach out to me too, and we can all coordinate and talk together. Because it's...it's a coordinated effort between Kaliko and myself and Tuki in our office.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're going to do that then...and you'll come back. Chair, could you send a letter to Administration asking for what they come up with for the funding that's needed, you know, to continue the work that we heard from the different organizations?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And even the chain of command, how...how do you...how do the...how does the community maneuver that?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm glad you're, you know, having this meeting so that people understand who to talk to and...you know, especially it sounds like there's an urgency with it, you know. So, thank you. I have no other questions.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. We'll draft that letter. Staff, you guys have that...the intent? Great. Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. Are you...okay, you're done?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: All right. Great. Anyone else have any questions? Go ahead, Councilmember Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair, thank you all...thank you...thanks...my thanks to all of the presenters. This is a very educational and very substantial...substantive presentation today. My comment and my concern on what I hear, we have the immediate emergency response, and then we have the longer-term monitoring and addressing the potential impacts, and then substantive impacts that may be discovered. So, when it comes to funding for that, I would just like...I don't know how the...the Council can be of assistance, but if we can, Chair, send something to the Administration acknowledging that that straddling of the time frame seems to be not clear, and we would like to be part of the solution. Thanks.

MR. MEDEIROS: Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, everybody. Today was really informative. I'm really impressed with everybody's deep knowledge and respect for the ocean and the land. And I do have a quick question for Mrs. Falinski, if she's still on? I hope I said your name correct.

MS. FALINSKI: Hi, yes. I'm still here.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. So, what interested me when we were talking about the bioaccumulation of contaminants in our marine life, and you mentioned specifically 'opihi, but then later on it was kind of fish and all the things, and so is the 'opihi the urchin, the wana, the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . all the fish, is that safe for people to consume right now out there?

MS. FALINSKI: Thanks for the question. It's such a hard question to answer. So, I think that's why it's being prioritized. I don't have yet the data, and there isn't a partner that has the data in hand yet to help you answer that question. And I think that's why I'm highlighting it both for Lāna'i...I don't want to forget the Lāna'i community and the Maui community. So, that work is a little bit painstaking, right. You have to go out collect, send it to an expensive lab, and come back. Or, as the USGS mentioned earlier, that kind of fat accumulation technique is the other way. You have a stand in, right. You have a temp, a proxy. You say, okay, well, we can't collect all the 'opihi, so let's put out something that would absorb the chemicals into the...into the tissue like that. And so, that is already deployed and...and ready for analysis, and would help us be able to answer your question and the community's questions. But the second part of that would be to go out and actually collect kind of the smaller fish and the smaller invertebrates that are more likely to be affected by particular metals or particular types of contaminants. And so, that's the part that right now we're...by we, we mean there's lots of partners interested in funding all of the pieces for that project, and there hasn't been a definite like, yes, here's the \$300,000. But we do

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have the funding proposal written, and we are starting to collect some of those organisms so that when it comes time, they could be sent to the right lab. Just broadly, to give you an idea, is that usually these fish...it...the contaminants are going to accumulate up the chain depending on the contaminant, so that the big fish are eating the little fish, the little fish are eating the algae, right. And so, that if...if you have a little amount on your algae, but the big fish is only eating that one thing over and over and over again, that's how it starts to move up the chain. And so, it really depends on the contaminant if that's going to happen, if that's possible. And it's...it's unknown right now, and...and it's...it's a question that I think will take a little bit of digging to figure out. I can report back from the study a long time ago. This is usually the Department of Health's HEER office jurisdiction, so that's the Hazard and Environmental Response group. And a long time ago, I worked on a project in Waiakea in Hilo with...with the DOH, and they had an arsenic plant there on the shore. So, there's so much . . . *(inaudible)* . . . left over, and so then we sampled the algae, the fish, and all these things. And it was hard for us to find...we didn't see the signal coming all the way up, which is encouraging, but that's not always the case. So, until we have the data in hand to say, okay, look, it's really not going to happen, or like other places that are super contaminated, you know, people are still eating the fish. It's...there's warnings out, but if we have the data in hand, then we'll be a lot more confident to...to make that recommendation. Sorry for my long-winded answer, but it's a hard question.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, no, no. I appreciate that. And then far away from, you know, Lāhainā Town and the directly-impacted area, should people be concerned about, you know, eating all of that stuff? Like we saw a photo of Ma'ālaea that, you know, clearly has some affected soil runoff. You know, the east end of Moloka'i is pretty close to Lāhainā, as well as some shores of Lāna'i. So, how far should we be concerned about consuming our fish?

MS. FALINSKI: I was in a call with...with Russell Sparks from DAR yesterday, and I'll just mimic his words, which are not the ones I would usually say. He says, we don't have enough to know, which is not the answer that anybody wants. I...I can say what we do know, which is that the larval communities of place of Olowalu, Ukumehame, and Lāhainā, are connected to the coral communities of East Moloka'i, of Lāna'i. So, that if you look, we have modeling results right now that show that the winds and the currents are going to move the waters between Maui, Lāna'i, and Moloka'i. And even from the heart, we all knew this, that the place is connected. I can say though, that the next step on that is how far out the sediment impact goes. Because the most...the most affected is likely going to be with the sediment...if the sediment becomes contaminated, and then you have ground feeders in the ecosystem, or that the ground...the ground dwellers will be more likely to be affected than, say, your open ocean fishes that can go all over, especially in the near term, right, before it accumulates in that system. So, how far is a question that very few people are able to answer because of the complicated nature of how the wind is moving, how the currents are moving, what kind of turnover do you have on the shore. And so, the best picture we can paint with our tools right now says hey, the water itself is going to

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be moving to Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi, maybe the ash on top, the stuff that can move with the water is, but that that sediment source is going to be the most dangerous. So, I would say that if people can see the ash, and they're trying to harvest critters from in the ash in places with contaminated sediment, that's going to be the highest risk. And then the next highest risk would be creatures that live in the near shore, right, and the...and the ability to kind of shore peck. Shore peck would probably be the next level of risk. And then after that you'd think about the long-term of the fishes that can...can move between these systems more. And that's the best I can answer, and I'm really happy to consult with the real experts on this, and this...this was just the best I could do with your question right now.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I...I very much appreciate your answers. Thank you very much.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Councilmember. Now, I...I'll take my turn and then we'll go for a second round, and I know Councilmember Sinenci has a...has a second round as well. So, this question came up in some of your slides about the Emergency Watershed Protection Plan, the EWPs. It's a first I've heard of it. Can you kind of explain what is the EWP? Is there...is there EWP in place for Lāhainā? What's the timeline of creating this? Can the public access the EWPs? And basically a quick summary of them. What do they recommend, and things like that. So, that's the Emergency Watershed Protection Plan. I thought I saw it on Mr. Zahniser's slideshow, but I also know Maui Nui Resource Council does...does some work with that; is that correct?

MR. STARMER: I'm doing my best, Chair. It's not something that we're directly involved in. I believe that that is the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS, that is working with landowners to address that, so they...it's...they have, I believe, funding for it. They were out in Kula and working with the ranches in part because they're already doing work up there. I believe...and this is going back at least a week, if not two, when I last spoke with them, they couldn't do anything in Lāhainā because of access issues, even at the Federal level. So, I don't know that that's progressed at all. I'd be happy to kind of...I know a couple of the NRCS guys, I could probably get some...connect you with the right people to answer that question.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much, Mr. Starmer. I'm going to pivot to a different question then in regard to the data sharing hub. I...I like the idea. I think data is information, and in times of crisis, information is a comfort food, and I think we need to be feeding our folks some comfort food. Will the data sharing hub be able to be used for other issues beyond post-fire issues, maybe collecting watershed plans for the entire community? Can you speak on the data sharing hub? I think that was Dr. Falinski, I think, or was it...it was your slide? I've got so many slides.

MS. FALINSKI: Yeah, there's a couple of...there's a couple of data-sharing mechanisms, so I can speak to the one that we're...we're dreaming of right now, which is...yes. We're planning on having...the vision right now is to both have the data itself, like the

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numbers presented, but then have the platform available so that there could be both the spatial analysis so that documents could be linked into it. And I think this right now is a great open forum for if you do have comments and things that you would love to see in there...I think right now, as we put it out to contract, to try to figure out what would be included in the development of that, we would be able to kind of modify it based on what we think community need is. And the plan is also to connect to other hubs, so I know the WROC has a drinking water page set up already just for like emergency drinking water response for Kula. So...so, there is a plan to link into these other sources of information. But, we would love to hear what's important to people and what they want to see, how they want to interact with the tool.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Dr. Falinski. You know, I...before this I worked in conservation, right. And a lot of my job was collecting data, right. So, as...at one point I asked the question, is...okay, we collect the data, but what are we going to do with the data? What are we going to do with the information? So, I can see your data collection efforts, and I applaud them. They're not easy, it's a lot of work. But the question comes now is, okay, well, what are we going to do with this data? And I...if you are going to do a data sharing hub, I would say inform the public, educate the public. But also, if there's something we as...as legislators can pull out, or the Administration over here can pull out, and...for policies, right. We want to kind of have policies based on data, and that makes sense to me. I think the public would say, why are you proposing this...this bill, or this, you know, policy? I would say, well, because of the data we got. And the data hubs kind of congregated all the information. It makes sense to me, as a legislator, to say, I'll fall back on the data on the reasons I'm proposing certain bills and certain things. So, I guess I'll turn it over to Administration real quick. Is...my question would be...kind of be in regards to basically...maybe someone can push for funding? Is it...you know, I know, Administration, you know, there's...there could be some funding mechanisms to help move this along. You guys support that kind of...kind of efforts to have like a data...data sharing hub?

MR. DRAKE: Thank you for the question. I appreciate that. So, absolutely we support any efforts that are going to be positive and beneficial to the Lāhainā community. And so, I think that I want to clarify as well. Our position, the Office of Innovation and Sustainability, is to work with the Lāhainā Advisory Team and to make sure that we support whatever initiatives that they want to support for their community. So, we don't want to make any decisions regarding what is good, what is bad. Our...our whole purpose is to focus on what the Lāhainā Advisory Team supports because they have the connection with the community. So, that's why when we say we're kind of like, you know, a little bit apprehensive perhaps about saying, yes, absolutely, or no, absolutely, because we're not the decision makers for this. Lāhainā community is the decision makers. But we will work with them. And after this meeting, happy to share our contact information with all the presenters so they can have direct access to us, and then we can get them in contact with the people that they need to be in contact with. So, thank you so much.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that. We're going to do second round, and I know Councilmember Shane Sinenci had some questions for second round. Councilmember?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And maybe this question is for Dr. Takesue if she's still on the line. We've been made aware that there may be upwards of 70-something vessels outside of the Lāhainā Harbor. And so, I was just wondering, what would be the process and who would be doing the cleanup for...for all of these vessels that have sunk...some from the fire, and maybe some previous to the fire.

MS. TAKESUE: Maybe others can speak also. My understanding was the Coast Guard would be salvaging the vessels. Does anybody else have any other information?

MR. ZAHNISER: This is Stephen Zahniser. I know NOAA is...is also working along with the Coast Guard to get those...those vessels. And I have...I do have a contact name I can pass along to you in email afterwards for that person who is helping coordinate that effort.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you for that.

MS. FALINSKI: I would just add that DOBOR is involved, so DLNR's DOBOR would be the State contact for that. And the DLNR meeting yesterday, which was similar to this one, highlighted the role of DOBOR in trying to coordinate for the harbor. And the...the other point I can make is that they are fast tracking the rebuilding of the harbor because the contract was already on the table, if you hadn't heard this already. And I'm just speaking from the meeting yesterday. And the last thing is that they are considering working with the Army Corps to dredge the sediment which is too contaminated. And so, it might be something that someone here wants to follow up on because the sediments in themselves have a layer on top of them that is just debris. And so, they're considering the dredge of the harbor before they can reopen it.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you for that information, Dr. Falinski. And then I did mention to our Administration about the SMA rules. It looks like there...there are concerns about having those properties within the 120 feet of the SMA, if they're able to either build back or...or they would have to be subject to the new SMA rules?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Medeiros, or...is that question for the Administration Office of Innovation?

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Yes. Yes.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

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MR. DRAKE: Thank you for the question. We can get back to you on the answer for that. We'll seek the answer for that. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you. And then...that's all my questions for now, Chair. Thanks.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Okay. Any other second rounders? Councilmember Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I don't know if the...our Administrative reps are going to have an answer to this, but does Soiltac...it's my understanding from having been a contractor and the BMPs, Best Management Practices. So, when you put down Hydromulch, which is like papier mache, if it's permanent, you can put seeds and fertilizer in it. If it's not permanent, then you put Soiltac, which is...helps it last longer. It doesn't dry up. It doesn't blow away. So, I didn't think that it was like a hazardous material. And here's my question is...that you think we could get an answer in more in-depth in time. It's currently accepted, I believe, as a BMP mitigation measure island-wide and I understand and respect if there's concern and resistance in Lāhainā, given the situation. It doesn't matter, it's...that's a discretionary call by the community there. But I think for the public's information, because of the lack of clarity, that that's something that I'd like us on the Council to be able to get a response back like from Public Works, or from the Administration, as far as if it's an...what they're proposing is that if it's existing standard accepted practice, is this particular product that they're recommending a variance of that? So, that's my question.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Do you want me to send that question to the Public Works as a Committee?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: You folks...Staff, we got that down? Okay, great. You have an answer to that, Councilmember? I was going to call...okay, you want to speak to that? Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, you know, who's coordinating that...because as you mentioned, Kula is doing it, right? So, the soil...the tackifier, I don't know what the professional name is, but it's a Soiltac --

CHAIR JOHNSON: Glue.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- was done as a sample, and I got to witness it. I think they reached out to Member Sinenci, and then I think Tamara Paltin was not available when I called her, she was in the midst of something. But, it is a clear...it looks like glue when they spray it on. They spray it on from a...you know, a truck with a hose, and they spray it only on the house print, they don't spray it on the whole...you know, your entire acreage. So, that was done with EPA as...you know, as...as the

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coordinating agency. And if you want, that's a very good question, that we can get maybe EPA to send to you...maybe that's a question for EPA, to talk about the substance and its...it's what they are using. They...they used, I should say, Upcountry because I think that was done with all the properties that were interested. It was done by last week Thursday, and ready to do Phase II, which also involved Bill 86, which Members that are on...well, all of us are on the full Council...the meeting is 8:00 on Thursday to pass Bill 86 for first reading. So, it's 8:00 in the morning, which is different, right. We normally start our meetings at 9:00. So, thank you very much, Member Rawlins-Fernandez for, you know, allowing that, because it'll come right up to her Committee meeting at 9:00 on Thursday morning. But it's kind of all related, so thank you for letting me slip in that. But if you want information, I think it's the EPA, and I can give you the contact.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Well, the EPA is coming tomorrow in DRIP, so that's another thing we can speak to them --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- on tomorrow in the DRIP meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. And I saw Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's hand up for a second round; is that correct, Councilmember? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. So, my first question is regarding the...the data that's being collected. Whose property does it become?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Do you have any particular person you would like to ask that to? Oh, I see Ms. --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Whoever would like to respond.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- Dr. Takesue. Go ahead.

MS. TAKESUE: Yes, this is all public data. And we do have our review process to make sure it's good quality, and we trust it, and then it will become public. And in fact, we are hoping to...so, there's two stages of USGS data. We are allowed to release emergency-use data for public health and emergencies. And that will go out quickly, and with disclaimers that it hasn't been through our full review process. So, it's informational level, but it could be important for public health, so that's why we do it this way. And then the full review process can take a couple months because it's extremely thorough, rigorous. But then it will be...everything will be available publicly.

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MR. ZAHNISER: This is Stephen Zahniser from the USGS as well. That information is...it will be available through a couple different formats, either in science space, which is one of our major data repositories, and WIS, which is one of our major water information systems, and...and/or in reports. So, the...the third way that we're trying to get that information out, as Dr. Takesue said, is, you know, there's preliminary information, and we'll be updating that into that...that GIRT, or Geospatial Information Response Team visual...visualization product that we'll be putting out. So...and...and the goal of that will be to integrate it in with the larger data or information hub that'll be put together as mentioned in the first presentation. So, we're working to get that out as quickly as possible. We realize data transparency is kind of key. Everybody wants to know what's going on, and it's important for the Councilpersons--the policy side of life. So, we'll...we'll certainly share those links as they become available.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then anyone else gathering data?

MR. SPARKMAN: Any of the mapping sources that we're going to have will be made available to Tim Griffith, the State Arborist, Maui County Division.

MR. STARMER: So, anything that MNMRC is collecting is absolutely going to be free and open. The data set that...the original images that were collected by Flying Fish, because they weren't paid for it, are their property. However, they made it amply clear that any products...basically anything that a resource agency and, you know, any public entity is asking for, they are happy to share. They just don't want it to be commercialized because it's in conflict with the product that they're developing. But they're absolutely 100 percent behind supporting any needs that we have in making that available to us.

MR. LINDSEY: I'm going to jump in on this. I've always advocated in the many different circles we run through that the information be housed somewhere that's easily accessible by anyone, and it belong to the community or the public so they have that resource. One of the challenges, we have multiple agencies like this, that it's difficult to go and find that information. But if the County can come up with a way where something can be housed somewhere, at least there can be links to the information that you're going to be looking for. Because that information that they're coming up with is going to be important for the decisions you're going to have to make, that's going to be difficult to find unless it's housed somewhere...somewhere easy. Thank you.

MR. STARMER: If I can add to that, Ekolū. So, the idea behind the data hub was in part to be able to do that, and currently we're in discussions...like this is just coming together basically over the past week, trying to figure out exactly that. So, we're...that larger hui of environmental organizations is trying to figure out how do we pull all these disparate organizations with disparate organizations with disparate data sets together. PacIOOS has very graciously offered to house, I think, pretty much any sort of data. That's really their job. They're part of UH. And it is their job to kind of manage the

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data, and find a place to house it, and then they...through the PacIOOS Voyager dashboard, that's a pretty nice way to search for and then visualize data. So, work in progress, but definitely I agree that, you know, with Ekolu's promise that...and then all of the organizations are in the same mind, we want this data to be publicly accessible, not hard to find, and...and kind of figuring out a way we can aggregate it, even if different organizations own it and hold it for themselves. If there's one place that is sort of a one-stop shop, that's going to be ideal. And like I said, we're just starting this, so we're open to working with anybody. PacIOOS actually has the funding for it. It is part of their mission statement, so it's sort of a logical place to house any data that doesn't have that place. But we're actually pretty stoked with MNMRC because this was one of our problems. We don't have a way to disburse our data, so housing it with them is really cool. But other organizations are in better shape, I guess. So, again, pulling it into one spot that makes sense for everybody would be great, and we're just starting that conversation. So, if anybody wants to get in on it, feel free to reach out to me directly, and we can get you connected with the folks that are trying to sort that out.

MS. FALINSKI: Councilmember Johnson, you mentioned of having kind of...there's data is a one thing, and I think what the need I was hearing from the previous questions is that if we have a place to put data, that's great, but having kind of shorter summaries of that data might...might really help for interpretation so that it isn't just that you have to look at the raw data. So, I...I heard that, and as we think about this tool, it won't just be at a data repository, but perhaps we can make sure that it's also a data communicator.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Wonderful. Thank you. Councilmember --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, everyone for sharing that. Mahalo, Chair. So, in asking that question, part of the concern that I would like to put on everyone's radar is being mindful of protecting...working with the community to protect traditional koa, so that the...we're not exposing traditional fishing grounds to the world. So, you know, if...if that's not something that's already part of your procedure, if you could kind of think through developing, you know, BMPs or, you know, to work with the community on...on that. That's...I know that's something that's really important to Moloka'i, and I'm sure the communities there share that as a top priority as well.

MR. STARMER: I'll just mention that this is actually one of the biggest challenges that we have with this dataset now is...and the presentation they...they...one of the things that they...they chartered was yellow tangs, and they pointed out...it's like yeah, we don't want to just throw this out here so everybody knows where the most yellow tangs are...that's...that's not what we want to do. So, we're...we're trying...we're currently navigating exactly that question, how are we respectful of the resources, the community, while still being able to share what is important to the community and to the scientists that are trying to get the work done. So, thank you for that.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I appreciate that. I had two last things. One, that I wanted to just put on the record again that cultural knowledge, ike kūpuna ike Hawai'i is science. I know sometimes it's...it's spoken about as if it's separate things. Our culture is science-based, even if it doesn't have, you know, the...the western Latin names and technologies, but that...that is what our culture is. It's generations of kilo, and understanding how our environment works, and the intricate relationships between all the systems. And then my last question was regarding jobs. So, I...I hear the work that's needing to be done, and I also heard from our community, those that perhaps are...were employed with the tourism industry. And, you know, as we are, you know, gathering more funding because, you know, I'm...I'm super supportive of a lot of these projects, I...I hope some of these jobs can be given to our community to help support so that it's something that isn't just enabling them to pay the bills, to pay the rent, or mortgages, or, you know, basics. But also, something that is, you know, filling...filling their...their soul, that is, you know, not extractive, but rather is...is...is giving them more life, so that, you know, we're...we're supportive of our community in that way. So, I don't know if anyone is working on that or can speak to that, but I...I'd love to hear it, and then that way the community can hear it too.

MR. SPARKMAN: I will say this, just...we do have a crew of guys going and watering trees, and the more access that we get, the more that we're offering to take individuals with us to go water trees. It's...it's very healing to the soul going to an area like this, see...see a tree, and actually put water on it, and then sit there and...and talk to the tree for a minute, give it a little bit of your...your ike. It's very...it's...it's healing for us, it's healing for the individuals too. So, as we start to begin this process, we're going to start to try to bring people with us to...to put a hose in the hand and go water plants. 'Cause like I said, it's very healing for all of us. So, as we begin this, I'll...I'll reach out and let more people know about it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we can also pay them? Can we pay them?

MR. SPARKMAN: Well, at this point I don't have funding for that yet. Hey, if we get funding for this, then yes, we will pay people to do this work for sure. But right now --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. SPARKMAN: -- we don't have any funding for this, so we're doing all voluntarily right now...just for the trees.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I saw Dr. Takesue's hand up. So, you want to add to it?

MS. TAKESUE: Thank you. And yes, that's something that's very important to us because we're not in Maui, and we're not in Lāhainā. And so, fingers crossed we get Federal funding, but that is a big component of it is to train stewards, and especially the younger generations. If we can get high school, community college students involved who are locals and who care about these places, and who want to be part of their future recovery and health, that is ideal for us, is to have community members to be

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involved in their own recovery. And so, that is a very big component of our work that we'd like to do.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I see our...Rebekah, did you want to speak to that? I saw your hand up. She's our resource.

MS. KUBY: Aloha. I just wanted to add one thing, which is as we're doing the landscape analysis, and I know we need to get EPA red zone, orange zone maps, hoping that that can be something shared, overlaid with LiDAR from the County maps that they've done and topography. I just wanted to also add that it feels really important to bring in the local expertise, those who know the land and have a relationship with the land...not just from a data standpoint, but they know the land more than anyone. They can identify how that water moves across the landscape, where the runoff patterns have been in the past, and where the flooding potentials are in Lāhainā. And I just want to say that's really an important piece that that's able to get in front of those who are from that land, and have been seeing it for the last 50, 60 years, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Kuby. And, you know, I'll...I'm going to say this again, oftentimes...or a lot of times, you know, growing up, our...our community has been asked to volunteer their expertise, their skills, you know, with...without compensation. And a lot of this has tremendous value, and some people get paid, and some people don't. And oftentimes it's the kanaka who don't get paid, even though it's their ike that advances a lot of the work. So, our people need to get paid too. They need to be compensated for their ike, and not just expected to be, you know, just volunteering all this information because ...*(inaudible)*... too. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah. I understand that 100 percent. Any other questions? I was going to turn it over to the Administration next to see if they have any questions for the...for the presenters, and then after that...would you mind, Councilmember Sugimura, after that one? So, maybe Mr. Medeiros or...or Mr. Drake, do you have any questions for our...our presenters?

MR. MEDEIROS: Yes. Mahalo. So, I know our presenters mentioned a couple of times about...and their organizations are actually listed here. Referring to the Maui Bioremediation Group, so, I know this group started and gathered probably within the first week. So, credit to them for, you know, coordinating this effort. And so, we did meet with them last week too. So, maybe the entities and individuals here can kind of speak to the Maui Bioremediation plans, specifically the plant remediation compost, compost tea, fungal filters, and the Genki balls in the water waves, and maybe start there.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sorry. Who is that question for?

MR. MEDEIROS: Maui Nui Marine Research, or any...any of the subject-matter experts.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. SPARKMAN: Well, I can talk a little bit toward it. I mean, I...I work with them too. I was kind...was kind of drawn to it with those guys. I know Summer Perin (*phonetic*) and that team that are up there building all of that. I work with the compost tea guys, and we're the ones that got the compost tea put down on the trees, the ulu trees, and the banyan tree down in town because it's critical that we get that micronutrients available for those plants to update during this shocking period of burn off. So, these things that they want to try to add, I mean just like what they've put inside, I believe it's the...the Ala Wai Canal, they put a bunch of those Genki balls that has a bunch of different types of things inside of a ball...you throw it in there and it actually helps algal blooms. It helps break certain things down. It helps a lot of stuff. It collects a lot of the micro...bad micronutrients and bad things that are in the water...heavy metals, things like toxins and whatnot. So, that way, those things don't go out into the ocean. So, they're doing the same thing like I had mentioned, they're trying to inoculate...they said something like seven or eight miles of those wattles, so that those wattles can be dropped off and put in around these areas--storm drains, curbing, any inlet where you would have...where the fire would enter into the ocean, have all of those put in. Now, the...the wattles are there, I just don't think that they've been inoculated in place because the team can't get in to do their inoculations. So, that's one of the things about access, to get these guys in to actually bring down the compost tea that has all the fungus inside of it, and go and actually inoculate these wattles that are already in place. And we need that sooner than later. We know rain is coming, and the quicker we can get these inoculants in the ground, the quicker they can establish themselves, the mycelium going, and get those fungus in place to start to capture all the heavy metal and bad stuff that's going to go right through there. So, that's critical that we get that team in, and they begin that process. I know that they had been talking to Goodfellow Brothers, but I...I think it just had to...it was just timing. And so, it's a great effort, it needs to be explored, it needs to be put into place. There is nothing wrong with what they're trying to do. It just enhances the soil substrate, so there are absolutely no negative effects that what they are doing will have on the near shore estuaries or the environment in that area. It's actually going to make it stronger.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Rebekah, you want to add in on this?

MS. KUBY: I can see that there is a few others that are on this call actually that are technical members of that team. I just play an advisory role, and I can say that I do know a number of the advisors on the team as well, is Kaipo Kekona, Summer Pace McLean (*phonetic*), and there's one of the advisors who is on this call, Char O'Brien, who is the founder of Food Security Hawai'i, so she might want to speak to this more. I...I can say my team from Core Renewal has shared all of their mycology information from the three years of reports across six different fire zones. And so, they've shared all that data with this team.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Great. Thank you. I want to go to Councilmember Sugimura if she had a question, and then that...that might take us to the end of the meeting roughly or so. So, go ahead, Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. So, with this discussion and the importance of it--thank you, Chair, for bringing this up--and I want to know what the professionals are saying about the Soiltac application in West Maui. Because I think that's...if I understand this correctly, with the reentry of the different zones, which has just started Monday, Tuesday, we'll go day by day, is the plan that once the residents go back and look at their property, and sift through if that's what they want to do, or whatever--I'm not too sure how many times you get to go back to your property--then the soil...you know, the soil adhesive would be applied, or is there a plan for that? Because I think that's the steps I see. And then...so, one is question for Administration or EPA, you know, what the next steps are. But I'm...I'm curious what the...the professionals here on the call protecting the environment may feel about the EPA application of that Soiltac. Because I'm getting emails now from people in Lāhainā who are asking for it to be applied because they have the similar concern, you know, for the environment and...and really, the air, you know, the people, around their parcels. So...and I heard that from Upcountry too, the same concern about the air and, you know, just nature, so...

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Does anyone want to speak to that? I see Dr. Falinski. Go ahead.

MS. FALINSKI: I think the Council might need to consider this as a tradeoff in...and weighing the voice of the community with some of the different ecosystem benefits from...I can offer the information that the Soiltac may impact larval and invertebrate creatures in the...in the ocean if it's disbursed in a large way. And it might also prevent air pollution. It might prevent some of the soil runoff that would also be detrimental. And I don't think you'll have a lot more information beyond that, and that the decision is a difficult one. But that the response of the aquatic community, if you put a lot of small microplastics in it, there will be some response, and it might get flushed out eventually. Right now there is no monitoring plan in place, but I think by the time you monitor it, you have already lost if you're finding it...there's not a lot of ways to get it back out. So, it is a difficult decision, but the...the best available data is that there might be an impact because it's like all of the microplastics. There already has been an impact in the form of ash, and it might help control some of the runoff in the ash. And that is the best...the best available I can offer. But maybe someone else here has been looking at it. I've been looking at the MSDS, and...and reading through it, and coming up...coming up with a whole lot more questions than answers exactly. So, I think there will have to be some sort of trade off.

CHAIR JOHNSON: We're going to have to speak tomorrow on the DRIP meeting when that comes up. Rebekah, I saw your hand up.

MS. KUBY: With permission, I just wanted to see if I can put a link into the chat with the responses I received from Soilworks in terms of what is and what is not in the Soiltac,

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as I had many of the same concerns about protecting environment as shared by Manuel, who posted here. And Tamara Paltin and I have been doing some digging for the last few weeks.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Is it...is it a long link? Because the people will see them in BlueJeans. If you say it for the record...if you could just read it out for the record so people who are watching it online and on *Akakū*, they can do it themselves as well.

MS. KUBY: Very good point. It is a long link. Let me figure out...maybe there's a better way to share the information. Hmm. Yes, it's a long link.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .(*inaudible*). . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Pardon me?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Can she send us a written testimony?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yeah, maybe just send an email if that's good? And you can put it --

MS. KUBY: Sure.

CHAIR JOHNSON: -- in the chat, it's just only going to be for us guys on BlueJeans...that are watching on BlueJeans. So, put it in the chat, and send it in the email, that would...that would help, yeah?

MS. KUBY: Mahalo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. Okay, Members I think we all had plenty of chance to speak, and I appreciate everyone. I appreciate all the testimonies, as well as the presenters. Everyone who's came and watched this on *Akakū* because this is our...you know, our new...our new normal. We have to deal with major, major environmental concerns because of this fire. And Dr. Falinski, when you mentioned that that's a tradeoff for that, boy, what a tough predicament our community is going to be in here. So, there's going to be a lot more discussions, and I want to really kind of keep working at this, and we'll bring more people in here to have these discussions that are under my...the ADEPT's Committee purview. So, at this point, I just want to defer the item and adjourn...adjourn the meeting. But I want to thank everybody once again. Thank you so much for your time. So, Members, without objection, I will defer this item?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No objections. Good meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (Excused: SS)

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

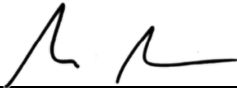
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CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. The time is now 11:58, 10/3/2023, and the ADEPT meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 11:58 a.m.

APPROVED:



GABE JOHNSON, Chair
Agriculture, Diversification, Environment,
and Public Transportation Committee

adept:min:231003:ta

Transcribed by: Terianne Arreola

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CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 49 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 14th day of November 2023, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



Terianne Arreola