

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

**MINUTES**

**April 9, 2025**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE:** 1:05 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (Out 4:03 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

**EXCUSED:** Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member

**STAFF:** Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney  
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director  
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

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

**ADMIN.:** Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor  
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management  
Erin Wade, Deputy Managing Director, Department of Management  
John Smith, Administrator, Office of Recovery  
Patience Kahula, CDBG-DR Program Manager, Office of the Mayor

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**OTHERS:** Darren Keala  
Josh Desilva  
Courtney Cole  
Brian Etheredge  
Junya Nakoa "Anonymous Hawaiian"  
Others (9)

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Thank you for allowing us to start at 1:00-ish. It is now 1:05 p.m. And I'm the Chair of this Committee, and I just want to remind everybody that--or the public that this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law, and if any of the Members are not here, please share with us who is in the room with you, and minors do not need to be identified. So, first of all, welcome, Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good afternoon, Chair. It's nice to be back in the Chambers today, and I just want to say thank you to our Lānaʻi representative for the great gifts that he gave us today, māmaki tea and a full-blown onion. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great. Next, we have Member Paltin. Oh, so--oh, there you are.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā. Streaming live and direct from --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . area, and I was . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, speak directly into the mic.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What about...oh, can you hear me now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now we can hear you. Now we can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, streaming live and direct from the elevator.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll see you shortly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . In other words, she's making her way here. Great. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, everyone. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office, and I'm here and ready to work. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, it looks like you're traveling.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā kākou from my vehicle. I'm heading to the airport to return to Moloka'i so that my children don't forget who I am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There are currently no testifiers at the Moloka'i District Office. And...oh, I'm alone in my vehicle. I'm heading to the airport, so I...I'll have my video off, but I'll...I'll be on monitoring. And mahalo, Member Johnson and to the Lāna'i community, for...for turning out strong last night. It was...it was great attendance, great testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Agree. You will? Let me go through all this first. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, Chair. Good afternoon, all. There's no testifiers in the Kihei Regional Office, and I want to re...say a big mahalo to Councilman Johnson and his Staff for the Lahaina [*sic*] community budget hearing yesterday. It was really great turnout, and a lot of aloha. Thank you very much for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Good afternoon, Chair. Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair. Happy to be here. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And from the Office of the Mayor, we have Lesley Milner, Budget Director--there she is in her corner; Department of Management, Josiah Nishita, Managing Director; as well as Erin Wade, the Deputy Managing Director. Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo, as well as Kristie Wrigglesworth...I like that name. And of course, appreciate our Committee Staff, which is Pauline Martins; Yvette Bouthillier; Kris...Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst; Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst; and Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney; along with Richelle Kawasaki, who is an attorney and Deputy Director of Corp. Counsel--I'm sorry, of Council Services. In the lobby, we have Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk. And please look on the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity.

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**ITEM 1:            PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
                     OF MAUI**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Members, as you know, we have only one item on the agenda today, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year '26 Budget for the County of Maui. And I will be taking testimony after the opening comments from the department. And before we go into that, I wonder if we could have an opening from--not opening, a summary of yesterday's res...resi...residency area meeting in Lānaʻi. But first, before you do it, this is my prop. I said I would bring this.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Which is...you can tell everybody the story about this...this onion --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that was given to all of us. Take it away.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Yep. Luckily, when some Councilmember...Councilmembers arrived a little early, I was able to take them to the farm, my farm. So, if I saw folks on my farm, I'm going to immediately put them to work, and I had them pick some onions for everybody. So, thanks to all the Councilmembers who showed up to pick onions for our fellow Councilmembers. The community came out strong, and very happy to...to report that the Lānaʻi community was really pushing for STEM, for MEO. The Filipino club has really kind of stepped up, and really impressed with what they're asking to...to do. They have a lot of new teachers on island through the J-1 visa process. And if you recall, Members, this body reserved some of Hōkūao's affordable housing for teachers, and now we have teachers in those houses teaching our kids. And look at the result...now the Filipino club is rocking and rolling. I--they came out very thankful of the Lānaʻi Skatepark, so I...you know, of course, I want to echo that. Thank you, Councilmembers. Thank you, Administration. The kids are skating, and I just love the fact that you--they're really enjoying it. Not a kid on a cell phone in that park, so that's wonderful to see. And I think that overall...I think that overall, the mood was really good. And the affordable housing project is...Lānaʻi got some really good funds for it, and boy, are they happy. The Lānaʻi guys have been asking for this for over 30 years. We haven't had affordable housing for sale for over 30 years, so those are really important topics in my community, and I look forward to hearing from others. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. It was a very warm and--yeah, your...your community is wonderful. Thank you very much for allowing us to be there. And it's nice to see how the J-1 teachers are giving back to the community because those are the teachers that put together the Filipino program. Yeah. So, we'll see what kind of budget amendments you have coming up with all the things that were asked last night.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Cultural exchange is really a meaningful thing that we all can participate in. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So agree, very much so. Just as a reminder, Members, as noted on the budget session calendar, Committee will consider proposed legislation during this meeting on April the 16th. To ensure a timely review, please submit any proposed legislation for posting on the agenda to [staff.bfed@mauicounty.us](mailto:staff.bfed@mauicounty.us) by 9:00 on Thursday, April the 10th, which is coming up. And the Economic Development, Environmental, and Cultural Program conditions from you are due on Monday, April the 14th at 9--at 4...by 4:30, and your Members' priorities on Thursday, April the 17th, by 9:00. So, if anybody has questions on any of that, please let us know, or talk to Staff. I'd like to, at this time, invite Managing Director Josiah Nishita, as well as Deputy Managing Director Erin Wade--and I forgot to introduce you earlier, John Smith from the Office of Recovery. Thank you very much for...for being here also. So, at this time, Director Nishita.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members. Thank you for allowing us to be here today. I really appreciate the time to get together with you folks. You know, right off the bat, I just want to say really appreciate you all coming to the...the ceremony we just had for the Hālau of 'Ōiwi Art. I think it's easy, during the budget process, to kind of get, you know, swamped with paperwork, and binders, and . . .(laughing). . . and whatnot along the way, but there's real community impacts that come out of these things, and real differences that we're making in the lives of people in our community. And I think that was a really good example of the, you know, Administration, and the Cou...Council, and the community working together to come up with some, you know, good solutions and...and solid path forward for, you know, moving our community forward. So, I really appreciate all you folks. Just to highlight some--I know we want to keep it kind of short and sweet so you guys, you know, have some time and whatnot to engage in dialogue with us, but just to highlight some significant adjustments that have, you know, occurred between our FY '25 Budget and FY '26 Budget, you know, we...we have requested for a couple expansion positions, unfunded E/P in our ITS program. We are proposing to transfer essentially our planning and development team from the Management Program to the Office of Recovery Program to assist in recovery efforts ongoing. We are asking for some additional Office of Recovery staff, and we are adding on the Board of Ethics Program. In relation to that, I...I think that there was a question just in regards to how does the Board of Ethics fit under maybe Department of Management, and since it's a little unusual, I'll...I'll just address it at our kind of opening-comments piece. We have been helping them kind of navigate the process of establishing the...that office in result of the Charter Amendment that passed, and we have been involved in their recruitment efforts and, you know, salary adjustments and whatnot as...as you folks are aware. I'm sure Corporation Counsel can add in anything else that's...that's needed, but because they will function as an independent board and...and office, and because their Executive Director will be a licensed attorney, there...there are some issues with the Department of Corporation Counsel overseeing kind of an independent functioning attorney without that supervision authority. So, to kind of alleviate some of those like legal kind of issues involved, you know, it doesn't quite make sense for it to fit administratively to...to any other department. And this is particularly in regards to just, you know, the budgeting and funding mechanisms and whatnot. They still will be able to act independently, but for the purposes of what we're doing here today, that's primarily the reason why. I'm happy to get into that more as

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needed. In our Management Program, you know, there were some changes asked for in operations, the primary ones being about \$500,000 to update our security servers that are in need to meet with the times and then address some security issues with aging infrastructure in that regard. \$500,000 for some baseyard master planning work, that we are actively working with our Department of Public Works--all of our infrastructure branches, essentially--to help meet the needs of the County in the...the long-term future. And then the other major piece of that request would be about \$500,000 for an organizational review of the Department of Personnel Services. And we have...we will be working together with them to, you...you know, ensure that we understand, you know, if there's any areas in which, you know, we can improve upon, upon areas that they're...they're doing well that we need to expand upon, as well as helping to identify maybe some possible, you know, rule changes or best practices that may help the County move forward, especially in relation to our overall hiring and recruitment efforts. I'm really glad of the collaboration and cooperation we've had with our Department of Personnel Services. As a start, we are hoping to do this long-term for all of our departments, and just because of the, you know, recruitment and retention challenges that have been...you know, the County has experienced at least in recent times. You know, we did work with them and identified a big place to start, to really modernize and create more efficiencies within the County, especially as it relates to hiring and retaining our employees. There...as I mentioned, a couple of expansion positions in...in the...the Office of Recovery Program. And then in IT, you know, there are just rising costs associated with kind of everything as you guys can . . .*(laughing)*. . . can imagine with services, and infrastructure, and equipment. There's also some additional modernization upgrades and improvements that we'll be undergoing as part of previously-planned efforts and...and identified areas of need. A couple of expansion positions I identified earlier. And then in our Office of Recovery Program, the DR program, you're not going to see in here as...as we identified previously the...during the FY '25 budget amendment, but our Office of Recovery Administrator will still be overseeing that program, just the funding will not be...it has already been recognized in the FY '25 budget. And then some different operational changes in relation to that would be some funding...additional funding for professional services, ongoing work that is needed, some County grant subsidies that we can get into further that we have some requests for your folks' consideration to be able for us to outline grant recipients, and some of--other miscellaneous costs. And Chair, when it's appropriate too, we have two other changes that were identified, you...you know, in our review that were duplicate entries, and so we'd also like to notify the Committee of that, that those items could be removed for consideration from the budget. Thank you very much. That'll conclude opening remarks at this time, and then happy to answer any questions that may be needed. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Director. Thank you for being here. I hope you're going to be okay. So, we'll...won't keep you too long, I hope. Director Smith, you...would you like to say a few words, Office of Recovery?

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Chair. I think Josiah did a good job of explaining the additions to the OR budget. I'm happy to just jump straight into the questions, but thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. Deputy Director Erin Wade, do you have anything you'd like to add?

MS. WADE: Same. We're here for you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. WADE: -- so whatever questions you have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. All right. At this time, then, you want to...we have public testifiers? Okay. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up with the Staff, join the online meeting via the Teams link, or call in to the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the department scheduled today. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link on [mauicounty.us...us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us...us/agendas) as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the...at the beginning of the meeting or--well, I'm going to take it after we...we--what we just did. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via...prompts--star-5 to raise or lower your hand, star-6 to unmute and mute. Staff will add names to the testifiers list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the...call the name you logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to, or as anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you're...if you're in person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per person...per--I'm sorry, per item. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). So, before we call up our first...first testimony [*sic*], I want to remind the public that we only have one agenda item on our agenda today, so anyone can testify for three minutes on anything in the budget as it's relative to BFED-1. And so, at this time, can I...can you please call up the first testifier? And I guess Clarissa is going to be calling up testifiers.

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .**

MS. MACDONALD: Hi, Chair. Yes, the first testifier is Darren Keala, to be followed by Josh Desilva.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, nice to see you.

MR. KEALA: It's nice to see you too, aloha. My name is Darren Keala. Aloha, Councilwoman and Maui Chamber Members. Do I just start?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KEALA: Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . My name is Darren Keala. I was born and raised in Pukalani, have been part of the Maui wedding industry for over 26 years as a florist, wedding designer, and the event planner as Events by Darren Keala. I am also a founding member and Vice President of the Maui Wedding and Events Association, an organization of over 100 locally-owned small businesses. I am here to express my support for the Maui wedding industry and its significant contributions to the local economy, local employment, and the attraction of respectful visitors. Our industry has faced challenges since the decline of tourism during the pandemic and devastating fires in Lahaina and Kula. We find ourselves in a tough position. We create meaningful experiences for both our visitors and locals through weddings, birthdays, conferences, holidays, anniversaries, and educational opportunities. As a Native Hawaiian, we proudly share our aloha spirit and culture, showcasing our hearts and intentions to visitors. Recently, as a Wedding and Events Association, we immersed ourselves in classes with my cousin, Makalapua Kanuha, who is the Ha...Hawaiian cultural practitioner at Royal Lahaina Resort. Makalapua educated our community on the cultural training that our workers coming into West Maui to help reestablish and organize Lahaina, education...educating our association to learn and educate our clients by offering these and similar education classes. One of these activities that we share are community give-back programs, such as the Helewai Eco Tours, where they learn about the forest and have the opportunity to plant native trees. Maui Fishpond, Kipuka Olowalu Cultural Reserve, Leilani Farm Sanctuary Animal Reserve, Surfrider Foundation beach cleanups, Na Mahi'ai o Ke'anae and O'o Farms...Farming. On average, my weddings host around 75 guests each, for about 20 weddings per year, generating over two million in revenue. This includes spending on hotel rooms, restaurant reservations, whale watching, catamaran rides, Friday block parties, and various activities which our talented vendors...vendors, which include seamstresses, farmers, bankers...bakers, cultural practitioners, educators, and creatives. In my 26 years in the wedding and event industry, starting as a restaurant manager at the historic Kā'anapali Beach Hotel, we have never received significant recognition or support from the local government. There is a pressing need for assistance surveys, awareness about our contributions to the community, and the vital role we play in Maui's economy and culture, including our ability to educate and engage our visitors. One of my favorite memories over the years is a couple we married four years ago, who return to Maui every year to host smaller, intimate events. They honor the . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . experience of Maui, and continue to support the community.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds. Please, complete.

MR. KEALA: Okay. Immediate action and budget supports are essential to pre....prevent the collapse of our economy, our industry. For the past two decades we have been self-sufficient, but the recent challenges have created the need for assistance. Thank you for your time and consideration.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody have questions for the testifier?



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MR. KEALA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You know what? His father was my teacher.

MR. KEALA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Was it 'Īao --

MR. KEALA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- School? Yeah, it was 'Īao School or Baldwin --

MR. KEALA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- High School?

MR. KEALA: Baldwin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Baldwin?

MR. KEALA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I loved him.

MR. KEALA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He was also a coach. Anyway, thank you very much for being here.

MR. KEALA: Thank you. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Thank you.

MR. KEALA: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. KEALA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The next testifier is Josh Desilva, to be followed by Courtney Cole.

MR. DESILVA: All right. Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity. My name is Josh Desilva. I'm a lifelong resident of Maui County from the Upcountry-Ha'ikū areas. I worked in the group event business here for 30 years. Supporting weddings and events in our community is more than just celebrating special moments, it is an investment in both the cultural and economic vitality of the area. Weddings and corporate events bring together people. They foster a sense of community, pride, and connection. Local traditions are celebrated, stories are shared,

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and cultural identity is strengthened for our host culture. These gatherings preserve heritage, build bonds across generations, and create shared memories that tie a people to a place emotionally. On the economic side, the impact is powerful. Weddings and events fuel local businesses--dancers, cultural practitioners, venues, florists, caterers, musicians, photographers, and more. Every celebration can mean thousands and thousands of dollars funneled into our local economy and supporting entrepreneurs. Jobs are created, seasonal income is stabilized, and entrepreneurs get platforms to grow. Even the guests that come to these weddings end up booking hotels, dining at restaurants, and shopping locally. Think about the local fishermen who caught the fish for the wedding or event party and--that the event party is enjoying. Consider the family that has committed to farming their land--their lettuce...their onions, Gabe...fruit, vegetables, or even florals are part of that event too. The landscaper that manages the event venue has a job, and so does the local lawn equipment company where the landscapers buy and repair their equipment. It is all interconnected. Another factor that people come here for weddings often have financial means to get here in the first place, which implies that they have money to spend outside of their wedding day, as do their guests. As far as corporate events are concerned, the winners of these incentive trips that come to Maui by definition are the top performers in their respective industries. What that means is that they are also educated, well-traveled, high earners that respect the host culture, and bring much-needed revenue to our struggling economy. In short, supporting events isn't just about joy and celebration, it's about sustaining a vibrant and resilient community. It's about choosing to invest in people, culture, and small businesses in a way that creates lasting ripple effects. A thriving event scene means a thriving community. My bottom line here is that being pro-group business is being pro-community. As you guys all know, the HTA has reduced the funding for support of marketing initiatives to bring groups and weddings to Hawai'i, and Maui in particular. The Maui Visitors Bureau has sustained some significant cuts, so therefore, we are looking to the County Council for support to create some marketing initiatives that will encourage people to come back to Maui in a respectful manner. A couple of other small moments if I have two-- . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . a few more seconds is that when we bring large groups here, they're often moving in large vehicles ,such as motor coaches. They've got 50 people in there that are couples, that's 25 cars that are not on our overcrowded roads. Our guided tours keep people from trespassing and going into areas they shouldn't be, and we do a lot of work with the corporate CSR, so corporate social responsibility, giving back to our community and environment. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. We do have your testimony. Thank you very much.

MR. DESILVA: Great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have questions? Member Paltin, then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Desilva.

MR. DESILVA: Desilva, yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I seen the line item for the 300,000. Do you know what is the entity that would be applying for that line item?

MR. DESILVA: Well, the organization that I'm a founding board member of is the Maui Wedding and Event Association. And, you know, we're kind of coming at this from a...maybe a two-prong position. One is there is a valuable industry event that would bring influencers and--well, not influencers, but luxury wedding planners here from around the globe that could come here, experience the beauty of our island, and then amplify that message to other people considering coming here. So, by holding that event here, it really allows us to showcase the magic that separates us from other destinations. So, the funding for that, that would help to support bringing that event here, bringing the speakers, flying them in, housing them, feeding them, paying their speaker fees. So, that's one component. But the other is just general marketing support, where the Maui Wedding and Event Association could use those dollars through the economic-development side of things to create our own internal marketing, to help bring corporate events and, more specifically right now, weddings. The corporate world here on Maui has had a fair amount of support over the decades, but the wedding industry is...is really, really hurting right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And in that magic of Maui, you're also going to educate about the lawful places weddings can be held, and the rules --

MR. DESILVA: 100 percent, yeah. That is--and actually, one of the goals of our organization is to give best practices to our membership, and make sure that we're not misrepresenting the...the host culture, but also abiding by the rules that the...the County has set.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And last question. You're aware that debris transport from the temp site to the permanent site starts in June?

MR. DESILVA: Yeah. I did hear about that, is--I know we don't know the...the end answer, but is...is it an estimated three months, six months --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Five.

MR. DESILVA: -- one year--five months? Yeah. So, I think anything right now and in that --

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

MR. DESILVA: -- in that shorter time frame, we would, you know, direct most of the promotion to South Maui in that short-term. But a lot of people plan about a year out. So, if you're talking to somebody now, it...a year from now, it won't be an issue. And we certainly look forward to supporting the community of West Maui when they're ready.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Fabulous. Thank you.

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MR. DESILVA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

MR. DESILVA: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's okay, Mr. Desilva.

MR. DESILVA: Yeah, sorry. Oh, you wasn't pau? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. DESILVA: Coming back.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Just a real quick question --

MR. DESILVA: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- on your testimony, clarify it. You mentioned a lot of jobs are created in...in your industry. I've heard so many people in different industries talk about how hard it is to hire.

MR. DESILVA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, post-fire, post-COVID, how is your industry holding up on hiring and filling these jobs that are being created?

MR. DESILVA: Yeah. That's a great question, and I actually have two colleagues that are following me from the same association that might be better able to specifically answer that in relation to weddings. I actually...I'm on the board to represent more of the corporate event side --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MR. DESILVA: -- so I don't do weddings personally, but I do large events. And definitely, some of the vendors that we've worked with in the past are still short-staffed, some of the hotels and restaurants are still short-staffed. For me personally, my...my own business, I'm in a good position, and I...I have multiple people looking...that I'm looking to hire right now, so I...I'm not personally in a...in a pinch there.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I'm just con...you know, I'll ask the next testifier --

MR. DESILVA: Sure.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- if it's clarifying, but it...I'm just concerned that if we go higher --

MR. DESILVA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- we don't have the people to even do the jobs.

MR. DESILVA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Like right now, across the board, I'm hearing people not being able to fill these positions --

MR. DESILVA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- fill these jobs, so...

MR. DESILVA: Yeah. To your point, just--I think it illustrates that we can find the people. My company was honored to be able to operate a program on the Big Island...so I do operate Statewide, based here on Maui, though--2,000 people on the Big Island. We had over 20 staff and \$2.2 million in business, supporting over 40 vendors. So, they all showed up and did their job. So, there you go.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks for that clarification, Mr. Desilva. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. DESILVA: Any other questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MR. DESILVA: Oh, Kama.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Kama, I didn't see you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

MR. DESILVA: . . .*(laughing)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, what are the kind of events do you do besides weddings?

MR. DESILVA: So, the...the organization that I'm a member of in...in this capacity here today is representing weddings and events. Me specifically, I work primarily with the incentive winners. So, if you were to pick maybe a top Fortune 1,000 company that rewards their top performers with a trip, sometimes those people who win those--it's often salespeople, but it's not always--but those people may win a trip to Ireland, or Colorado, or San Diego. When they win a trip that comes to Maui, I work with those meeting planners to coordinate tours, activities, events, entertainers, florals, transportation, gifting. We

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work primarily...almost exclusively with local gifters on that note, so there's a lot of local artisans that are supported by the corporate groups coming here. But did that answer your question?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Somewhat. So, do you do other kinds of large events?

MR. DESILVA: I don't do...personally, I don't do local festivals, but our association does rep...you know, represent anybody in the event industry here in Maui County. So, my...my attendees to the conferences that I'm participating in are typically not local, they're coming from the mainland, primarily mainland U.S., and they're top salespeople.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so, you folks do weddings, as well as large events?

MR. DESILVA: Yeah. My company, I'll do activities, weddings, I'll hire speakers, local gifts. So, I...I do...personally do things outside of the event scope, but my company manages all those components. So, we...we handle events as well as logistics, transportation, gifting...all that kind of stuff.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MR. DESILVA: You are very welcome.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Sinenci has a question for you.

MR. DESILVA: Oh. Yes, sir?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And I also see Member Rawlins-Fernandez as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: My question was, are you guys getting any State funding from HTA?

MR. DESILVA: The Maui Wedding and Event Association is currently not receiving any funds from anybody outside of our own membership at this point, but that...we're looking to change that. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. DESILVA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. Thank you.

MR. DESILVA: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha. Mahalo for your testimony.

MR. DESILVA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I wanted to clarify, the amount that you're...you're supporting, you're just asking us to support what's currently in the budget, and how does that amount compare to what you folks got from HTA in the past?

MR. DESILVA: Well, Brian--we haven't received anything from HTA at this point. So, we're a...we are a homegrown organization. And just for clarification, since we got this far in the discussion, there was something called--maybe it still exists--the Maui Wedding Association. That is not what we...we are. We are 501(c)(6), a nonprofit, that Brian has...was the founder of, and I'm on the...the founding board, but we're very new. We just celebrated one year in February. So, to date, the only money we have is from membership dues. And what we've spent that money on to date is hiring Makalapua Kanuha to come in and do cultural sensitivity and kuleana training with our board members, and we are now offering that to our membership as well. We did have a holiday party, . . .*(laughing)*. . . but basically, we're just trying to have a unified voice representing the wedding and event industry in Maui County --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MR. DESILVA: -- because we saw that was missing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, to...to...to clarify, in your testimony earlier, you said that HTA is not really giving money to the wedding and event industries. So, that's what I was trying to understand because you --

MR. DESILVA: To clarify, I --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- said that in your testimony.

MR. DESILVA: -- I was just recognizing that HTA has reduced the funding for the Hawai'i Visitor and Convention Bureau, which includes the Maui Visitors Bureau. So, they are working with less money than they used to, and it...and it...it's starting to affect...people are going to other destinations. We just need to stay competitive in the marketplace as a destination.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And the...lastly, the funding for the weddings and events. I...I guess my understanding was it was for like the event, but are you saying that the funding is for marketing and promotion for the event?

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MR. DESILVA: I think Brian could speak to that pretty well, but basically, there's an event called Engage, which is a very wedding-focused event that travels around the world to different destinations. And in order to lure them here, for lack of a better word, we were looking for funding to hopefully get them to commit to coming to Maui in '26 or '27. But I guess my point was just that if that funding didn't come through, we would gratefully receive any funding that would help us to amplify our voice, and...and help to bring people here to support the economy.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for your response, and I'll...I'll look forward to hearing the next testifier.

MR. DESILVA: Mahalo nui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. No other questions? All right, next testifier. Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Courtney Cole, to be followed by Brian Etheredge.

MS. COLE: Good afternoon, Councilmembers. Thank you for your time. I'm very grateful to be here to meet all of you today. It's my first time in the Chamber, so I'm trying to, you know, keep it cool. Mahalo for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Courtney Cole, and I am the secretary of the Maui Wedding and Events Association. I'm also the owner of Maui Wedding Dress Pressing, Bridal Concierge Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Flying Dress. Normally, as a secretary, I'm hiding behind my computer, taking notes, but today I am honored to speak here in behalf of my industry. I'd like to share a little bit about the kind of visitor we believe best fits the Maui values in the future that we are looking for. The wedding and events visitor is different than the traditional tourist. They don't come to take, they come to celebrate. They are here with intention...to mark a major milestone, to connect with family, and to experience Maui with deep respect. From both experience and data, we know these guests spend more. They support a wide range of small local businesses, from florists and photographers to musicians, venues, and shuttle drivers. They book private activities, and more of their spending stays right here in our community. But beyond just spending, they are thoughtful guests. They are more likely to respect local customs, seek out local-owned businesses, and participate in giving back. Many leave with a deeper understanding of the Hawaiian culture, and become lifelong advocates for Maui. Our organization works closely with our kūpuna to continue learning and growing. This work is ongoing. It matters. As Maui looks at how it wants to shape its future for tourism, we believe wedding and event travel is a model of responsible, meaningful, and value-aligned tourism. We are asking for your support to continue this work through cultural collaboration, financial investment, so we can keep Maui a world-class destination for celebrations, connection, and community. Mahalo for your time, and for your guidance that you are giving our community.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for her? Seeing none. Thank you very much. We do have your testimony. Thank you.

MS. COLE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Brian Etheredge.

MR. ETHEREDGE: Okay, good. I thought it was me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. ETHEREDGE: I don't know if y'all saw the awesome dress. I lost the bet. I was supposed to wear that dress up here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. ETHEREDGE: So, aloha, everybody. My name is Brian Etheredge, I'm the sitting President and co-founder of the Maui Wedding and Event Association. I'm also the Vice President of Fresh Help Maui, which we have distributed over 50,000 pounds of fish to our food-insecure community since August 8th. A board member of the Maui Food Bank, owner of Cutting Edge Catering, private Maui chef, father of four beautiful keiki, and I've been lucky to call Maui home for 27 years. Since the fires, our industry hasn't waited to be asked. We've been showing up by organizing donations, preparing meals, delivering supplies, and contributing our time and talent to help our community heal. I've already submitted...submitted written testimony a couple days ago in support of funding event recovery, so today I want to speak from the heart about who we are, and why this matters. Our association now represents over 100 locally-owned businesses, most of them small, family-run, and deeply rooted in this place. The first six months of our formation, we were focused on governance, growing our membership, and most importantly, we were listening. We met with kumu from Lahaina, we've already discussed Makalapua and Vene, and asked not if we could return to work, but how we could return to work. We asked for permission, for guidance, and we've built our valo...values around that kuleana. We're aligning ourselves intentionally with both State and County efforts to shift from an extractive model to one of education and ecological stewardship. As part of that, we're requiring every member to go through cultural training, rooted in respect for Maui, the Hawaiian culture, and our local community. We believe we are ambassadors, responsible for teaching our visitors how to treat our home and our people. Our clients listen to us. And that's why we're asking for your support, not just for ourselves, but for a larger vision. At the proposed Engage Summit--so, I'm the one that's speaking about that--we have a rare opportunity. 350 of the world's top luxury--possibly 350, possibly 250, depends on what we all decide on--of the top luxury event professionals could be here on Maui. This is a captive audience, ready to hear our message of aloha, and to carry those pono...pono practices back to their clients before they ever set foot on the island. This is the time, an amazing opportunity and to...to enlist the help of these professionals to help shift the

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perfe...perception and grow awareness of...of the culture and these pono practices. This isn't just marketing, it's transformation. We're ready to do this work together with you. Thank you for listening.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. ETHEREDGE: Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Can you tell me what kind of organization a (c)(6) denotes?

MR. ETHEREDGE: Yeah. A trade...trade association.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, it's...it's 501(c)(6) --

MR. ETHEREDGE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but not...not like a nonprofit. The (c)(3) is the only nonprofit?

MR. ETHEREDGE: No, all of those 501s are nonprofit. From my understanding, a 504...501(c)(4), for instance is --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Political lobby.

MR. ETHEREDGE: -- political, right? 501(c)(3) is a nonprofit that engages in support of community...so Fresh Help Maui is a 501(c)(3). We're a (c)(6), so we're a trade organization that come together and support each other basically.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the previous testifier mentioned about the Summit, that it will go to like lodging and things like that. We're similarly trying to put on a Western Interstate Region Conference and stuff like that. So, I guess one of the questions is, when do you anticipate your Summit to be taking place? And what happens...like, you know, if we direct it to Kihei and it takes place during a flooding incident, would that be like negative towards the industry, like...like a black eye on the industry? Oh, sorry.

MR. ETHEREDGE: I suppose it would be a black eye. I mean, I...I don't...we have...you know, here in Maui, I think those are so rare. I mean, it's been kind of a strange couple years, for sure, but Kihei--in all the planning that I've done in the past ten years, and owned a restaurant in Wailea for 15 years before that, there was only a couple nights that we couldn't operate, you know, in those 25 years.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know the time of year that you're anticipating your Summit to take place?

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MR. ETHEREDGE: So, we have engaged--sorry for the pun--with the Engage Summit. Yeah, thank you. I have not heard back from them yet because we've been playing a lot of phone tag, and I'm waiting to hear back. We might have lost our opportunity for '26, I'll just be honest about that, so we're kind of looking '26, '27 right now. And I know that they're very interested in...in coming out and supporting. So, this is a--you know, it's...it's...it really is a unique position right now because, you know, they're in Tuscany and Mallorca, Spain this year, right? But --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the other...and then the other thing that you had mentioned was there was a previous--was it you, that there was a previous wedding association group, but they're not really functional anymore? Was that you that said that?

MR. ETHEREDGE: No, that was--yeah, that was --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. ETHEREDGE: -- Josh. And that...that was around, I think, for 20 years, and it would --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And none of the people from that previous group is a part of your group, it's a whole new group?

MR. ETHEREDGE: It's a whole new group, yes. We actually have some of those older members that have been around. That was...I think that association was around for 20 years, and it...it kind of turned into a pau hana. And what happened was, I would say about a year-and-a-half ago, a year, give or take, we realized that...that we needed to stop competing against each other for the few jobs that were coming and start collaborating. And so, that's why we founded this new one. And we did not want to have that pau hana vibe going on, we wanted to shift that to more advocacy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Thank you.

MR. ETHEREDGE: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, do you know...in your testimony, you said that you folks represent over 100 locally-owned businesses. Do you know how many of those businesses are native-owned?

MR. ETHEREDGE: I don't, but we could actually get you that. I can get you that number.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. You also said that you're going to require your members to go through cultural training?

MR. ETHEREDGE: Yes, ma'am.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Do you have anybody in mind, or do you have any thoughts as to who would do that kind of cultural training?

MR. ETHEREDGE: So, we had talked to Maka originally about doing that, and we actually discussed that in our board meeting this morning. And looking for somebody else...throw me a lifeline. Do you know where that ended up?

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

MR. ETHEREDGE: Yeah. Well, Joey Dang was going to talk to somebody. So, we were working...Makalapua had a program that--it was going to be easy for us to start. I'm not sure if she got really busy the past couple months. Again, it...it hasn't solidified. We, as a board, have already been through this. It was an amazing experience.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. ETHEREDGE: Went to the watershed, talked story up there, had a beautiful day, and something that we think--it really changed my view of what we were doing, and it felt like that's where we needed to start.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Who are your officiants?

MR. ETHEREDGE: Our...our officiants?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Those who officialize at the weddings, the guys that marry your couples.

MR. ETHEREDGE: Who are they?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. ETHEREDGE: I...I can't...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Who would you normally hire?

MR. ETHEREDGE: Oh, I don't hire them, I'm the caterer.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. ETHEREDGE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm sorry. Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. ETHEREDGE: I come after them. But yeah, there's plenty. Darren could answer that because he does hire them.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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MR. ETHEREDGE: And...and we can submit. We have a whole roster of officiants that are on.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All for Maui.

MR. ETHEREDGE: All for Maui, yeah.

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. That's what I was going for. Thank you, I didn't want to say that, though. Thank you.

MR. ETHEREDGE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And...and I think there's a whole list of cultural specialists too, that you all could choose from. There's some great specialists.

MR. ETHEREDGE: We would love your guidance on that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MR. ETHEREDGE: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was looking at the Engage Summit website somebody had sent to me, and there's one in February 2026, but it looks like they have multiple per year --

MR. ETHEREDGE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- like some in December, or November, or whatever.

MR. ETHEREDGE: It's like five...five or six a year, yeah? Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I would...I would just say maybe avoid the wet season.

MR. ETHEREDGE: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah. And we would love to, you know, collaborate with you guys on this. Absolutely. We're not...you know, we...we are looking for your input for that kind of knowledge. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I don't know, I think Aunty Maka works with FEMA too now, so maybe that was her third job, and so --

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MR. ETHEREDGE: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- she's busy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, you're done? Thank you very much --

MR. ETHEREDGE: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for being here. Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier whose...is the one whose username ends in "Hawaiian."

ANONYMOUS HAWAIIAN: Anony...Anonymous Hawaiian. All right. Okay. Talking about the kine, eh, brah? You guys went harass the...the Human Resources, Luana [sic], about hiring people, how come you're not hiring people, and all that stuff, yeah? You know, congratulations to the people who got between 20 and 60 percent raises, yeah? But what about the kine guys that we need to make this County move in the right direction, like the Planning Department, so we can get all our permits here going? You know, like funding the Fire Department, you know, the guys that's out there risking their lives, you know, and all that stuff? So, you guys like talk about one budget that's going help, especially if you're the \$1.5 billion budget. That is what I am being concerned. I no care about one wedding, I no care about one party, one--the kine that luxury buggahs will come over here. We're...we're not worried about luxury guys coming to Maui, we like take care of the people of Maui first before we do anything to do with luxury people coming, okay? So, when you guys...you know, you guys are doing the budget, please, all nine of you guys, try concentrate on how we can get more people hired. Hey, you guys...you guys always say, oh, I hear a lot--all of you guys saying, oh, yeah, a lot--we no...we no pay enough to get the kine...qualified good people for come. So, maybe that is where the budget should go to. That is where the bu...that...that's where you guys--the \$1.5 billion should go to, yeah? Hiring, for making the salaries so people can start working for this. Not only the salaries. Yeah, what are the...the Councilmembers always mentioning? Housing. Housing all of the employees of the County...Fire Department and the Police Department. Brah, this is serious stuff. None worried about other--the small, little manini-kine stuff. Go hire...go...go take care...go take care of the County workers with that \$1.5 billion budget. Go get the people who belongs in this place--position to take care of the...take care of our County. That is my strongest thing I will keep taking about this budget. Because, you know, all this manini stuff, it's some thick, yeah, that book. You guys know, you guys went read 'em. Plenty that buggah get, but plenty stupid things inside there. First, take care your guys' workers. Take care of the guys that take care of us, then we can get guys who going get pride in their job. And especially, you guys--okay, you got to stop going against these workers when they stand up. Me Hawaiian, I like stand up. I no scared stand up against the fake State and America. So, we better...you guys better start defending these people who standing up when they see something wrong . . .(timer sounds). . . in this County, when they see something wrong...going...going wrong in this County, and not be scared to speak they mind, use they voice. So, that is my stance on this budget. Use the

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\$1.5 billion to take care of the people who work for us and take care of the County of Maui. Shoots.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for Anonymous Hawaiian? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. With your permission, I'm going to close public testimony and take written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Members, so at this time, I would like to suggest that we do two rounds of four minutes each, and then if there's more, we'll do two rounds because this is such a big department. I think they had the most questions from all the other departments, and they are in Granicus number 100, labelled MD-2, and Granicus number 1...MD-1 is number 21. I think we haven't receive the quest...answers...responses for the second set. We haven't, yeah? Okay. We did receive for the first, and thank you very much, Managing Director. I...okay. So, at this time then, I would like to ask for...let's see who to start with. We'll start with Member U'u-Hodgins. Okay. So, let me tell you the order. So, four minutes--whoops, my paper is sticking together--so Member U'u-Hodgins, then Sinenci, Kama, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, then myself. I guess Chair Lee's not here, right? Yeah? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She's sick. Let her be sick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. . . .(laughing)... She doesn't want to sit by you? Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you guys for being with us today. The blessing was really nice, so I'm glad you mentioned that Managing Director. Before, though, I begin asking all my questions, I would like to just state that--when did we do this?--a while ago, we put in some money for the Managed Retreat Fund for the Pā'ia Mantokuji, and they haven't heard back from you folks. So, I just wanted to check in with you guys before the end of the fiscal year. They are still waiting on their 500,000

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to get the fuel out of the bay area. So, if you could maybe provide me just a quick update on where that is, and I can let them know.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, and then I'll...I'll let our Deputy Managing Director, if she wants to add anything else.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: But I...I did see recent communications --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- with Mr. Moto --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, good.

MR. NISHITA: -- and our...our team regarding making sure they get their application in for the funding so that we can ensure to encumber the funds and get it out to them.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much. I'm hoping we can get some of the work done. As Member Paltin mentioned, the North Shore is going to be pumping, probably at the end of this year, like it always does every year, so I would like to get the fuel out during the summer when we can enjoy some flat surf. So, before it starts getting nuts again, I would appreciate it. Thank you. On page 494 of our Program Budget, for goal number 3, monitor projects included in our six-year CIP program, one of your goals is to develop a streamlined...streamlined system to monitor all CIP projects. So, I wanted to ask about that. Is that a person, is that a software, is that a paradigm shift in how we look at our projects? What can we expect to help you folks reach goal number 3?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. And I apologize, I don't remember what page number you identified, but...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: 494.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. Just speaking generally to that while I'm flipping here, our...we, of course, have our Countywide CIP Coordinator, you know, and they work with all the different departments, of course, to help to align and manage our--oh, thank you very much--align and manage our Countywide CIP. We are undergoing a variety of initiatives with different departments in terms of...especially utilizing technology in terms of our GIS software, Azure systems, things like that, to be able to properly map out...tell the story of what's happening, as well as having a record of transparency, and ways for the...the...not only internal users, but also external users to be able to identify like where funding is going, and how...how we're going about using that in the proper manner to...to get things accomplished.



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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Yes, it's a new goal, so I'm assuming there are some new ideas behind this new goal. I do appreciate you answering my question about the Board of Ethics as we await some of the questions from you folks in writing. On Budget Details 419, we do have an expansion funding of \$250,000 for storage for the donated appliances. Are we going to lease this space until when? How long do you think we're going to be holding on to this lease space? How much...how much stuff are we talking about?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you very much for the question. We...we do have a space identified already, it's the old Home Maid Bakery site. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, that makes me sad.

MR. NISHITA: I kn...well, yeah, I guess happy and sad both that we can make sure the space is utilized for our community --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- benefit, given the history of the space, but also sad that it's available to --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I know.

MR. NISHITA: -- make that happen.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Well, I wish I didn't ask that question though.

MR. NISHITA: But I...I think the good community benefit derived from it though is, warehousing space is like prohibitively expensive --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- in a lot of areas, and we're...we're very grateful for, you...you know, very good terms and whatnot that --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- were able to come from this space. So, previously, we were looking at warehousing space. It...it was fairly cost-prohibitive, including in some areas, going to cost more to store the stuff than the actual cost of the stuff itself which obviously wouldn't make that program feasible. But --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And how long are we going to hold onto all this stuff? When are we going to release --

MR. NISHITA: Well --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- it to its --

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MR. NISHITA: Yeah, I--well, I mean, things are being given out constantly.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: But of course, they are receiving, you know, additional donations and --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- whatnot. I mean, it'd be hard to give an exact date, but I think the anticipation is somewhere around three to five years.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Three to five years. Okay, thank you. I heard the bell, Chair. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Member Sinenci, then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo, Director. I've been chosen again to be part of the Council Representative for the Conservation Committee, and we're trying to get quorum for that Committee. And in the past, we've put in some funding for a GreenPrint, and...and I know that those funds have since lapsed, so...and I don't see funding in the current budget. Do you have any ideas on how we can move forward with the...the GreenPrint for the...funding a GreenPrint for the Conservation Committee?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you. Yeah. Thank you very much for the question. It is something we have talked fairly extensively about, especially recently, and in...in overall coordination of Land Management activities, as well as in Open Space management and Open Space acquisition. The...if I'm not mistaken, I believe the Conservation Planning Committee and...and...and those kind of functions kind of fall within the Office of Mayor, but...I mean, we are more than willing to help out. And I...I think the...while, you know, it's been a little while since I looked at that Code section, I think there's probably some updates we should make to make it more, I guess, effective, since we've been a little ineffective at it to date to make it a little bit more administratively feasible for us. But I...I think...I think there is a path forward, and it is something worthwhile to get done, especially in our overall coordination of County lands.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you for that response. And yeah, sorry if I'm bringing up some of the...the Mayor's issues, but I--as far as houselessness goes--and I know Naomi has been out there helping address some of our houseless issues--is...I know there's some E/P...expanded positions. Do you foresee...if she needs any help with...with her going out and addressing some of our houseless community, putting some extra funding for E/Ps to help her with that regard?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I mean, of course, ul...ultimately, I mean, you know, we want to talk to--and...and make sure we're on the same page with Naomi and whatnot. I...I would say my kind of off-the-top comments to the question would be that there is a

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lot of coordination occurring between the different agencies right now. The other piece too is, we have learned a lot significantly from the City of Santa Rosa, some of the programs that they've been undergoing--which on a side note, Chair, I think at some point, we might request for a sister-city relationship with them, given how much support and advice and whatnot that...that they've been providing to us. But in addition, we do have an upcoming deputies training that I think some of you have participated in previously, but one of the things is, we are going to visit some sites on the Big Island, that they do provide homeless services and whatnot. And really want to identify...obviously, some of these things have been able to be done before, and so let's make sure we're learning from mistakes made and, you know, problems faced, and adopt best practices in that regard to try to make it as successful as possible. But the...you know, the general model of the...the County has always been to really help leverage our nonprofit and support services. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, you know, I...I would also stress to continue in that model. Of course, you know, they...they may face their own staffing shortages, or challenges, or, you know, funding constraints, or things of that nature too, but I don't think--you know, what communities have faced is that there's not really a silver bullet to anything. There's so much different need and different situations that we are going to have to have a very multipronged approach to have really any, you know, significant impact.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for that, Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next is Member Kama, followed by Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I think this question is probably for Department of Management. So, on page 486 of your department summary in your Program Budget, it says...it indicates that its primary operational objective is to manage and provide support and oversight for all County departments and agencies. In many prior meetings, the Managing Director has indicated that the Department of Management should not be assigned an increasing number of disparate task responsibilities. And now, with the addition of the Board of Ethics to the Department of Management, the Department would need to have an even...even wider range of disparate responsibilities. Do you think it's time to consider creating a new department, like the General Services Administration, that exists at both Federal and...and the State, like the Department of County and General Services for the State of Hawai'i?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Chair. I know this is one of the written questions that you guys submitted, and I...with that said, I'll just express my apologies for not getting that to you guys sooner. Yeah, we didn't submit the MD-2 piece yet. Sorry, I was in LA helping them with their wildfire recovery efforts recently, and then I ended up getting sick as a result. So, we'll get that to you as soon as possible. But in...in relation to the general question that you're providing --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

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MR. NISHITA: -- I mean, you are correct that, you know, my overall vision for the Department of Management is really to get back to what our core Charter-mandated functions are, which is really to oversee all the operations and --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: -- activities of all the counties and departments and agencies.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: What's...what's so, you know, difficult in the times we live, of course, with the wildfire...wildfires that occurred, and some of the other needs in the community or...or really, unique situations like the Board of Ethics, you know, I think my...me and my whole team's goal is really like...really, what can we do to help push this community forward and serve in the best way possible? And so, in...in the absence of any other support being able to be stood up in that moment, we've been trying to take the reins to make sure that, you know, we can keep moving significant endeavors forward that really benefit the community. I think it does warrant, you know, future discussions with the Council about the best paths forward. But as you know, like, you know, creating a new department --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: -- would require a Charter Amendment --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yep.

MR. NISHITA: -- and a lot of times we face these issues such as like, you know, the need for the Office of Recovery or the CDBG-DR --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- program, or like the Board of Ethics, or...or--a lot of these other functions can't just wait two years for a Charter Amendment, an election to occur.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. Right.

MR. NISHITA: It's like, you know, efforts are needed now, and manpower and resources are needed now. And so, in the absence of, you...you know, others' ability or really, it fitting within the...the model of...of their departments or agencies or whatnot, you know, I'm just so appreciative of all of our team members in Department of Management. Really have that organizational-wide view on the Community benefit, and that we're here to really serve all our residents, but also all of our departments in...in order to help make, you know, their operations and activities as seamless as possible.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, who's watching...who's watching out for burnout? Because, you know--and I see all of you guys working and you're all working so hard, and like Member

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. . .*(laughing)*. . . Rawlins-Fernandez, I got to give her credit. She's going home, right, so that her kids don't forget her, right? And I think we...we should think about those things, and somebody has to always be able to either say it, or to be able to remind somebody about those things. Because we all have a tendency to just keep on working, keep on working, keep on working until it gets to the point . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . where we can't do it anymore, and we're exhausted to the point where I think I need a mental health day, you know? But we don't do...we say it, but we never do it. We never take the day off. But I just want to know if there's anybody watching those kinds of things?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you very much for that...that question and...and sentiment. I think it is something that we all need to pay, you know, significant attention to, and make sure that in order for us to be able to give to others and give to our community, that we also have room to give to ourselves as well, and make sure that us and our family that support us so much in this community service activities are, you know, also being cared for. So, you know, really appreciate that sentiment. I...I would say that we can always do a better job, especially for me too. I feel like...with...with my team, like tend to like...that all of us really are here for maximum community impact. Like, you know, that's really what drives all of us, is that effort of making a difference in the community, and that can mean that we'll go at 100 miles an hour . . .*(laughing)*. . . constantly. But it is...it is important, especially for our family members, to...to take that time and make sure that they're --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- they're --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: -- they are cared for along the way. But, you know, going back to the practical implications of things--and one of the reasons why I'm like very appreciative of like our IT staff in general is that they've been so shorthanded and understaffed for so long. But they've all really risen to the occasion, making things...such as like a transition to Microsoft Office 365, that I think if you would have asked anybody years ago, they would have said that'd never happened . . .*(laughing)*. . . in the history of Maui County. But in the absence of everything, they find ways to step up and really give of their time and effort. And, you know, both from the Department of Personnel Services and from us. So, I--we feel it's so important to find additional ways that we can help fill those gaps. So, if there's improvements that can be made, efficiencies, ways to get people in the door quicker, it helps alleviate --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum. Right.

MR. NISHITA: -- kind of the time and burden --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, it does.

MR. NISHITA: -- of our existing team.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, it does. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, then followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I feel mean asking him questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know, he's not feeling well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I hope his --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- sound is worse than how he feels. Okay, so--but I'm going to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Make it short.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- soldier on. So, I calculated from Fiscal Year '24 adopted versus actual for the ITSD Department. It's nearly a \$4 million difference of--we adopted \$4 million...or \$3,983,451 higher than what was actually spent. In the category A, the excess amount was \$1,490,051. If you take into what you said was spent in overtime for IT, 344,130, that leaves...like us leaving a \$1,145,921 on the table. So, I mean--and right now, we have a 26 percent vacancy in that division, so I...I feel for the people because, you know, 26 percent vacancy, but I don't understand your estimated hiring time frames, how you came up with those numbers. And...and, you know, I guess Personnel says the departments want to hire at a V or a VI, but they think that realistically, what we got is a I or II, and then work our way up. So, I mean, I just--I guess I hate to allocate so much money for vacant positions when at the end of the fiscal year, we leave over a million dollars on the table.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you very much, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin, for the question. I assume you don't feel too bad because I still got questions, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was for the cameras.

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MR. NISHITA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: But I...I did... . . .*(laughing)*. . . I did tell people prior to this meeting that if you see me start taking my mask off, then I know that the sympathy card isn't working, so I'm just going to try to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: -- scare...scare you guys on getting sick at that point.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I don't want to get sick.

MR. NISHITA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah. I...I mean, I...I think, overarching to that, before getting to the specific point is, yes. I mean, the--I...I would love that all the positions were filled, and we didn't have any of this money coming back. We do have some operational support services that are externally contracted to help with kind of manpower augmentation that's needed as a result of that, and that, with the positions filled, obviously could be rectified in that sense. In terms of--I mean, we...we have had a couple of successful recruitment efforts recently. Our team also has started going down the path of looking at lower-level recruitments, and I...I can't remember all the ones offhand, but I feel like it was at least a couple of Is, IIs, or IIIs that we have within the program and, you know, under that model, kind of like what DWS has done previously, bringing in lower-level civil engineers. They're turning --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you have any recruitment and retention bonuses, effects going on for that division, especially?

MR. NISHITA: We--so, like the, you know, most recent example is what we're going through with our Chief Technology Officer at the moment, which we --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because the guy that came with us to Texas, he's gone. We...we couldn't retain him, huh?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. So, he left. And of course, you know, I don't want to speak to any individual circumstance. Every circumstance is different on why, you know, individuals don't--are unable to maintain employment with the County. But the...in...in terms of like that, like...I mean, we are able to, and in...in the past recruitment, you know, we...we did offer moving expenses. I can't remember the exact terminology, but it's not...it's not necessarily like a recruitment bonus or...or whatnot, but there...there is like an incentive --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Incentive?

MR. NISHITA: -- that can be provided . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . as...as well as some other accommodations. And...and even that, the hard part is really...and why--so grateful to

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have the expertise that we do in our IT section is that frankly, they can get paid significantly more in the private sector with additional flexibilities and whatnot, and, you...you know. So, part of our kind of modernization, and system upgrades, and...and whatnot is also to--not...I mean not only to catch us up to like where everybody else is and be able to utilize efficiency tools and things that, you know, the private sector is able to use, but also in the kind of attractment [sic], and recruitment, and retainment of especially up-and-coming individuals in IT. Like they're not looking to use these antiquated systems, or to work on things that like their grandfather may have . . .(laughing). . . you...you know, learned on, or whatever when they were around. So, part of the...the upgrade process and why we're trying to modernize everything is also--that...that's what people are interested in, that's what people want to be doing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had one comment about Councilmember Sugimura's district hearing. Those STEMwork kids are the ones we want. So, I don't know if the MEDB program can say like we're going to fund all your STEM desires for like five, ten years' work in our IT division --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or something like that. Like we got to...we got to get the pay-it-forward part of the MEDB STEMwork Program and things like that. Because we are investing in our kids, and then they go into the private sector, and nobody can blame them because we want them to be financially successful, and own a house in Maui like we want you to own a house in Maui, so you don't go anywhere. But, you know, it's...it's just not working out, you know? Like who would, in their right mind, tell those articulates [sic], them kids, take a job with the County of Maui where you can make so much less, but it's good for our community --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or something like that, you know? So, I don't know. I think...I think recruitment incentives and things like that, we would be supportive of it. Because too, our IT is so important and critical to every single department in the County, and so we want those people to be retained, appreciated, and well-rested.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was...I was --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Four minutes long...long gone.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was complimenting your kids.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know. I was going to tell you that that teacher that spoke, he's a sign of success, right? Yeah. All right, Member Johnson.



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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair, and I...I echo what Councilmember Paltin said about retaining and keeping--I mean, this is an ongoing thing that we have been discussing with every department that comes forward. So, I would dare venture, you've got this body's buy-in--no pun intended--so I'd like to see, you know, you guys act on it because we're--that would be ideal, right? I mean, where else can...where can we find the Venn diagram where we all agree on something? We all agree we need workers, and we need to pay them right. I mean, it's common sense. Now, a couple of my--I'm just going to jump into my questions and--about the Countywide Public Art Program. Who's...who's been contracted on that, and what...what's going on? Any updates on that? Maybe Ms. Wade?

MS. WADE: Sure. Thank you for that. The Maui Public Art Corps is the nonprofit that's contracted to handle that. It continues, based on the topic area that comes up. So, we...as you know, we've done around on Lānaʻi in the past. The most recent Hui Moʻolelo process was in Lahaina, and we had several community art projects that resulted in that. There was just a selection panel and an RFP for art...artists that we'll be working with now over the next six months to identify locations for installations.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's wonderful. I...I learned this in NACo, where every dollar spent in--on art is \$9 in community...or economic activity in your community, so I'm always a big supporter of arts. I'm going to move on to my--my next question is about the CCTVs that--where will they be, the CCTVs? Are they going to be in the building? Is...

MR. NISHITA: Chair. Just to make sure we're talking from the right spot, can you identify the place in the details, or...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay. Let me pull that up. Okay. I'm on a time limit, so I'll come back to that. I'm going to ask another question because I don't want to just sit here and scroll. The urban forest management status, the...so trees in the...in the city, the urban forest management. Do you have a status, timeline, and...and any money problems with that one?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I...I'm not aware of any money issues. We...we did receive a grant --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- for that program. I believe we are going to come down to Council at some point, asking for a resolution in relation to the...the urban forest--I mean, it...it's somewhat related to the urban forest management plan, so...so there'd be an additional item for consideration there. But I'm not aware of any funding issues at this moment.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Is there a location?

MR. NISHITA: Chair, we...we can follow-up on that, but I believe it's--I...I don't want to mis...I don't want to misspeak. We'll...we'll get back to you in writing on that.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. And as far as the Program Budget, 501 for the CCTVs. That's page 501 in the Program Budget. Thank you so much, Mr. Krueger.

MR. NISHITA: Oh, okay. Yeah. This is part of the Homeland Security grant. So, there's different...like in one of our last Homeland Security grants we got, I don't know if you guys have seen in Wahikuli, we've been able to utilize that equipment for the thefts and whatnot that are occurring there. It's like a camera system on a trailer, basically, that allows us to monitor, and if there's any, you know, criminal activity or whatnot that occurs.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is that your plan for this one, the...

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. That...there's...there's . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . AI-based...excuse me, there's AI-based tools that can be utilized as a part of the camera system that can identify like--you...you know? And I...I think you guys have received presentations on this before from HECO and others, but it can monitor for like smoke activity and other kinds of --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MR. NISHITA: -- stuff as well.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's one thing, I'm just wondering where is it going to be?

MR. NISHITA: It's...it's not going to be used for any immigration stuff, if...if that's any of the questions, or...or anything like that. Generally, what all of our DHS grants are...are used for is really, protecting like County assets or property. We use it a lot in like the baseyards, or if you're --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- having thefts occurring, or whatever the case is, we utilize a lot of the equipment there. And then the only--I...I think honestly, Lahaina is the only time I'm aware of that we've utilized it outside in the community for other than County assets, but that was because of community requests based on . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you post that there's your...smile, you're on camera, or whatever? You know, there's signs that say that you're being filmed.

MR. NISHITA: I...well, I haven't passed by Wahikuli recently --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- but we did a...what do you call?--a press release and community announcement --

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MR. NISHITA: -- regarding that there will be, you know, security --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- stuff being done in the...in the area.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I...I mean, if the...if the goal is for security, it would be smart to say, hey, you're on camera. Maybe that would even prevent them to even hopping the fence if that's where you're going with it. But thanks so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Member Rawlins-Fernandez will join us as soon as she gets off the flight, and we are going to Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Okay. My questions for Management, and either the Deputy Director if you want to give the Director a break. . . .*(laughing)*. . . But, anyway --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- the department summary mission statement: supervise administrative functions, evaluate the management performance of each agency, prescribe standards of administrative practice to be followed by all agencies under his or her supervision. So, I'm going to give a plug for IT, and supportive of IT, and state that it strikes me that that is the tool that the management needs to basically be able to see, and manage, and have access to data and performance, et cetera, of all the different departments, operating like an enterprise system. And that's what we embarked on some years ago, and it's a work in progress. So, outsourcing is kind of--doesn't work--I have a suggestion. If you have the IT Department write up and manage their own RFP to contract out services that they want, that they can manage...so it's not somebody from outside coming in to manage them, it's them being able to have the access to resources that they want. So, anyway, just...the department needs help, and there's a lot of different challenges. I'm also wondering, is it possible that Department of Personnel Services could be potentially incorporated into that oversight, so that IT is kind of collecting the data and processing how they function? So, yeah. We need more lubricant and less glue. So, any response?

MS. WADE: Thank you. I would just comment that we've seen a lot of success recently with the addition of Teams, not just internally, but being able to collaborate cross-departmentally in ways that we weren't able to successfully do quite as well prior. We have had project management software individually in different departments up until now, but now that we have Teams, it's starting to kind of take the place of that, and we're able not just to monitor within our own staff, but create projects that are cross-departmental, and kind of what you're getting at in terms of not just being more efficient, but being able to review and understand what each department's working on.

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So, we totally agree. We're working on IT solutions, and they're always coming to us with some really good ideas as well.

MR. NISHITA: And, you know, in relation to your question as--or statement and...and whatnot as well is, I...I'm really excited at all the new AI tools that are coming online. I mean, it's...it's fascinating and scary all at the same time. But, you know, finding ways in the future to be able to leverage AI and...and...and those various tools, to be able to like streamline and modernize government operations, and ease the...the workload on staff, and...and, you know, research opportunities and whatnot, I...I think, you know, leveraging technology will be key components of the success of the County moving forward.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks. That's my questions and I'll wait for round two.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member Sinenci...oh, I'm sorry, Member U'u-Hodgins. Oh. . . .(laughing). . . Go...go ahead. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, cool. Okay. Let me find my place because I was expecting you to ask questions. But I'm going to ask--well, before...when I get...when I find my question, I'm going to just quickly say based on Member Johnson's questions, I'm on the board of the Maui Arts Corps. I volunteer on there, and if ever need be, I will happily recuse myself. But I love what they do, I love what Kelly does, and it is beautiful to see all the art in all its different mediums come to fruition. So, my question is about Ho'okipa, and parking, and specifically perhaps maybe PARK MAUI, or some sort of something there. We discussed this a few weeks ago, but I don't know if it was just, you know, the moon or something, but I got a whole bunch of questions after that discussion about parking in Pā'ia. So, I wanted to quickly ask you folks about how that's going, where you see that going throughout the rest of the island, if Pā'ia and perhaps Ho'okipa is a contender for what that might look like?

MS. WADE: Okay. Thank you. Pā'ia has always been...was supposed to be right after South Maui. So, South Maui was going to come, and then we were going to move to Pā'ia right after, and then we had the fire. But the South Maui program is moving forward. Pā'ia is certainly next. There's a couple of factors in Pā'ia...one is the public parking with David Spee and Henry Spencer. So, we're working on that subdivision process right now, and had thought, okay, when that's ready, that would be a great time to start a parking system because now we'll have significant public assets in order to develop a public system for parking management. It doesn't have to wait for that. It could move forward if there's community interest in that moving faster. And we'll need to defer to the Department of Transportation as they're managing and overseeing the PARK MAUI program at this point, but Ho'okipa specifically doesn't have to be done in conjunction with Pā'ia Town. Those two can be implemented separately if that's the preference of the community.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, we do have signs at Pā'ia that says like--or I'm sorry, Ho'okipa that says, don't park here, but that's just viewed as a light suggestion at this point.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah. Until you drive through it, and you see what I mean. Okay. I wanted to talk stories about the Capital Improvement Program. I see that we're going to do a demolition of the yellow house and the existing rock wall at 251 Napua Street, and use that place for parking. So, I asked Planning this the other day, but I'll ask you folks too. Do we have a comprehensive parking plan for the Wailuku campus? I don't know if we do. I don't think we do. Do we have an updated LPAP? We're adding on people left, right, and center. You folks are going to add a whole bunch. Do we have places for people to park? I know we have that down there. And I mean, it's just me, but I wouldn't walk. I don't like to walk too far. You know, women, we have to wear heels, you know what I mean? Like if we could just come to work in slippers or nice tennis shoes like men can, it would be a different vibe, but we don't have that luxury just yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Although today...today, I'm wearing rubber slippers so, you know, the poi [*phonetic*] came out thick, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: But do we have parking for all of our employees?

MS. WADE: Thank you for the question. So, we don't currently have a comprehensive parking plan, which was your initial question.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MS. WADE: In fact, the Wailuku campus is multiple TMKs --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Hmm.

MS. WADE: -- at the moment, so --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Mm-hmm.

MS. WADE: -- we're working to do a lot consolidation right now so that we can plan --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, fun.

MS. WADE: -- as a...as a master plan for the campus, essentially.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

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MS. WADE: As part of the campus master plan, we're looking at both office space and parking expansion. That will probably be coming back to you next year. That's already in the works with Group 70, that was contracted in the prior fiscal year, and we can come forward with that related to additional parking, as well as office space, this coming year.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. I do see the--the following . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . page for capital improvement plan is the Department of Management, you folks on the 6th Floor, and having some reconfigurations there...which usually means you're fitting in more people, which usually means we need more parking. But I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And then I have more questions later. But thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. So, I'm going to cut in line. Sorry, I was reading some stuffs *[sic]*. So, Management, I was in communication--this is really not...this is budget-related, and it's relating to Upcountry, and it's debris removal, and to work with Management and Hawai'i Community Foundation to develop a program so that the after effects of wildfire can be removed by private property owners that have been impacted by the August 8th wildfire. There is NRCS...as you know, right? NRCS is doing--I think it's...I don't know, it's \$4 million and they did Pūlehu, Olinda, and removal...and Kula, they're...the last project they're working on, which involves about...I don't know, 20 or so property owners. But there's a program going on, and what...what I would like to hear from you is, to see if we could develop a private...private-public partnership so we can get property owners to clear their land, and not think that we are going to do it. Because I recently attended a meeting online, and they all looked at me like, okay, what are you going to do to pay for this, right? And NRCS has Federal money in there. Of course, never enough money. We don't have this kind of money. And so, I embarked upon a conversation with Hawai'i Community Foundation just for some ideas, and they said, oh, ask Josiah. No? But anyway, I just wonder if you have...might have some thoughts on it.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. That's...that's in Charter Section, you know, 23-2. The--right before I get to that, I just want to note that staff got back to me on the urban forest management plan. That's all for Maui Island--like all the Maui Island--for the planning effort. Okay. Getting to the question at hand, I think that the County has worked with, and has relationships with like, you know, NRCS, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and others who...you...you know, a lot of their tasks and responsibilities are...are in relation to these areas. In addition, I mean, we are trying to step up, you know, enforcement-related activities as it relates to private property owners who are really circumventing, or, you know, trying to get around the requirements of, you know, property upkeep and, you know, that responsibility related to that...in addition to our own County lands and...and with our State partners as well. Kind of a side thing in...in relation to that, that...I think really needs to make sure that people are aware of the downstream impacts is that the lot-clearance activities are including like soil stabilization methods or mitigation activities. Because what we don't want--and I know Councilmember Cook experiences this . . . *(laughing)*. . . more than others--is the

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downstream impacts of that when too much clearance occurs, and we have slope or soil instability, in which case creates downstream impacts, which can include property damage or, you know, God forbid, any life impacts. So, you know, we definitely...there definitely needs to be a role for public-private coordination, if not on, you know, funding or whatnot in relation to the coordination of activities, and...and making sure that, you...you know, the entire community is being served by whatever activities take place.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that means yes?

MR. NISHITA: Yes. That's a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: With responsibility?

MR. NISHITA: -- long response for yes, but of course, the devil's in the details. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah. So, I...I will ask my office to maybe coordinate with you and Hawai'i Community Foundation...Director, Managing Director?

MR. NISHITA: That's fine. And I'll...I'll...I'll give you the response that they give you is, you can go ask Hawai'i Community Foundation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I already did. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, I got that ball rolling, and I...I look forward to us trying to find some solutions because I think there is. Anyway, on my--second thing is, this came--you already answered, but I...I just want the community to hear this in your MD Response 1. And as the Members have heard me talk about my concern for 'Īao Theater and the restoration of it--it is a County property, so it's a CIP project--and I was glad to see in your responses, if you look...oh, there's no page numbers on this. Okay, it is page number 12--oh I'm sorry, it's item number 12...question number 12 that you answered, but it lists a bunch of projects that you're asking us--or you're saying that you're going to fund, and that one of them that you listed is 'Īao Theater, and then the other one is a Royal Order. The roof that former Mayor Apana came--yeah, he testified about--it...it's here, and it's...it's asking us to do a proviso. So, there is information in there, Members, if you could read it, and I would like us to take action based upon what--oh, it's 12. It's answer number 12, and then...

MR. NISHITA: And...and Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- at this point in the discussion, it might be helpful for our staff to pass out...we have a written document identifying the changes to that grant --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- subsidy program --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. NISHITA: -- that we're asking Council to...there may be either transfers or like--kind of essentially line-item provisos that we're going to ask Council for consideration on to assist us with.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, that's perfect. This...this corresponds to question number 12 then, correct? It looks similar.

MR. NISHITA: Yes. Except there's essentially one change to it, but yeah, it's essentially the same thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, Staff, you can take care of this, and...and make sure it happens? Thank you. Thank you. Okay, you're going to get extra? Okay. And the...the other thing...other project that I'm concerned about is the Kahului Wastewater Aeration project. And I didn't find...I don't see it in the budget, and I know--I'm going to bring it up now because it is--you're the key element, I think, to make sure that this happens. And Members, just make sure--until we get the Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility built, which is scheduled to get built in, you know, Waikapū area, this aeration, this--what has to get done in my nonengineering layman's understanding is, so that we can continue, you know, putting on housing, and whatever else we need to do for housing, and to upgrade that system. And I think we were looking for \$20 million in conversations; is that correct?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. So, I'll...I'll just give two comments in relation to this. One is that, you...you know, we have been undergoing discussions with State Department of Health, the State--Gov's Office Administration, and then EPA regarding additional State Revolving Funds that were appropriated as a result of some, you know, recent Congressional action --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- the allocated money to the State of Hawai'i for purposes related to water and wastewater infrastructure. Now, the amount of funding ultimately that gets secured and the limitations on it may impact what projects will be prioritized in that request, but what we did...we had relayed previously to the State Legislature was, under our understanding at that time of what the funding was going to be provided to the State, and the State allocation being made. So, it's anticipated that potentially, the SRF Program could have covered the temporary aeration basin. Now, since that discussion with the State Legislature, our understanding is that the amount being allocated to the State of Hawai'i has decreased, and so we're still working through the processes of how much is going to get--end up secured to the...the County of Maui. Separate to that though, and while we are working with our Department of Environmental Management to speed along this as quickly as possible, their timeline right now--and John can correct me or add anything if needed to--but they're looking at construction funds for FY '27 at the moment. So, if we are able to squeeze it into FY '26, we will come in with a budget amendment, or it will be reflected in our request to receive SRF funds if that so gets



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prioritized in that. Otherwise, we'll be back to the Council and include it in our FY '27 request. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see. Okay, my...my bell rang, and Staff said I'm way overdue, like Member Paltin was. Okay, Member Sinenci. Thank you very much, Managing Director.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Director, where was this...these amendments again? Or is this part of the...the \$14,750,000?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank...thank you, Chair. In your details, it would be --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- identified on 14-19. And then I don't think I have the ordinance open right now, but we can come up with the page number of where, you know, that proviso language would be added in the ordinance itself. But 14-19 would be...6317 is what's identifying as a County grant subsidy. And then to the language in...in our bill, we'd like these identified so that we can be--direct line-item appropriations.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And there's a larger total to that 14 million?

MR. NISHITA: I'm...I'm sorry, page 14 of the ordinance. And...and apologies, I didn't hear the question.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. All right. No, no, I was just trying to locate it as well too. Thank you for that. My other question was, you know, with FEMA changing their rental agreements and stuff, we anticipate, in the next two months--I mean, if we're going to go probably through Maui Mediation--that we're going to be...start getting some of these people that are not going to be...will require rental assistance. Can we utilize CDBG-DR funds for rental assistance for some of these FEMA applicants that will be dropped from the program? Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: Thank you for that question. The CDBG-DR funds are not typically used for rental assistance. We are looking to work with others outside of the DR program to help supplement.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So, you...you also anticipate some of this--the FEMA, the ones that have been dropped currently. And so, we're just getting word from Maui Mediation going through the process that some of the...those that'll be kicked off the program might be going through other legal issues or mediation.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank...thank you, Chair. We've had a couple entities in the County of Maui that has assisted with rental assistance programs in the past. One of the...the

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things that we are working with the Hawai'i Community Foundation on is the...you know, essentially the spend-down plan for the remaining funds of the Maui Strong Fund, which may include some emergency rental assistance in relation to that. And so, you know, to the extent that we can find programs and...and partners and whatnot to...to link up to those needs, especially --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: What was that fund again?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hawai'i Community Foundation.

MR. NISHITA: In relation to the...the Maui Strong fund.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, the Maui Strong.

MR. NISHITA: And...and there's other partners too that, you know, are...are potentially interested in...in participating. But, you...you know, until we finalize that, I think it...it won't be...you...you know, the picture won't be completely clear, but, you know, there are ongoing dialogue and...and understanding of the needs for additional rental assistance, and how all the different community partners can participate in that to help alleviate the need.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great. Next, we have Member Kama, followed by Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, the CDBG-DR report...application has already gone out?

MR. SMITH: Chair. Thank you for that question. The CDBG-DR action plan is being finalized. That has not been sent back to HUD yet.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay.

MR. SMITH: So, we are currently taking in all the comments...well, the comment period's over.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. SMITH: We're adjusting the plan to accommodate as many of the comments that we got from the community as we can.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. SMITH: That plan will be sent to HUD, and it's slated for the 21st of this month.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And do we get to take a look at that at some time?

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MR. SMITH: Yes, that will be public. And then...and all the comments, and all the responses to all the comments. That's all public. Then HUD...HUD reviews that to make sure that we've adjusted the plan to both meet their requirements, and to make sure that we've heard the community correctly.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And how long does HUD have to do that?

MR. SMITH: Forty-five days.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, we expect a response sometime in early June?

MR. SMITH: We hope to have a quick response, but I would say realistically, we're talking June.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. And these funds are supposed to be used as our funds of last resort?

MR. SMITH: They are funds of last resort, they are the funds that fill the gap, and they are meant for permanent housing. And that's why it's really hard to use them for...just for rental assistance.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum, okay. Okay. That's all of the questions I have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Very good. Member Paltin, then Member Johnson to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, I'm going to try get more questions in this time. Who runs the Maui Recovers website? That's not a Lynn Nishikawa one, or is it? It is? Okay. Next, the Home Maid Bakery site. Please tell me we're not storing clothes in there.

MR. SMITH: No. Not clothes, just --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Zero clothes?

MR. SMITH: No clothes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. SMITH: All of the soft items, or of the...that kind of thing, will not go to the...to the Home Maid Bakery site. This is the more the appliances, and things to help people...once their house is built, they can come get, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that in coordination with like CNHA, or Aunty Nettie and them?

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MR. SMITH: It is in coordination with CNHA. And the...if you want to see what's...how --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I don't need to see.

MR. SMITH: -- how...it operates--no, I mean --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. SMITH: -- if you want to see how it operates now, you can go to the old Lowe's site if you haven't been there. And then the more valuable items that are in there is what would go there, and the other stuff won't.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then for the 1.8 million on the sheet that you just hand...handed out, is there...Spring House included in that, or are we setting aside funds to assist with that?

MS. WADE: So, at this time, that's not in the County's asset role. Right now, the properties that are listed are in the County's asset role. We are currently helping Spring House with a structural assessment activity, which was what we committed to when they bypassed debris removal. But at this time, it's just these three properties that are County-owned.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the debris removal that was left on their property was the concrete-ground stuff?

MS. WADE: Correct. So, we needed to complete the structural assessment first to know if that can be pulled away without affecting the historic structure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And then...let's see. Oh, someone was mentioning you might have 7.5 million set aside to match funds with HCF or CDFI for the 80 percent and above who can't take advantage of CDBG-DR or Affordable Housing Funds that we set aside. Where would that be located, and do you need it provisoed as well?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. It should be identified in the...the sheet that was provided to you. It would be to Hawai'i Community --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. NISHITA: -- Lending for the program. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Thank you. And that's for paying down mortgages and stuff like that? Is it a pilot, or is it the full-blown...

MR. NISHITA: Well...so, there's an existing program, the Deferred Payment Loan program --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Um-hum.

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MR. NISHITA: -- that HTF has administered with Hawai'i Community Lending, and...as a part of...yeah, like kind of a matching component. We would provide additional funding to that, as well as...well, we still got to work with Hawai'i Community Lending on a couple aspects, but they did request a couple changes to the program to make it a little bit administratively easier to administer and get funding out the door to people, so we'll...we'll have to work on that with them. But...but that...in relation to your question, that's the funding that's identified.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then I think my next question, I'm going to try fit it in under Recovery. You know how the Water Department has estimates for a single-family home water usage, multifamily home water usage, fixture count, and like that? I'm not sure if anyone was watching the CWRM meeting, but there's big concern about all the people who are building back--building back with swimming pools--and I'm not sure how that is taken into account in the estimate of water. But the more private swimming pools people build back, especially now that . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . we're underground and surface water special management area designation means less permanent long-term housing, I mean, essentially, because we're using pools when we're in the biggest pool surrounded by water. So, how is that factored into recovery and water usage? I mean, I think Lahaina was already pulling out--like we're diverting 100 percent of Kahoma and Kanahā, so how is that being justified, that we're allowing people that didn't have swimming pools to now build back with swimming pools when we're under a ground and surface water special management area designation, which seems like that's a new use?

MR. SMITH: I'll take a stab at that. That's a good question. I'm sorry I didn't catch the CWRM meeting, but we are meeting with them regularly, and we are meeting with Department of Water Supply regularly to understand how their current policies work, and possibly how we could adjust those policies to be more responsible water users, and...and how we permit those things. So, Recovery will jump into that space a little bit more holistically, especially with what we're calling our One Water Initiative. So, I...I can't jump into the det...I can tell you how it works right now, but I think ultimately, what you're asking is, how can we change it? So, Recovery will jump into that space.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I just want to give you a tool for the toolbox. HRS 174C-48(b).

MR. SMITH: Say that one more time?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. HRS 174C-48(b). And I'm sure you guys can find that, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You got that, Director? Okay. So, next, we have Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I appreciate the Department giving us the change in request to Mayor's Proposed Budget...this sheet right here is what I'll be going off of. I'm really interested in learning more about the Hawai'i Community Lending, 7.5 million. My first question, right off the bat is, is that enough?

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MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. One, I would just note it's a part of a match component, so there would be additional funding provided for that program. The other thing to...to consider is that, you know, as we're looking to make sure that we keep programs qualified as well for DR funding, like DR funding can't supplant, you...you know, existing funding, or appropriations, or whatever. So, as we're looking to like continue providing people assistance, and bridging the gap in...in relation to when DR programs can really be stood up, and funding can get out the door, and when some of these individuals may end up being eligible --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- for assistance...you know, it's anticipated that this funding can help cover the gap --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- in programmatic elements, but if additional funding is needed, we will come back to the Council for consideration --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- on that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm going to pivot with something you mentioned very--I think it was off Councilmember Sinenci's question on houselessness, but how you were working with folks on the Big Island on their programs. And I'm curious if it was the Hope Village that you guys went and checked out, or can you elaborate on where--when you went to Big Island, where were you going to look at?

MR. NISHITA: Well, thank you, Chair. Just...just for clarification, we're going in May. So, we --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MR. NISHITA: -- we haven't gone yet.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You do go.

MR. NISHITA: We're...we're going to be finalizing the agenda with the County of Hawai'i over there. But one of the things that we've identified is some of their homeless initiatives that--of course, I mean, depending who you talk to, there's always people that have good or bad things to say about things --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MR. NISHITA: -- but we do want to see what other counties are doing in relation to that.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, for me personally, when I went there...when I was...I want to say 2021 maybe, but they just had their, you know, event with the volcano, and that...they lost a lot of housing then, and they built them so fast. I think there's something to be learned from that scenario to what we're going through right now, and just to see them do it. And I'm glad you guys are going to go out there and see...see what's going on there because the State law covers both counties, maybe it's our wheelhouse that we need to fix, you know, if they can do it fast. So, I just wanted to, you know, encourage you to look into those guys, and, you know, hopefully Brandee's [sic] still there because she was a rock star, and I just figured I'd throw that out. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. And I...I guess the last thing I'd note too, I think some of you were able to participate as well, but I think kind of like one of the dreams I have is seeing when we...when we did the NACo conference in Austin, we got to tour the...like I think it was the Mobile Loaves and Fishes Program that was really incredible. Especially the way they utilize technology, and like entrepreneurial spirit, and whatnot to help care for people was...was really eye-opening about what, you know, is possible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Very good. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. So, I have a couple questions. My first one, I guess, is the...because I don't know what it is, the Pu'unene baseyard master plan. Where is that Pu'unene baseyard?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So, I mean, I don't want to get into too much details because we're in active negotiations at the moment, but, you know, we are talking with the existing landowner. Discussions have gone fairly far, although we're still negotiating, but it would include property kind of around the mill location.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay, that's what I thought--okay. And for John...John gets a question. . . .(laughing). . . The CDBG funds used for permanent housing. Is there any...is it ever used for a subsidy to provide builders to build more resilient structures?

MR. SMITH: Yeah--the answer is yes. We're looking at a number of ways to incorporate that into the planning process. So, either supplemental funds that would incentivize building materials that would be more resilient, especially fire-resistant. So, yeah, for...for sure. And we're looking at how other communities have utilized the CDBG funds for exactly that reason. So, I don't...we don't have those programs developed completely yet, but the idea is there, and the...and we do plan to utilize that for...for how we build.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I don't know, is there any County...can it fit into the County system, that you could take a three-bedroom home that's wood frame, conventional slab on grade, CMU block slab on grade, poured in place slab on grade, and potential

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insulated concrete form slab on grade, to--for the County to do an assessment, or--and it'd be...actually, you'd be outsourcing it--but do an assessment to see if the current rates and the current availability, what the variances would be? Industry doesn't really have the aptitude to try new stuff and be experimental, and...but everybody knows I'm a big advocate of masonry construction. That has the reputation of being more expensive, but it gives you a lot more bang for your buck. So, anyway...

MR. SMITH: Well, we are talking with HUD about all sorts of innovative and even experimental designs. They do support that sort of thing, so we can...I mean, we can talk. Patience is in the room, she's listening. We can have her come down if we want, but we...we have been talking to HUD specifically about other types of construction that's not typical on Maui, but we know exists, that would be more resilient. Things like mass timber specifically, we've talked about. I know that's not--but you can combine mass timber with masonry, and that's actually a really, really stable way to do it. So, that does exist, and we do plan on pursuing those. We'll have all kinds of different designs at the end of the day. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is the departments currently working with like Maui AIA or other local design groups?

MR. SMITH: We...we have, so far, in Recovery. DR is just now jumping into that space as well. So, we'll take basically the progress that's been made to date in Recovery with those groups, those AIA groups, and then we'll piggyback on that, and then we'll add to it in terms of like the standard design work.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks. So, my next question, as far as like with the CDBG money and the vari...the...is... . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . is there any Plan B? Is it like totally...do we feel reasonably confident? We're moving forward. Is there any Plan B in case something happens? Is there a chance that that funding would get modified because of the current Federal dysfunction?

MR. SMITH: The...the money's there, the money's been allocated, we...it's...it's how we spend the money. So, the Administration...the current Administration, and the current HUD Administrator, they have a lot to say about how that money is spent. So, we'll be working closely with them on any policy changes that they have to make sure that we don't inadvertently discount ourselves from the use of those funds.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Because my...my question was...was leading up to the thing of like the...the chart of all the employment, and how it's going to be. If there's a change, and we have all of these people on payroll, like what happens then?

MR. SMITH: So, the...the...all the employees that work in the program understand that it's a limited-term appointment. So far, we've hired about ten, and...and, you know, we...we passed the budget amendment to get up to 56. But the way it will real...really work in reality is kind of...I kind of see it like a bell curve, so we're ramping up. And at some point in the future, we'll get to that max, and then we'll ramp back down, and that'll all be...be based on the funding source itself.



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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for that. And let's hope that it all flows, and thanks for all your work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, you want to take a break? Everybody says okay? So, let's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But we're going to come back with more questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we are.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we are.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's give Josiah a break.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. So, let's go...come back...it's...it's like 3:10, so come back 3:20? Is that right, ten minutes? . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:** 3:09 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 3:27 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 3:27, and we are back. I will turn this over to Member U'u-Hodgins, and we'll start all over...go to Member Sinenci, Kama, Paltin, Johnson, and Rawlins-Fernandez if she comes back, and then Member Cook, and myself. Be nice to Managing Director, he's not feeling well.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Do you want some tea? Okay. As I was telling them, I have stress reliever tea, happiness tea. We can put them in the same cup for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I don't have any tea to make everybody be nice today, but, you know, we do have tea for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: For your guys' questions that you responded to us, this is in re...I'm wanting some clarification on your folks' question number 15 for professional services. So, number 8 was the Brown and Cadwell [*sic*] for the Countywide large-capacity cesspool audit. How's that going? What's going to be the County's financial, if any, implications in the future? And what are we going to do with that audit? I hope not just look at it on the shelf.

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MR. NISHITA: I...I'm sorry, if...if you could repeat it, it would help.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, of course. Number 15, this is the questions I--it's like MD-1, the questions that you folks answered, this is in regards to professional services that was contracted out. This current fiscal year, in 2025--Erin Wade looks like she has an answer--but this is number 8. This is the last sentence in the first paragraph with Brown and Cadwell [sic] for the large Countywide cesspool audit...large-capacity cesspool audit.

MS. WADE: Okay. Yes, thanks for the question. So, we have been doing and completing the Countywide cesspool audit. This is for County-owned properties that have cesspools, and as you know, we're required to phase those out by --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

MS. WADE: -- 2050. So, we are working on identifying the most key locations, and we'll be submitting CIP requests for the properties as we move forward.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. We have until 2050, yeah? 2050? Okay, so we have 25 years, but that means we got to plan like, now.

MS. WADE: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Or is it 2030? When do we have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 2030.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- do we have to do that?

MR. NISHITA: Well, Chair, I guess the...the only thing I want to mention is--and I can't remember the, I guess, legal jargon for it, but basically we are required by EP--I mean, like we have to do this, and we have to do it like ASAP --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh.

MR. NISHITA: -- because we're...we're in like noncompliance with certain things. So, as part of our, you know, audit requirements, this is why we've been kind of rushing --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- some of this stuff, and identifying other facilities that may have cesspools that need to be converted. But we will come with, you know, CIP funding and whatnot that's needed, but we want to make sure that we meet the compliance as soon as possible.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: When is...when is the deadline for that?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: 2050.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Well, not...not if they're saying we have to --

MR. NISHITA: I mean, there's a...there's a State law provision in general, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: -- I...I guess...I mean, the...the clearest answer I can give you is like as soon as possible --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: ASAPs?

MR. NISHITA: -- we really need to get these things addressed, and then, you know, demonstrating our commitment to that and whatnot will be--go a long way with our Federal agencies . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Smith, did you have anything to add?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. This isn't really Recovery-related, but we went through this at Highways --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. SMITH: -- when I was there, and I think that's kind of why this got started.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. SMITH: But I just wanted to distinguish between cesspools and, you know, septic tanks. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

MR. SMITH: -- we're talking about cesspools --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

MR. SMITH: -- in this scenario. So, we are under obligation right now to --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Right.

MR. SMITH: -- remove those.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, just like my neighbors are Upcountry. So, you know, I'm just curious how this is all going to roll out for...for all of the rural areas. You know, we had this discussion. In Lahaina, for certain areas, they had cesspools. We

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have cesspools. My neighbors have cesspools. I have a cesspool. So, all of the conversion has to happen by 2050, I know that, but I'm --

MR. SMITH: Well, I guess --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- curious how this is all going to roll out.

MR. SMITH: Right. Well, for the...the large-capacity cesspools, that's actually already--we are under obligation to do that right now. We...we --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. SMITH: -- can't wait.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Got it. You don't --

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- have the luxury to 2050?

MR. SMITH: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Got it. Okay. Well, we will then look forward to that in the...in the budget sessions to come. I did want to talk to you folks about the other...your other capital... . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Never mind. I can hold it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next round. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had one more question. It looks like number 16 of your responses to the FEMA PA reimbursement of 4.9 million. Your...you guys are still waiting on...on that reimbursement?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you. I'm sorry, is there a question on--but I mean, yeah, we are still waiting for additional reimbursement that have been obligated.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, and I know you guys went up to D.C. to kind of lobby the Federal Government, but do you anticipate a full reimbursement of that?

MR. SMITH: I can take that one. So, so far, we've received about...a couple million dollars from our--what we've put in for reimbursement under the PA program right now, there's an additional 20 million that's expected, and there's somewhere between 80 and \$100 million worth of outstanding PA work that we're ac...we're actively pursuing, but we can't give you a number on how much of that will come back in. So, it's...it's a long process with FEMA, but we are advocating and working on those funds and those reimbursements right now.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Do we...John, do we have a consultant in D.C. to kind of help us along with this?

MR. SMITH: Yeah. This...the PA work actually goes through HI-EMA and through the State. So, it's...it's --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MR. SMITH: -- mostly local to this region, at least for FEMA, but we do have advocates in D.C. too, to help us navigate the changes to...to what's happening with FEMA.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Fingers crossed, yeah? Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. We did send in more questions, but we can wait for the Department's response.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: MD-2 is forthcoming. All right. Member Kama, followed by Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I'm looking at the change request to the Mayor's Proposed FY 2026 Department of Management budget, and could you explain to me where it says conditional language needed, and transfer to...and then this is \$100,000 for the Royal Order for their roof repair. And why is it being transferred to this other number, as opposed to everybody else that's going to this other number on the top? Is there a difference?

MS. WADE: Chair, yes. So, the...the money for the Royal Order right now is 100,000, but it...it was in Office of Recovery. We're moving that back in to Planning and Development because it's not within the area affected.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. WADE: So, it will be handled still in Department of Management, but by the Planning and Development --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. WADE: -- section in Management.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, that's what it means. Okay, thank you. Easy. And then the 7,500,000 for Hawai'i Community Lending, there's a match to that. What was the match?

MR. NISHITA: Well, the...the match would come from private philanthropy. So, I mean, we're providing a component of the funding request, and it would be leveraged to secure additional philanthropy funding related to that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, how much of that 7 mil are we putting in?

MR. NISHITA: Well...well, no. We would be putting in 7.5 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- and then it would come with at least a 7.5 match --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- potentially more. Yeah. So, for a total of at least \$15 million.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And over here where it says conditional language, do you know what that conditional language would be? Something like for Maui County residents only, or something like that?

MR. NISHITA: Well, I think--and of course, I mean, we'll...we'll have to work with Budget Office and Corp. Counsel and whatnot to make sure the language is correct, but --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- I mean, ultimately, you know, what we're asking for is to be able to call out the organizations for the funding so that we don't need to go through a solicitation process. It'd be like a line-item grant.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: So, that's...that's the proviso language we're talking about.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I see.

MR. NISHITA: You know, it'd be like up to whatever, \$100,000 for the Royal Order, you know, for roof repairs to their facility, or something like that. But it's primarily so that we can move expeditiously on the requests of the organizations.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And then I'm on page 515 of the Program Budget, under Management, the Board of Ethics program. And it says that the...for material and supplies, they've got gasoline, diesel oil, et cetera.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you speak into your mic, maybe?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm reading one side, and the mic's on the other. But--so, I'm on materials and supplies, where it says, gasoline, diesel oil, et cetera, to establish the Board of Ethics program under the Department of Management. Do they have a car, are they going to get a car, or what is the diesel for?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I'm trying to pull it up in our --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Page 515.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, no, in the...the details if there's--but ultimately, we took the request from the Board of Ethics that they made. So, you know, we wanted to make sure to preserve the integrity of the request.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: The--those accounts can also, you know, be used for additional types of expenditures. But I think in my discussions with them, they're anticipating the need to, you know, eventually have a vehicle, or...or--it was a...I think a...maybe a learning process of how the County budgets and applies expenditures. So, when you look at like mileage reimbursements and whatnot, I think my understanding is, it doesn't come out of like that account, but I think they were thinking like if the Executive Director has to go like drive to investigations or whatever . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . they may pay a gasoline cost or...or things like that. So, ultimately, it's a Program Budget, so, you...you know, there's not that much concern there, it's just we want to preserve the integrity of...of --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Correct.

MR. NISHITA: -- of what they requested --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- to make sure that --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. --

MR. NISHITA: -- it's directly from the source.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I can see that. Thank you. I heard the bell, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, next, we have Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I want to follow-up on Member Kama's questions on the 7.5 million on Hawaiian Community Lending [sic], I was talking with Hawai'i Community Foundation, and I was wondering if you folks would be open to additional conditional language. You know, when we get into the--after the fire and things like that, they talk about home-hardening --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because Lahaina is prone to future fires if that could be a conditional...like as you build back, that you take home-hardening measures, you know, with your vents, and your 5 foot of whatever, defensible space, as well as that we're in a ground and surface water special management area...maybe low-flow fixtures, or the toilets one up, two down kind of thing, as well as, you know, where we're really looking to rebuild our community, not just rebuild houses. So, maybe some sort of restriction on speculative flipping of houses once they're rebuilt, like they got to live there or something a certain amount of time. Are you open to those also conditional types of language?

MR. NISHITA: Chair. I think in kind of the overview of everything that you asked, I think, yeah, we are open to additional requirements for the program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Great. Moving on.

MR. NISHITA: Okay. I...I think I would just encourage to talk to Hawai'i Community Lending too, to make sure that can fit within the programmatic elements of how they administer the funds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll call up Gilbreath, okay. Next, on the Board of Ethics, Corp. Counsel is asking--or they said DPS made them ask for a board and commissions secretary. It doesn't look like it's a limited-term appointment, but then the Board of Ethics is also asking for a secretary. I understand Deputy Corp. Counsel staff all the boards and commissions, but it seems like the secretary position might be a dupe?

MR. NISHITA: Okay. Thank you, Chair. We'll have to follow-up on that specific question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And then DPS is also asking for 300,000 for their rules and regs, and then you're asking for 500,000. And then I thought--does Management oversee DPS, or is it just the Civil Service Commission?

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you, Chair. So, in regards to the first part of the question, these are complementary items, so the...the plan that, you know, we set forward is we're going to do kind of an organizational review, an analysis of them, to have recommendations on how to move forward. And by utilizing that, in the second half of the fiscal year, we asked DPS to include funding in their request to be able to implement some of the recommendations, such as primarily updating rules and regs on recruitment efforts and whatnot. So, it's --



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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you still have that --

MR. NISHITA: -- it's complementary, it's not duplicative.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- WBCP info I gave to you from . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Yeah, so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, you're going to need to put out an RFP if you put out that one?

MR. NISHITA: Well, I think there's some organizations, and I think that's one of them, possibly, that's on the...I forget, it's NASBA or whatever list that we're able to--I don't want to say bypass procurement, but there's specialized permitting...I mean procurement processes for those. And I can't remember the second part of your question now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll just move on, because I want to get --

MR. NISHITA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- as much questions. And then for John, when he was saying like you were going to phase out, or ramping up and phasing out. Do the people that you like headhunted from other departments have return rights?

MR. SMITH: It depends.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Some --

MR. SMITH: Yeah, some --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Some might, some --

MR. SMITH: -- some can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then in the parking garage revenue, does all of that go to the PARK MAUI staff, or how...how is that accounted for? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Because I see you have a line item in 14-8 for parking garage signage.

MS. WADE: Thank you. The revenues that are collected can be utilized for infrastructure, staffing improvements, operations, et cetera, and then once additional revenues are collected as the program expands, it could be used for more. I think you probably remember when we created that fund, it was intended to also be able to fund visitor interpretive signage at beach parks, you know, public information, all kinds of things,

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additional circulator shuttles, but at the moment, the only revenue that's being generated is at the garage. We can utilize some of those funds for that sign if...if that's the preference.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just...I don't know. 30,000 for more Wailuku banners, dumpster, garage wall sign, and ground sign?

MS. WADE: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. So, those are actually unrelated to parking. The...the banners that are on the light poles, the trash collection that, you know, happens twice a day, and then the dumpster that it goes to, all of those are a separate cost for just the operations of the...of the neighborhood, similar to how it used to be in Lahaina. Lahaina Restoration Foundation managed that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So--but the garage wall sign and ground sign is for the parking garage?

MS. WADE: Those are specific for the parking garage, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that's not 30 grand?

MS. WADE: Those probably will be, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 30 grand?

MS. WADE: Yeah. Signs are really expensive, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I got some kids, some paint.

MS. WADE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just kidding.

MS. WADE: It's required to be lit for ADA accessibility --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Historic District, too.

MS. WADE: -- as well, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. WADE: So, the electrical and lighting is expensive.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it, thanks. Bye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, followed by Member Cook. We don't see Member Rawlins-Fernandez yet.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I only have one question in regards to that 7.5 million Hawai'i Community Lending. Is that--and you might have mentioned it, but I'm sorry if I didn't catch it, it's a simple question. Is it only for fire victims, or is it Countywide?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. The program itself is--I...I think the...the whole program is called...being called the Partnership to Rebuild Lahaina, so I...I mean, the programmatic element of itself is to meet the recovery needs of where they're at for our displaced residents. I...I can't say for certainty that there's conditional language within like the...the program that they've already def...ran with the Deferred Payment Loan program, but I do know the intention is to help those displaced residents who may be unqualified for DR assistance.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I would just hope we can open it up more, but maybe that would require a bigger pot. But that would be one of my concerns with it because...I mean, I understand where you're coming from, but there's...like a stone in the water, there's been ripple effects to our economy, and I could see many folks here really needing this fund.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. As it relates to more funding for that specific program, you know, it is a hope to a bridge gap to when, you know, additional funding resources will be available, potentially, to some of these individuals who may be qualified for DR assistance in the future. And then I did relay earlier, if additional assistance is needed to continue the program to help continue to meet the needs, we can come forward to Council for additional funding. But I know part of your question is in relation to kind of outside of the Lahaina displaced individuals --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's really where I'm going with it, Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: -- and I think yeah, I mean funding is limited in terms of what we're able to provide at this moment. But I think demonstrating a successful program that can be implemented with our Lahaina residents can be translated into assistance being provided in other areas too.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for your response. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. The...the study...the cesspool study, are they looking at--would that include looking at potentially sewerage Makawao, Kokomo, et cetera? Like are they looking at it broad-based, or is it just how to get rid of the existing --

MR. NISHITA: Thank --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- injection well/cesspools?

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MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Are...are you relating to the cesspool audit? Thank you, Chair. That's...that's specifically in relation to County facilities. So, we...we have County facilities that are required to kind of shut down and whatnot their cesspool. It doesn't relate to like private properties.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I was thinking--and the schools are State because both Makawao School and King Kekaulike have major issues with that, but those are State, not County. So, okay. That answered my question. Thank you.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. So, I'm sure they're under their own requirements, and EPS is probably talking to them as well.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much. I don't have any further questions, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great. Okay. So, before I start off with Member U'u-Hodgins, I would like to ask if Managing Director can comment on the ERC, Economic Recovery Commission. The final report was issued, I think all the Members got a copy of it. It is with DBEDT and the Office of Economic Development. And there are some implementation funds that are being...are...are needed so that the 11 different groups that came up with different ideas can...can have some kind of focus to get it implemented, and who to work with, and whatever. So, can you...can you say anything about that?

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you, Chair. Yes. Unfortunately, you know, we did receive the request after we had to finalize everything for our...our budget request, but we are in support of the ERC's work. You know, they...they have lined up private funding as well, so I--I don't want to say it's like a match component, but we'll be able to help leverage County funding with private philanthropy to continue the...the work involved in that. One possible--so, I believe the request that we received was for \$100,000 that--you know, there may be additional needs in the future, but I believe that was the official request that we received. And then I did mention this earlier in the meeting, but we did have some funding that we identified as duplicate that could be removed. So, if...if the Council wanted to consider, you know, the ERC request that we would be supportive of, they can...you could simply utilize that funding, and then earmark it for that purpose. And I believe Maui Economi...Maui Economic Opportunity would be the--I guess for a lack of a better term--like the fiscal sponsor in that case.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: And the funds that we had identified--or in our IT program, 6...6112, which I think is like contractual services. I don't study that offhand, but...no, 611...6112, contractual services, and it's about \$256,000. I...I won't get into the specifics of it, but about 256,000 regardless of what you decide to do. You can cut from that 6112, and then if you want to consider utilizing that funding too for the...the ERC or...or other programs, that is available. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we like to hear that. Oh, very good. Okay.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Wow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, speaking of that --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I think this might be a question--it...it is related to Management, but maybe the Budget Director maybe would also answer. So, under Appendix A, Part 2, the General Excise Tax Fund, there is a Condition 14 for the Central Maui Landfill, Phase 7, Part 1, closure under the Department of Environmental...Environment...Environmental Management. However, in Bill 43, the bond bill, Appendix C, the CIP project sheet says that CIP belongs to...to Department of Management, not DEM. Can you clarify that...which one does it fall under?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Similar to last year when the Permanent Disposal Site funding was placed under the Department of Management for continuity purposes, we left it under Department of Management this year, although they're working in coordination with DEM on that. So, that's why that is reflected that way.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the correct answer is Management?

MS. MILNER: It's fine to remain under Management, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we didn't find...we didn't find more money, we just...it's just a duplication of...or it's just an incorrect department, I guess.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. We feel it's appropriate under either DEM or Management. It...it's not a duplication. So, if the body would rather have it under DEM, that's fine. We just left it under . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Management, as...as it was under Management in Fiscal Year '25.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, next. Member U'u-Hodgins, you have more questions? Shall we do this...what is this? This is fourth round. Shall we do two minutes, or we still need more?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yep, can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can? Okay, fourth round.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I wanted to talk about the new service center. And I know that's one of the questions I asked, or somebody asked, in the...the document that we're still going to get back from you guys. But can you just--while I

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have you here trapped, can you just tell me which ones...which departments are probably going to move there? Is there going to be space for Boards and Commissions? When we had Cynthia Lallo here, and one of her many hats is--well, I guess was B&Cs, but she mentioned them maybe going to the Haggai Institute. Now, nothing wrong with Kihei, but it is a far drive for a lot of people here that have to staff boards and commissions. So, are they going to have space, and is there also going to be space for Ocean Safety? We're...they're looking for some space too.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. So, I...I think Deputy Managing Director alluded to this a little bit earlier about the ongoing space study that's being done, and...and work going on that, that will help inform our decision-making in terms of what departments should go down there. Some of the departments, such as...let's say like Department of Planning, which does maintain and manage a lot of different boards and commissions, and has a lot of community meetings. If they were collocated down there then, you know, they're....that may make more sense to have like additional community meeting space available since there'd be so much traffic and whatnot down there. So, those decisions will be informed really well by the ongoing space study to be done.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can we see this ongoing space study that you guys have?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Once it's completed, we'd be happy to.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, great. And then I know--because we're talking about boards and commissions, I know you were talking about the Board of Ethics, but--and I know why, you know, they're with you guys right now, but can you tell me the decision to keep it under you folks and not something like the Auditor...some...some other entity like the Auditor . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that's quite independent?

MR. NISHITA: Well, I guess the short answer is...I mean, if the Auditor wants to take it, I'll be happy to give it up. . . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Please divorce me from these things.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, I mean, I...I don't know the politically correct way to say that, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- I...I mean, ultimately, you...you know, it was getting tasked as kind of this administrative function, and we...we help, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. NISHITA: -- a lot of the boards and commissions in administering the agencies. And the Board of Ethics used to be tied to the Corporation Counsel, so --

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- I think--and we lack jurisdiction in like assigning responsibilities and whatnot to the Legislative branch. So, I...I mean, honestly, our discussion was purely within the Administrative branch piece. But if you guys want to take it in Auditor's Office or...or elsewhere, I mean, I'm fine with that too. They're going to act independently anyway --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. NISHITA: -- in our...in our...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sure. And I mean, don't get me wrong, I'm not speaking for the Auditor, it's just like we--you know, they're quite independent. But I appreciate you answering that question, and I know you folks are kind of the catch-all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci, you have no questions?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, no questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No questions, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, we're getting to no questions. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, shoot. Now I wasn't ready. I thought they were going to have questions. Can you....okay, here's one. You know, the eDiscovery platform, they said that they are barely going to try and get it in on this fiscal year, and they need kind of more funding, and that part of it was because of the heavy lift of IT moving over to the Microsoft 365. So, do you anticipate how much of those types of software thing and the existing personnel we had--so, kind of like CIPs, you know, how many bodies do you need to do a CIP, how many bodies do you need to do all the software upgrades and things like that, and has that been taken into account for this year's budget of software work, existing personnel, and what we can reasonably expect to happen within one fiscal year?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I...I think the...really, the main solution to it that I've already given the departments a heads up on is that we--I mean, I...I'm hoping to get a CTO on board before we do this, but if not, we will be moving forward with an establishment of an IT governance policy. And essentially, what that relates to is prioritizing all the different initiatives that departments are asking for, and coming to the table and establishing what can be done within a certain time frame.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, perfect. Next, probably for Recovery. Is it on your radar that we only have one laundromat in Lahaina now, and they mostly do short-term rental

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laundries, like hotel kind of stuff, and so that our residents are kind of being pushed to the side, and they'll go and they cannot do laundry, they'll go and they cannot do laundry, and they'll go and they cannot do laundry. And like maybe like a laundry co-op or something like that? I don't know, R-1 water, whatever. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. SMITH: I mean, short answer is, it has come to my radar recently, particularly from the Mayor's Advisory Counsel. So, I...I don't have a plan from Recovery to address it yet, but it is...it recently came on my radar, unless you guys know of something I don't know of in terms of fixing that problem.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just checking if any of the Home Maid Bakery has washing machines or dryers.

MR. SMITH: I don't think so, but I can check.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe they can cook their laundry to dry it --

MR. SMITH: Is the need --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or something?

MR. SMITH: Is the need on this side, though?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The need on --

MR. SMITH: We're--the...the laundry facility need.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, in Lahaina.

MR. SMITH: It's in Lahaina, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, I got people all the way from Honokōhau, to Kahana, to...like that's part of the aggression towards short-term rentals. There's one laundromat, and short-term rentals have an in or something with the laundromat owner, so regular people aren't able to do their laundry. And then if they have to catch the bus to this side with all their laundry, it's just not feasible.

MR. SMITH: Okay. We'll move it up higher on the radar. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That would be awesome. Thank you.



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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. All my questions have been answered, but I will add a point of information. About a year-and-a-half ago, the Pūlama Lānaʻi laundromat burned down, and they bought a mobile laundromat. So, if you need a contact, there's--call Pūlama Lānaʻi, Larry Ellison guys. They...they bought one for...for their hotel instead of having to--shipping off all of their laundry. And I think--so far, I've only--I haven't heard anything, so I don't think it would be a bad thing. You might want to look into that. Thank you.

MR. SMITH: Thank you. Thank you for that suggestion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, pretty cool. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm good. Thank you all, very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. So, I have one just clarifying question. It's in reference to your response in number 12b in MD-1. You are talking about 700,000 for CNHA for workforce housing, workforce development, and resiliency hub operation relating to the resilient hubs operated by MEMA, and the resiliency hub funding under the Mayor's Office. Is this a duplication of service? Is CNHA also doing...

MR. NISHITA: Chair, can you direct us to where in the response again you were talking about?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 12...12b in MD-1.

MR. NISHITA: 12...12b is in relation to kind of --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's what I had a question on.

MR. NISHITA: -- what we just passed out about the grant subsidy, but I...I don't see anything about CNHA and...and the work you're identifying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Oh, I...I...I see the resiliency hub and workforce development, that's the piece? And you're asking if it's in duplication to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- Office of the Mayor efforts?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NISHITA: Well, I...I believe the Office of the Mayor efforts are looking at resiliency hubs Countywide. The CNHA Workforce Development program and their hub operations, to my knowledge, is specific to the ongoing recovery efforts in Lahaina.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, they're different?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's not a duplication?

MR. NISHITA: -- we can definitely follow-up. We don't want any duplication of stuff. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- we can confirm for you, but my understanding is, it's separate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And then also, I noticed that other departments and--and if Managing Director could say that we have now an ongoing interest of having a land manager. So, we have land management in--with Corp. Counsel, we have land--you know, in...in Finance also . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and I wonder if we are going to have a comprehensive land management plan along with, you know, getting everybody kind of in line so we don't only have Guy Hironaka?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, and we really appreciate Guy Hironaka. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know. I know.

MR. NISHITA: But yeah. I mean, it...I...I'm sure it's too early to unveil everything, but I don't know if the Deputy Managing Director wants to talk a little bit about some of what we've been, you know, looking and discussing regarding a task force.

MS. WADE: Sure. And this relates to the multi-departmental and cross-departmental coordination, where a lot of different departments touch a piece of the land management, but can't do land management independently. So, the objective is to develop a task force with specific issue areas--so whether it's wildfire prevention, or ecological restoration, or encampments, or education about land management--all of those things, I think we're going to start looking at from a comprehensive perspective as you're saying, and then as a collective, developing programs that might live in individual departments where it suits them and where it fits, but then they wouldn't need to carry the load of the entire County as they're serving the...the portion of the mission that is theirs. But we would have the oversight with Department of Management and Mayor's Office to do those coordination efforts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. So, as we are hearing now more about land management, it is the time, right?

MS. WADE: Yes.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think it's something that we, the Council, wanted to see, and very good. Thank you. Thank you very much. So, I have no further questions. Member Paltin, you have. This is last round of two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I recently forwarded you the email from ILWU on best practices. And then I had a question in the second set about USACE, and then we're...we're putting money for that. Could some of that money go to the best practices that ILWU is asking for, for...I think it's the HC&D, which is right next to where the PDS folks will be? They list out what the County's plan is, and then what the best managements are. And so, that's kind of recovery-related, and I would hate to see residents that work in Maui have long-term health effects because we're not doing best practices.

MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thank you for that email. I'm sorry I haven't had a chance to respond yet, but yeah, we'll look into that. We'll work with the Corps of Engineers and make sure that best practices--on the Permanent Debris Site is what you're talking about, correct?--are followed to make sure that we don't have any long-standing health issues for the future.

MR. NISHITA: And Chair, if I could just mention real quick, I think one of the pieces of your question was related to the funding. The funding that we budget is what's anticipated for the need of what was planned for. So, if there's like additional improvements or whatever that wasn't previously considered, I think we'd need to talk about, you know, funding that might be needed to accomplish that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then Chair, I just wanted to double-check that Staff had the written question that MD was going to follow-up on the Boards and Commissions secretary and Corp. Counsel and in Management...as well, I...I would...I don't think that this can have the time in two minutes, but if we can follow-up with a little bit more detailed explanation about the PA work going through HI-EMA and State. I...I didn't...I mean, I understand what that means, but if . . .*(timer sounds)* . . there can be a little bit more explanation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In writing, you asked for?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank...thank you, Chair. We...we'd be happy to provide that in writing, but we also would welcome, you know, coming to the Committee and having a more in-depth discussion after budget session if...if that's warranted as well. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I see Member Rawlins-Fernandez joined us, so she might --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- want an opportunity.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, welcome to Maui. Oh no, welcome to Moloka'i. You went back to Moloka'i. Welcome home.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yep, I'm back on Moloka'i. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so you...you --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, so I am --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- missed all this --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- at the District Office, alone on my side of the office, and jumping on my computer now. And I...I've been monitoring off and on, but I'm happy to just kind of continue listening to the discussion. I don't have any burning questions at the moment. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Because we're at the tail end of all the questions, so if you--you're fine? Okay, you're fine. We're trying to get Josiah to go home. Oh, look, you're...you're in your Moloka'i Office. Okay. Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, Members, anybody else have a last question for Office of Recovery or Management? Seeing none. Okay. So, very good. We will--thank you for this change request, the...the list, and then thank you for the \$256,000, and we will use that towards the ERC \$100,000 request that will go to MEO. And then maybe Staff can work with you on the right language for that, so we get it correct. And is there anything else? We will send you questions, Managing Director. Do you want to say anything to us before we close?

MR. NISHITA: No, just always appreciate, you know, being here before you guys. Always...you know, it's always good dialogue, good questions, and we appreciate the camaraderie and working together to make things happen for our community. So, thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's mutual. Yeah, we appreciate Josiah Nishita, and when he comes, we're like, oh, okay, let's have him just answer as many questions as we can think of.

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All right. Members, so at this time, we're going to defer this--oh, you have another question, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are you...if you can tell me briefly if you're supportive of a project-labor agreement to hire Maui workers first, whether union or nonunion?

MR. NISHITA: To --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the big reconstruction going on in West Maui, and then all-around?

MR. NISHITA: So, I...I think, Chair--well, that's definitely not something we're going to be able to answer . . . *(laughing)*. . . in a two-minute time period.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We can follow-up in writing.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, yeah. And it also may, you know, warrant further discussions with the Committee about...there's obviously pros with that approach, and then there's obviously, you know, things that would take place as a result of it. So, it might be good to have a discussion at some point to understand both sides of it, and then we can come up collectively with the best decision forward.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It...it could possibly be one of my priorities for an RFP for 250 or something, but still working on the language.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is that it? Do you need something in writing to be sent to them?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I thought...can...does Staff have that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have that, Kirsten and James?

MR. KRUEGER: If it's okay, could we just request it be repeated one more time?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, sure. Thoughts on an RFP for a project-labor agreement for...whether it's union or nonunion, to prioritize hiring Maui workers first, and then, you know, if...if we don't have that type of expertise like, you know, growing it, through it, R...a possible RFP for like a third party...third party running of the program to ensure that Maui labor is used first, and then go outside?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, you got that? I hope we can find workers, you know? That's the hard part, right? Then if there's no other questions --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just a quick one. And again, I don't think I'll get an answer in, you know, 30 seconds, and I do want to let Managing Director go. Thank you for being with us even though you're sick. Regarding the GET surcharge for infrastructure, 20 percent reserved for DHHL projects to ensure that the...the projects are actually benefiting DHHL, whether the, you know, mechanism for that commitment is like an MOU of some sort, or something legally enforceable, you know, so that the funding is achieving what it was intended to achieve.

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you, Chair. I believe we have a set-aside already in the ordinance related to a request that they made. I have an upcoming meeting with them, I think, in the next few weeks. We did ask them for additional documentation and whatnot so we could prepare. I think we were going to go the IGA route in relation to it to provide them the funding. But yeah, we...we are working with them. And to date, I believe that's the only like hard request that we've gotten in relation to accessing the funding at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Of course you had a response within 30 seconds. Mahalo for that, appreciate it. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. All right. Any --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And mahalo, Office of Recovery as well. I see them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, so both. Anybody else have questions? Seeing none. I'm going to defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS** (excused: TK).

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then this meeting is now adjourned at 4:12. Oh wait, I have one more thing to tell you before I adjourn. If any of you have legislation that you want us to take up, please--it's due tomorrow at 9:00, but please...please do send a copy to Staff so that they have it also, if any of you have. I'm sure you must be already working on it if you do. So, anything...any questions, anything else? Okay. This meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)* . . .

**ADJOURN:** 4:13 p.m.

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

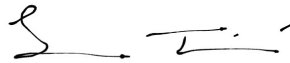
**April 9, 2025**

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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 70 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 6th day of May 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



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Logan Tsuji