

**MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MINUTES**

**MAY 16, 2025  
9:00 AM**

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

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

Video recording of meeting available at: [www.mauicounty.legistar.com](http://www.mauicounty.legistar.com)

TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:06 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Pres.</b>	<b>Abs.</b>	<b>Exc.</b>	<b>Time(s) In/Out (during meeting)</b>
CM Pro Tempore Tasha Kama			√	
Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura	√			
CM Tamara Paltin	√			
CM Gabe Johnson			√	
CM Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	√			
CM Tom Cook	√			
CM Nohelani U'u-Hodgins	√			
CM Shane Sinenci	√			
Chair Alice L. Lee	√			
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	7		2	

**Council's proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the County of Maui**

*No legislative action was taken.*

**TIME MEETING ADJOURNED:** 12:28 p.m.

TRANSCRIPTION

Council of the County of Maui on 2025-05-16 9:00 AM - Public Hearing

We have Makaale'a testifying on cr25-26 and followed by Jeff Alameda. >> How many testifiers do we have signed up? >> Chair, we currently have 18 signed up. >> Okay. I'm going to be enforcing the time limit strictly and also the clarifying questions. Because we have a very, very long day today. Good morning.\r\n\r\n>> Good morning. I'm here to testify for the Budget Bill 41. My name is Makalena Ane the Executive Director of the living pono project. I have a lot to say and it might be emotional, because I'm so passionate about this subject, and our organization. But also, because of the Kuleana that comes with the work that we were doing and the work that all of the community organizations do. So I wanted to first mahalo the County Council for the hard work you put in to support the small organizations as my friend and fellow colleague said to small nonprofits every dollar matters and we can amplify the work that we're doing that one dollar, and impact the community and our kids to come. So I wanted to actually read -- >> If I could interrupt one second, Ms. Ane.\r\n\r\nIt would be helpful to tell you if you are already in the budget and how much is in there for you? Or if you are asking for more so we know the difference, okay? >> Perfect. >> And how much, thanks. >> So I am asking for a proviso tot living pono project under the farm to family program. It was put in the budget at \$1 million and we do not have a proviso. But I'm asking for \$100,000 to continue our Mahea basket program and also advocating for funding for the resilience hub network planning Hui that we invite many of you Council Members to participate in.\r\n\r\nAnd we're not in the budget, but I'm just advocating that funding for resilience hubs in general be continued to be put in the budget, and be supported by the Council. >> Can you give a figure, just in case as we're deliberating if we have extra money, you never know? >> Yes. So for resilience hub the budget is at \$600,000. And there is a proviso to Hana for \$200,000. And we would advocate that it not go lower than \$600,000, but if you did find any extra money that all -- we have phase 1 resilience hubs that were selected or backed up by the Mayor's Office of Office of Innovation. And so there's seven tier 1 resilience hubs that are ready to go. We have already done planning and we have community support and input into the hubs and most of us have leases already. So if funding could be -- [ INAUDIBLE ] (lost audio) [ GAVEL ] >> Will the Council Meeting of May 16th, 2025 please reconvene.\r\n\r\nIt's now 10:18 and we'll continue with testimony with Ms. Ane. >> Thank you, Chair. I will be really quick. I was in the middle of reading testimony from one our families that comesthrough the living pono project and she advocating for a proviso for \$100,000 for the farm too family program and the living project pono currently feeds 700 families every month, which is fresh, locally-grown produce, this is not just food, it's dignity, it's health, it's culture 'Ohana are given the choice to choose Hawaiian staples, beloved local crops like Maui onions, eggplants, lettuce and papayas and tomatoes. It's more about meals, but restoring community connections and supporting local farmers and making sure our keiki and Kupuna don't go hungry. This need is real.\r\n\r\nWait-list is growing and families are still recovering and at a same time when resilience and local food security have never been more critical, we cannot let this lifeline be lost. We're not asking for charity, we're asking for partnership. This \$100,000 investment is a lifeline for our people and a step forward towards a healthier, more self-sufficient Maui rooted in Hawaiian values of Aloha, 'aina, and Malama 'Ohana. Thank you very much. >> Thank you. Members, do you have any questions? If not, thank you very much.\r\n\r\n>>

Chair? >> I'm sorry. >> Member Rawlins-Fernandez. >> Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, for your testimony today. I just had two clarifying questions. The first question when I was looking at the Budget Bill, you said \$1 million pot, and the only \$1 million pot I see is agriculture -- which line item you were requesting to have a proviso  
he?\r\n\r\n>> Council Member Gabe Johnson put in for local food production. >> Under that one proviso an DCA registered name is living pono project, no, LLC. or anything like that? >> Correct. >> And then that was the only request. >> Yes. And for resilience hubs just to support that it be moved to the Department of Emergency Management, and to consider increasing that for \$200,000 for each phase 1 hub.\r\n\r\n>> Emergency Management? >> Yes, so Tamara Paltin had requested that resilience hubs be moved to them and proviso or line item of \$600,000 with proviso for Hana at \$200,000. I'm happy it stays for that. >> You said DEM, not NEMA. >> NEMA, I'm kind of out of date here. Sorry ? so not the Department of Environmental Management, but Maui Emergency Management Agency. >> Yes. >> You are asking for an increase of \$200,000 per resiliency hub?\r\n\r\n>> If we want to really fund resilience in Maui, it would be great to have phase one -- there's seven recognized by the County, the Office of the Mayor. So if each of them had \$200,000 we can all move forward together. So that would be a great pie-in-the-sky request. >> Mahalo for that clarification. Mahalo, Chair. >> Thank you. Any more questions?\r\n\r\nIf not, thank you very much. >> Mahalo. >> Nice to see you. >> Chair, the next testifier is Jeff Alameda, testifying on cr25-26, followed by Kalani Fonda. >> Aloha Chair Lee. Vice-Chair Sugimura, Council Members. First of all I want to say I appreciate the opportunity to share on behalf of our members' comments related to a Bill that is going to be referred later today to Committee, and that is Bill 54. My name is Jeffrey Alameda, President and CEO of associated builders and contractors Hawai'i Chapter.\r\n\r\nWe represent over 200 Members contractors across the State, merit shop contractors including many here who make Maui their home, who hire local, train local, and for the communities in which they live. I am here to strongly oppose Bill 54. This Bill would require contractors on County projects over \$500,000 to sign a union agreement. So called community workforce agreement. But it's really a project labor agreement. It would create a barrier for most of Maui's construction workforce. Let's be honest, the \$500,000 threshold in the Bill, when is the last time we have seen a Public Works project coming in at \$500,000? That number might as well just be zero. This Bill would apply to just about every major project on Maui.\r\n\r\nRoads, schools, housing, water, all of it. Most local contractors are merit shops, they pay prevailing wages, they follow all safety and workforce rules, and they run state approved training programs. Forcing them to sign union terms they have never needed, just to keep working, it's unfair, and unnecessary. You will find 8-10 subcontractors on every job. These are small family-owned, DBE specialty trade contractors. These are the first folks who will be affected and be pushed out. That is not lifting up Maui's community, it's basically sidelining it.\r\n\r\nIf we restrict Maui workers from participating or basically opening the door to importing labor from elsewhere. That means exporting wages. It means driving up housing demand, and filling units that should be going to local families. At a time when people have difficulties finding a place to live, we shouldn't be passing policies that make it worse. This Bill also blocks for our future construction trade workers alternative pathways into the trades by requiring only union training. That is not Workforce Development; that is workforce exclusion. Pla raised construction costs significantly.\r\n\r\nMight mean for every five homes we build, one may Not happen. For every five infrastructure projects, one might not move forward. That is fewer

roofs, fewer classroom and fewer jobs and more burden on Maui's taxpayers. I know the intent behind this Bill is to help workers. We support this, but can we agree moving forward to continuing this conversation? Mahalo. >> Thank you.\r\n\r\nQuestions? No questions. Thank you. >> Thank you very much. >> Chair, the next testifier is Kalani Fonda testifying on cr25-26 and he will be followed by Les Iczkovitz. >> I serve as the acting Administrator as the Department of Hawaiian Homelands land development division. I am here today to express our support for cr25-26, specifically Bill 41. On behalf of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, I extend our deepest mahalo to the County of Maui for creating this vital funding source.\r\n\r\nYour leadership and unwavering commitment are instrumental in helping us fulfill our Kuleana to improve the water systems serving our village and address urgent need for affordable housing in Lahui and make meaningful progress in reducing our longstanding wait-list. We're in the budget and included in the measure is a proposed Memorandum of Understanding that would allow Dalai Lama to receive \$21 million from the DHHL G.E.T. fund as established under Maui County Code section 3.100.021. These funds are critical to advancing water infrastructure projects that directly support our Homestead developments in West Maui, specifically the funding will help construct a new transmission line to the Wahikuli reservoir, both essential components to unlocking housing opportunities for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. Mahalo nui for your continued support and leadership. >> Thank you very much. Any questions, Members? If not, you do have one? Vice-Chair Sugimura.\r\n\r\n>> So in the budget is \$10 million. >> Yes. >> And you are needing another \$11? >> Yes. >> Is what you are saying? >> Correct. >> So briefly the \$11 million, because I have an ASF Amendment that maybe you can explain to the other members because it's going to be introduced today. >> So the \$10 million we have in our proposal goes towards triparty agreement that we have in conjunction with HHFDC and the Department of Human Services.\r\n\r\nIt supports our future of our Homesteading that is going to happen and what we're calling Village 3, which is currently now under HHFDC and being leased on a temporary basis to DHS for the purpose of Kalaola to really support the recovery in Lahaina. After five years, we will be taking on that. So the opportunity for us really is to work collectively with them, leverage those resources now, so when it's time for us to be able to take on and establish our Homestead, we will be ready with that. The \$11 million goes towards a commitment that we had made, I want to say about a decade ago, with the Department of Water services. And with DWS and that is really to be able to support the Wahikuli services with sources that are coming from the forming in side we're providing from the Southside and provides needed booster from the Civic Center and 16" line that runs to the reservoir. >> Thank you very much. Thank you.\r\n\r\n>> I have a question, okay? Any reason why you waited until first reading to bring this up? >> I was in conversation with the Mayor's Office, and I am here today to be able to support that. >> Okay, so this is the Mayor's initiative? >> Yes. >> \$10 million. >> Member Rawlins-Fernandez.\r\n\r\n>> Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, and mahalo for your testimony and supporting the item. >> Aloha. >> So I don't know what Member Sugimura's proposal is, but during budget session we added condition to ensure the conveyance from HHFDC to DHHL to give Homesteaders some kind of security at the time we added that condition we were uncertain if this was an MOU in place. >> Yes. >> And you yourself, and Chair Kali Watson were on Moloka'i before we passed it out of Committee and I was able to speak with the two of you about that. So what you just -- your response to Member Sugimura is that after five years.\r\n\r\nI think the Homesteaders and Member Paltin introduced that condition on behalf of the

Homesteaders to give them that assurance that after five years you know, DHHL HHFDC will make good on that promise. Is there like -- after five years, could be ten years, could be 20 years, I know the intention is for the temporary houses to be there for five years. But what kind of safeguard do you have in place or propose with the Mayor, with the State, to ensure that, you know, it doesn't prolong? >> Mahalo, Council Member. So yes, we love that provision. It is -- we need to provide that insurance for our beneficiaries. So we have put that into an addendum to our triparty agreement.\r\n\r\nIt's agreed upon by the three parties. Each of their Legal Counsel has read through it and it's going through the signature process right now to be able to Memorialize that commitment. And we are in the process of also planning for what that would look like. We would like to take over after five years, and actually occupy not wait for another two, three, four, five years more, because the impact it would have upon the infrastructure having it vacant. So we want to make sure we commit we'll be occupying that space at that time. >> Incredible. And when I asked Mr.\r\n\r\nFonda and Chair Watson about why it wouldn't be conveyed within that five years? It's because one sits under DHHL's management that the requirement of 50% or more Kanaka would be enforced. And those that are living in the temporary shelters at this time would not be allowed to be this, if it was conveyed to DHHL within that five years, correct? yes. It was part of our way to support Governor's initiative to respond to the recovery efforts that were taking place. So yes, we are -- we need to oblige by the Homestead act, when it's conveyed over to us. So in order for us to be able to participate and support the Governor's initiative, we really needed to make sure that we didn't have it conveyed until we were ready to be able to occupy that.\r\n\r\nSo we wanted to make sure also that we have had that language understood by all parties, Memorialized, signed off on, and so that is in the works. And I was informed by our Attorney General's office it's going through the Directors right now, having them sign off on that. >> Mahalo for that clarification. Appreciate you. mahalo, Chair. >> Any more questions, Members? Member Paltin.\r\n\r\n>> Thank you. A couple of clarifications. So you said the MOU to return it afterwards is still in the works , but it's not finished yet. >> So we used the existing triparty Memorandum of Agreement and amended it to make sure that language was in place. So I wanted to bring to the table today to make sure -- to let you know that we had our Legal Counsel with the three parties be able to review it, and right now it is agreed upon by all of the Departments, and going through signature right now. >> Even so at the end of five years, even if there are beneficiaries if they are not next up on the list, we'll have -- be removed? Just clarifying?\r\n\r\n>> That is an interesting part of how we're being able to address the wait-list based upon the law. Both when our administrative rules as well as the H.R.S.. I know there's been a commitment from our Chair that we will work with those that are currently residing there that are wait-listers. >> Okay. My other question clarifying your testimony it sounded like -- huh? It sounded like you were saying you need additional money to fund a transmission line to the Wahikuli reservoir, is that what you said? >> Thank you for that comment. There was a commitment we made some time ago from the Department to work in conjunction with some of the needs that DWS had expressed.\r\n\r\nWe weren't and to fulfill that, of course, based upon funding resources that we had available. So we realized that the time is now, we're able to mobilize and leverage the work that is being done with contractors that are working on the Kaiaulu project and being able to leverage those resources. So it was a great opportunity for us to jump on that and say you know what? Let's fulfill what we had committed about a decade ago. >> Yes. I just wanted to clarify, because my

recollection was that when William Aila was Chair the DLNR, he allowed for the decommissioning of the reservoir. And it was a 19 million dollar cost to bring the dam to standard.

Is this part of recommissioning the reservoir, and then I guess, on a separate meeting at the Kali moku build act that time, even the County or private entity paid the cost, that DLNR wouldn't or couldn't guarantee water to the reservoir. So do you know the current status of the reservoir? The Waiopule reservoir. >> Thank you for the question. I need to find more details particularly on what DLNR had identified as far as decommissioning. You are correct, there's an area that DLNR had identified. This area is an area that we're still providing resources for our West Maui Homesteaders.

As Homestead opportunities, and so it's a combination of Hono Hawai'i, as well as for the water needs for both communities. However, I can find out and be able to relay back to the Council what the exact reservoir that DLNR had identified to decommission. >> Yes, I believe it was the Wahikuli reservoir, the cost was \$425,000 and the reservoir was decommissioned. Do you know what kind of ASF it is? Do you know the language of ASF? Is it to put money at a decommissioned reservoir? >> It's not -- so we're actually doing the -- there's the Wahikuli, there's a tank that is being currently used for supplying water to kai Aloha and provides water for future use of Waili on expansion. We have enough credits for what we're build right now and 1b, which is right above the civic center.

But this is really to allow for us on future usage, and also, future development that we have. Understood that the land that is being conveyed over from HHFDC accumulates to about a sum total of 400 acres. So the area that kale ola is footprint is much smaller a fraction and would ensure for future expansion and usage of furthering our development at La Lele. >> The concern is the stability of the surrounding area, integrity of the reservoir, it's in place, and still full of silt and debris and it would need to be cleaned. Last time you guys met well in advance of your water projects with like almost every Member of the Council. And this is, like, the 11:45 hour, this is the first I'm hearing of this as the residency area Member. So it's kind of just -- there's not a lot of information or time, or -- I'm not sure I understand you are asking us right now to add \$10 million to the budget?

>> So the \$10 million goes towards work that is being done right now, and that we had committed to back when the triparty agreement with DHS. >> So it's not an additional \$10 million? >> So the additional \$11 million, that is really for 16" line that we had committed to with DWS back about a decade ago, that really we're able to put in booster pumps from where the Civic Center is to boost it how to up through the Parkway and connecting with the tank that is on the Lahaina side of Kalaola and that tank now provides that continuous service, not only from the North side resource, but also Southside resource. >> >> So first reading you are asking for an additional \$11 million to do that? >> Yes. >> You think that this will be completed within July 2025 to June 2026? >> Yes, it will. there's contracts in place, contractors ready to move, and once again, we're leveraging the work that has been work that has been doing and working on in the Kalaola area.

This really helps us as we're able to utilize our emergency Proclamation being able to navigate the 103d. >> So I guess I'm blown away there's contracts in place, but you couldn't give me a call, like, of what plans you had where I live? I mean, we met months ago about wells up country, and other things, and it feels like this is just kind of getting sprung upon us, like, hey, can you give us \$11 million today? You know? Like you have contracts in place, but what about us? Why only now are you bringing this to us? It seems kind of last-minute. >> Thank you for that concern.

I will swing back with the -- and also touch base

with Mayor's Office, we apologize for not being able to touch base with you on some of that work. I know it's been something that once again we committed to the County back about ten years ago. And we could have along that time ten years ago, say, we're going to be able to fulfill this. And we haven't yet. >> I mean, I'm just saying that any time in the last ten years, you could have given me a call. >> Yes, exactly. >> Any time before today.\r\n\r\nLike, if you lined up contractors to do work, I don't know where the \$11 million was going to come from before you signed the contractors? It seems very unusual. >> We've once again we're working with the contractors that are already in place at Kaiola and it's part of our triparty agreement, being able to leverage those resources right now. Instead of waiting understanding that as we move forward, there are prices that have been going up because of different, I want to say restrictions and things that are happening, tariffs, et cetera. So this was one way for us to be able to move forward on this. We could actually wait on this, but the cost as we took a look at it goes up significantly. And so we wanted to -- our desire was to jump on an opportunity with what has been working on right now in Kaiola project.\r\n\r\n>> Are you aware -- >> I apologize. >> In my District, that I'm not aware of? >> Not right now. not right now. As things come up, I will touch base with you. We have some discussions that are happening out of Lieutenant Governor's office further up in Napili. So I will swing back.\r\n\r\nIt's still talk-story sessions that we have with the Lieutenant Governor on opportunities that may be available to Hawaiian homes. So I will make sure that we have that conversation with you very quickly. >> Okay. Member Paltin, I'm going to have to cut this short, because we have other testifiers, but when this matter comes up, will you be available, when we actually discuss that particular item? >> Yes, I can be available. >> Good. We generally don't allow a lot of discussion with the testifier, but this is a matter that generally is discussed in Committee first, and this is the first time we're hearing it.\r\n\r\nSo in other words, we're doing Committee work on the Council floor. So is why I let the conversation go, but now it's getting to a point where other people are waiting to testify. So if you can wait. >> Thank you. >> Until this item comes up there may be more discussion. Okay? Member Paltin, is that okay with you?\r\n\r\n>> Sure. Thank you. >> Okay. More questions? Member Uu-Hodgins. >> Thank you. I just had a quick clarifying question.\r\n\r\nSo this is -- thank you for being with us today. This is something you promised to do with Department of Water Supply. >> Yes. >> How come they need money from us then? >> This money is the G.E.T. set aside monies, and so we're asking -- to be able to utilize it now. >> The 20% that we provide for the G.E.T. funds that is what this is. it's something that we haven't been able to identify a project and we felt this project was very key for us to be able to place and post and tee up in front of you.\r\n\r\n>> Thank you. That's it. >> Any more questions? Member Cook. >> Thank you. So just for clarification when you say leverage, it's the contractor is already mobilized on site and they are already there and doing other work? >> Yes.\r\n\r\n>> This opportunity is the fact that they could move into that work and substantially save a lot of money for DHHL's work? >> Yes. >> Thank you. >> Any other questions? If not, thank you very much. I'm not sure when this is going to come up. >> I will be available.\r\n\r\nThank you. >> Next testifier is Les Iczkovitz followed by Keimalo Tangen. >> Aloha Council Members, I will be testifying on resolution 25-108 and in opposition to the nomination of Christopher Elizares to the Planning Commission. I have been an Attorney in Hawai'i for 46 years as of two weeks ago. I believe in Justice. I believe the law should be followed when it comes to nomination of applicants to the Maui Planning Commission,

and not skirted to favor the friends of the Mayor. I testified at its great Committee meeting. And I informed the Council at that meeting that Mayor's Office is using two different versions of the application for Maui Boards and Commissions. After I testified, a Member of Mayor's Office denied there are two versions of application. Last night, I emailed a letter to the Maui Clerk's office, to which I attached two different versions of the application for Maui Boards and Commissions. One of them is a blank version of the Commission, that is online that I downloaded the other day and the other one is the completed application by Mr. Elizares, that doesn't include a lot of information required to be included in the original application. I presume all of you have now received my letter and I refer to that and I assume the Clerk has forwarded that to you. I know Ms. Lutey is here and perhaps the Clerk can respond to my letter after I testify? There's no doubt that vital, relevant non-confidential information about Mr. Elizares has not been shared with the public, including his current place of employment, his employment history and educational background. And the fact that the two different versions of the application raises a lot of issues. I spoke to someone in the Mayor's Office on Tuesday, and I asked these questions why is this happening? I was told someone from Corporation Counsel would be calling me back with answers to my questions about the two versions of application, the failure to disclose relevant public information, corp. Counsel never called me. I think it's procedurally necessary to defer consideration of Mr. Elizares' nomination to the Planning Commission until all the questions have been fully addressed in a way that the public has been taken care of. In addition the fact Mr. Elizares is employed by the Makena resort and not disclosed to the Public any information relating to this hearing. And why not? It's obviously very, very relevant that the major landowner is an employer of supposedly next Member of the Planning Commission. Is this intentional being kept from the public? It's just smacks of -- it's just not right. Besides Mr. Elizares would have to recuse himself from every matter that touches Makena resort and the Commission has difficulty having quorum and Mr. Elizares will aggregate the quorum problems instead of revolving it. Please read my letter against the nomination and thank you for your time. >> Members, any questions? Member Paltin. >> Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Les. You are aware that the applicant went through the Independent Nominating Board process, it wasn't the Mayor just clarifying you said that the Mayor choose someone that he wanted? >> I wasn't aware of that. I mean, I wasn't fully aware of that. I just know that the letter -- the letter submitting the nomination from the Mayor, the letter that is attached the application of Mr. Elizares apparently came from the Mayor, but the information regarding Mr. Elizares did not include the information about employment should have been included and presented publicly. >> Have you submitted a complaint to the Board of Ethics about this? I believe Mr. Elizares did commit to appearing before the Board of Ethics if need be. So I mean, that is just my question, clarifying question. >> I don't think it's an Ethics Board, but a procedural issue whether or not this Council can actually consider an application to the Planning Commission, when the public -- the information provided to the public is incomplete, and apparently intentionally incomplete. So the question is procedural, and I ask the County Clerk why is that this public information about his employment and why is the public information that was included in the application withheld from the public? I think it's procedurally wrong and improper and perhaps illegal that the Council proceed opposite his nomination when the public has not been given the information that is required to have and absolutely necessary to



determine his conflict of interest. >> Okay. I guess we need to agree to disagree. I feel like it's more of a Board of Ethics, but thank you. Thank you, Chair. >> Any more questions?\r\n\r\nIf not, thank you very much. Ms. Clerk, next testifier. >> Chair, the next testifier is Kelama Tangen testifying on cr25-26, followed by Vernon Kalacka. >> Aloha, Chair and Council Members. Mahalo for having me here today. Executive Director of The nonprofit organization ki Hu.\r\n\r\nI'm testifying in support of the restoration of the request that was made for \$250,000. I am here definitely on behalf of our organization which has and continued to do great work in the area on behalf of our partner organizations such as living pono project, who we just recently completed our second Farmers Market in that area. Other partners like Vernon Kalakaua in the past five months we have probably done more in terms of working with the County than we have in the past ten years. So the work that we're doing continues to be great and meaningful. I was listening when Coach rip was talking about grit. I think that is such a great word, especially when we're talking about teamwork. When you know, we're up against something, and we rise to the occasion. So I'm here for my Staff, and for those that we work with and continue to work with in benefit of our community.\r\n\r\nEverything from just recently this past week, scaling back the Hau trees in terms of mitigation and providing Huk kaki programs or our keiki. So I just wanted to mahalo the Council for your support in all things and we look forward to doing even more from here on out. >> Thank you, Members, any questions? If not, thank you very much. >> Chair, the next testifier is Vernon Kalakaua, testifying on cr25-26 and he will be followed by Judith eagle. >> Good morning, Vernon. >> Good morning.\r\n\r\nI was falling asleep. So again, Vernon Kalanika took some time off from work, because I wanted to share some of my mana'o with this ki Hu project. Of course, all of you know that I work for the Mayor's Office, and we're core partners in this 64-acre project. Along with colleagues of mine from the Mayor's Office, we Kakou with kale Mau and the organization pretty much keeping that in conservation, as some you know that we have to deal with encampments, Fire, illegal structures, SMA violations, the list goes on and on, but since we had hui up, you know, I have been this for them. Whether we're County or not, sooner or later I was going to end up doing work there, a place I grew up. Chair, you know that derelict structures that we have there, I grew up in those structures. So now I'm asking to remove those structures because they are not safe for other programs that they have down there.\r\n\r\nSo it's sentimental, but we have to move on, move forward, because you know, the most value that we get out of this area is our relationships. Government, different agencies out there, and the residents down there. So it's really bringing all of that back together again. A lot of hard work was done in past from other people in that area, but you know, they come and go, whatever reasons. But now, I stay, you know? I like to keep that intact. So that is all I have to say for now.\r\n\r\nIf anybody has any questions. >> Any questions, Members? >> Mahalo. >> Good seeing you. >> The next testifier is Judith eagle, testifying on resolution 25-109, followed by Hamish Craig. >> Aloha Chair Lee, Council Members. Others present.\r\n\r\nIt is a pleasure to be here of my own volition and having serve as a familiar law Attorney in a Philadelphia law firm, I hope you agree to comment briefly on resolution 25-so the. With regard to that Resolution, as you are aware it concerns the allocation -- potential allocation of funds for Attorney fees and costs for a matter not yet in litigation. That I would submit is very unusual, no filing of a court complaint yet, no lawsuit. This is pre-litigation yet the Resolution asks the Honorable County Council for starters to set aside \$350,000 plus costs merely for pre-trial negotiation. Simply stated this

appears premature. It's possible that no actual litigation may take place. Even so, the Resolution provides for further requests for additional funds, and also, if County Council provides these funds.

Respected firm will then prepare a first case assessment including litigation costs further if a lawsuit does go forward despite negotiations, private Counsel specify they will need coverage of considerable other efforts and may have to cover additional months or even more of representation and travel by one or more partners, legal associates, as well as paralegal Staff even out-of-state. All this concerns the claims of one former County employee against another our most Senior without specifying what presence or appearance of a conflict of interest exists. Corporation Counsel wants approval for stepping aside and listing private attorneys, and corporate Counsel would then throw the ball to Off County private Counsel however in other actual -- in another actual, but unfounded matter, another lead employee has had to secure his own representation. At what is enormous personal costs to him. This litigation stage for the matter in the Resolution now before it in fairness the County surely ought -- then in fairness the County surely ought to provide forever legal efforts for a specious matter already ongoing and no provision of Counsel support yet enables even national media -- it does enable even national media to create confusion between a civil matter and egregious one unrelated. The contrast and approaches so far is in two matters quite marked, hastening to cast its Police Chief to the wolves now with regard to entire unsub stated claims by one women years ago now before a complaint that even served and our Chief official Hastens to ask publicly that the Chief step away from his position for unknown time that may not have been Hasty. It was turned down as well -- thank you.

I would ask for one more minute. >> As soon as you can. >> Absolutely. The Chief wisely declined to accept that. He then very quickly provided extensive detailed documents showing his presentation far from the outrageous events that the plaintiff alleged. So far with regard to representation and costs which are appreciable to almost any individual that person was left on his own to retain counsel and more. So along with regard to the outrageous actions by the only named plaintiff are Counsel under disciplinary cloud against her, he so far has done a prodigious amounts as man of steel to protection us too.

With regard to the Resolution before you, concerning the funds, the Administration wants even before a claim is filed, it's submitted that it's simply premature for such action. What is good for the gander is good for the gander. If our fine County Council decides to indemnify for unspecified unfiled claims by -- a former County employee against another County servant, then it's time even past time it's submitted to do likewise for actual, but frivolous demonstrably unwarranted claims against a Senior Department Head. Mahalo nui loa. >> Thank you. Any questions? Council Member Paltin.

>> Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Eagle. I was just trying to clarify, you are not in favor of passing that Resolution? You want it to be filed? >> That is correct, not at this time. I think there may well be a time it's entirely appropriate, but from my experience with a large law firm and Federal Government and so forth at this point to -- to come up with \$350,000 as well as what maybe expensive travel cost and others, it just simply too much too soon.

>> So-so you are waiting until someone sues us? >> Exactly, I may never happen, but it may not. >> Do you have inside information it's not going to happen? >> Absolutely not. You know? I'm not a mind reader. >> Okay.

>> I don't know Mr. Karras. >> Sounds like you had inside information. Sorry. Thank you. >> Any other questions? If not, thank you very much, Ms.

Eagle. >> Thank you, Council, thank you, Chair. >> Chair, the next testifier is Hamish Craig. Mr. Craig, if you could let us know

what item you are testifying on, followed by Francine Aaronson. Mr. Craig, you're muted.

I wish to speak in support of resolution 114 today. Mahalo and thanks for the opportunity to talk with you today and we wanted to thank the County for some of the work that has been done in our area, this Resolution speaks to the status of Hui road in Napili. The road has been subject to significant amount of infusion over the ownership and support and maintenance of the road condition. We have recently had some County work done on the crosswalk, and the convex safety mirror at the junction of the rear and lower road and we greatly appreciate the work that the County has done on that respect. The Resolution that Member Paltin has put to the County -- to the Council, we strongly support what it suggests is that we need to accept the quick claim deed from the second Circuit Court to move the ownership of this road into the County's responsibility, and sitting now at the moment with no real responsibility for support and maintenance. The road itself is in terrible condition and supports over 100 families. It's difficult -- lots of holes in the road. It's dangerous to walk on. It's difficult for Fire engines and ambulances, and it's a single entrance single exit road. So in the case of an emergency scenario, as we're all well-aware of that we have to deal with and consider now, we're very restricted in how easily we can access and egress the community. We would strongly support and there's a number of people who I believe have put submissions online as well, and a strong community here in hui road that would strong support resolution 114 and we support Member Paltin's mission to make this Resolution and for the County to take on this road as part of its responsibility. That is all I have to offer. Thank you and mahalo for your time. >> Thank you.

Any questions, Members? If not, thank you. May we have the next testifier. >> Chair, the next testifier is Francine. >> I had a question I'm sorry, I didn't see your hand. Member Paltin. >> Thank you, Mr. Craig. I was wondering how long has your community been working on this? And were you aware there was a Resolution of support in 2018 as well? >> Yes. The community -- I have paperwork that supports this going back to I believe at least the 1960 -- 1970s, 1980s. It's been a drastic and ongoing issue for the residents of the community. During that time, obviously the number of people in the community has grown. The requirement for community has grown and yet the roads not really responded that and we have this legal issue that has been hanging over us.

We now have the opportunity with the quick claim deed offer by the second Circuit Court to actually resolve it once and for all and bring it up to the standard that we would all expect it to be to provide the sort of security that the community can expect. >> Thank you. Thank you, Chair. >> Any more questions? If not, may we have the next testifier? >> Chair, the next testifier is Francine Aaronson, testifying on resolution 25-108, followed by Kai Nishiki. >> Aloha Council Members, Chair.

And it's always a pleasure to be here in person to avoid technical difficulties as we have experienced this morning. Kupuna, you know, very hard for me to operate those things, but anyway. For the record, my name is Francine Aaronson known as Auntie Mopsy, testifying on my behalf on resolution 25-108. Regarding Committee approved C.J. Li Jas, I'm sorry if I'm pronouncing your name incorrectly and pardon me if I'm wrong and who would be part of the Planning Commission Board as a Native Hawaiian cultural advisor. All know I do not personally know Mr. El Jas, I believe he is employed by Makena and does work for ATC. As a Kupuna, this concerns me, because of the pending development approval involving Makena ATC, projects that will come before the Commission Board that he has been confirmed by the Committee for your final approval. Although I am in opposition of his confirmation he would like to

remind Mr. Elizares as I suspect on this Commission take to heart your mana'o shared in your application of your understanding of being a Member of the Planning Commission makes informed decisions of what shapes our children's communities now. Being a Maui descendant with young children, I would like to participate in shaping my children's and grandchildren's future. As a community advocate, as well as other community groups I hold you to be that voice for your people. For your children, and grandchildren your residents of this 'aina as you are serve on this Commission Board as a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, and as a descendant of this 'aina. I'm all for growth, as long as it's smart growth that provides for our lifestyle of living. Our cultural way of living. Confirmation lays with this Council today.

Mahalo, Council Members, for allowing me to share my mana'o, and may kai Ku walk with you, as well as Commission Board, as well as the Council who has that voice for residents who live on this 'aina, mahalo and Aloha. >> Thank you. >> Questions? Member Paltin. >> Thank you, Chair, thank you, Auntie Mopsy. I just wanted to clarify, you said that formal consulting was gone with chip chase, but I asked that question in Committee, and the individual said no, so I was wondering how if you had any proof of that? >> I do know he is, you know, employee, and I'm not sure if I'm hearing you right, because Kupuna hard of hearing.

But I'm just going with my gut he is aware of what he does on this Committee, if he is approved today and that we move forward for providing and for being that voice on that Board for us. >> Thank you. He also did say he was willing to go before the Board of Ethics if necessary so if you have concerns you can always put it up to the Board of Ethics. From what he answered, I didn't see a problem, but thank you. >> Thank you. >> Thank you. >> Ms. Clerk. >> Chair, next testifier is Kai Nishiki and Ms. Nishiki, if you could let us know what item you will be testifying on. She is followed by Stacey Alapai. >> Okay, the items I'm testifying are cr25-26, 25-7, 25-115, Bill 57, and Bill 59. Shall I proceed? >> All right, can you start? >> Yes.

Kai Nishiki and I'm testifying on behalf of Maui Nui resiliency hui nonprofit consulting contract with the Pu'ulehua project expired earlier this year, but I'm still here for my children, for your children, for the Keiko Ka'aina for the thousands of Fire survivors still unhoused as living in limbo, crammed into temporary units year after year, and the pressure, the stress of that uncertainty, eating away at any hope that they might have every day a local family move as way, every day we lose more and more people that make Lahaina Lahaina and I could show you pictures for thousands on the wait-list for Pu'uohau, and of the families scattered across the State or continent, ripped from the place that raised them, the place they still call home. Rents are skyrocketed because there's simply not enough permanent housing available. Look at my photo background. This housing project site has sat idle for two years, why? Because this Administration continues to block the Housing provider at every turn. This is the Pu'u'alala site where 240-pet-friendly housing units could be built already with priority for Kupuna who just want to spend their final years in West Maui for the many Fire affected families who are just want a sense of permanency and Foundation to build back their lives instead pets are being surrendered overwhelming the Maui Humane Society and why are they giving up pets? Because there's is so little housing that allows them families are being forced to choose between the roof over their head and animals that they love.

Yes this Council has been trying to pass budgets with funding for permanent housing in West Maui and you funded programs like the 'Ohana assistance fund and you have done your job, but the Administration is failing, failing to execute, failing to administer the programs and financing to get housing built. This

West Maui housing provider came forward just two weeks after the Fire and offered land for the temporary school to the State, to the County he offered to change his projects, which all market units to provide a thousand units of affordable homes. He offered acres for temporary housing and what did the County Administration do? They said no to it all. No grants executed, no residential workforce housing agreement no, permits, no water. But the County offered instead to buy a portion of the land from the Housing provider, and give themselves or another developer permit or water to build this. When people asked me what is bog on with the project and I tell them this, they are saying how is that not extortion and how is this happening?

Council Member Paltin pivoted from funding permanent housing to a parking lot shelter solution across the Street from housing sites that -- >> Time. >> That sits year after year. I'm continuing with my next item. No new housing projects were proposed by her in this budget. Why? Because this Administration failed West Maui two years ago, when the offer was gifted and our people could have been moving in today. Instead of helping to expedite this 100% permanent housing gift, they intentionally delayed and delayed the infrastructure subsidizing grants you approved until expiration, refusing to execute stripping West Maui of the funding you allocated last year.

They said it was too much, a 33,000 dollar subsidy per unit is too much? What are we doing? How are we not ashamed? How can we look at the people of Lahaina in the eye and say your suffering doesn't warrant urgency any more? Maui nui resiliency Hui urges this Council to stand firm in your commitment to West Maui housing by demanding accountabilities that the Administration stop punishing the people of Lahaina by placing politics and personalities over the welfare of our own people. resolution 25-115, and from this reso, the Council finds that supplying water to support stable housing for West Maui residents is an urgent priority. At a recent Commission on Water Resource Management they provided multiple path forwards for housing to be built in West Maui while awaiting new and existing Use Permit approvals.

CWRM reiterated the fact that the Department of Water Supply has the abilities to provide water for new housing, even under the water management area designation. It was suggested that the County enforce mandatory water restrictions on the highest and most wasteful users of water in West Maui and in doing so the County could provide 75,000 gallons of water for the 240 unit of housing at Pulelehua and other housing providers. Great news; right? This is a call to action to urge the County of Maui Administration to take action, and ask for voluntary or dam, just enforce mandatory water restrictions already. This is your time to show what you have been empowered to do. Use the County's water resources to act with a sense of urgency, and prioritize water for housing our people. This is also a call to action for every resort, every vacation rental, every large user of water in West Maui.

Would you pledge to conserve a small portion of your water use so that our workforce, our Kupuna, our Fire affected families can have permanent affordable housing in West Maui? Let's do this. Let's work together as a community with this collective sacrifice, so our people can have stable, permanent housing in West Maui. We want to thank Mayor Bissen for proposing the upcoming vacation rental Minatoya phase-out and this is a wonderful opportunity to convert those vacation rentals in West Maui to housing for our people. So thank you for your vision, and your proactive approach to create a potential path forward for prospective rentals in our community. We whole-heartedly support this long fought effort and happy to assist in any way needed to make this vision a reality. Testifying on Bill 57. For the voluntary deed restriction.

What a wonderful show of leadership for Moloka'i and our Council Member there representing, and lead

the way, sister, and let's show them how it's done, so we can bring that for our whole pai'aina. Bill 59. Komohana Hale. That is for 20 units of affordable housing in West Maui primarily I think for our Seniors. So support that as a small step forward, but that still many, many, many years away. So mahalo nui. >> Okay. Any questions, Members?\r\n\r\nOn any of this testimony? If not, thank you very much. Thank you. May we have the next testifier. >> Chair, the next testifier is Stacey Alapai, and if you could please let us know what item you will be testifying on. To be followed by Jason Economou. >> Stacey Alapai.\r\n\r\nI'm testifying on multiple things and try to move as quickly as possible to respect everybody's time on cc 25-7, I support this Pulelehua affordable housing increase for lots of reasons that Kai Nishiki eloquently stated. So I won't repeat that. Cc 25-8. I oppose this. This is proposed tax cut for basically tourism properties, resorts, hotels, STRs, et cetera. I don't think we should be cutting their taxes at this time and opposed to pulling in a funding from the Kama'aina credit and I appreciate the press release I saw last time. So I'm hoping that is in the process of being reinstated the \$2 million for the Kalina credit. It's really important that we continue to support low-income residents with things like the Kama'aina credit and I would fully fund that and I would recommend an increase to the full \$15 million that was originally proposed cutting it is not an option.\r\n\r\nAnd I also am opposed to any tax cuts on tourism accommodations. We shouldn't we doing that right now. Resolution 25-108. I support this. I fully support Clinton Lynn as a Planning Commission. I know CJ Elizares, but I support him based on conversations in Committee. I actually changed my opinion on this. I think it's important to explore the connections to developers and Makena resort and the people -- because of these relationships.\r\n\r\nResolution 25-109. I share some of the concerns of an earlier testifier about providing so much funding for pre-litigation of a lawsuit that hasn't happened yet. I also am very curious of what the allegations are and who they are against, because it just seems like if this is a civil concern, you should let those two work it out? I don't know why the taxpayer are getting involved in a dispute that isn't even a legal issue yet? And if it is -- if we're going to be funding it, we deserve to have the Tea and know what is going on. Resolution 25-115. I am in support of the interim restrictions on new private swimming pools in West Maui. I understand that swimming pools are a dent in the water need, but we need every drop that we can get, and this interim restriction will allow us to see what type of impact this makes on our water supply issues in West Maui. Bill 57, I support this Bill.\r\n\r\nThis is a really great pilot project of experimenting with conversions to deed restricted properties. I wish it was for all of Maui. I wish it was more, but I'm excited to see how this Bill is implemented in Moloka'i and how it can be applied elsewhere in the County. Bill 59, I'm also in support of this. We need more affordable housing in West Maui and no-brainer. Now I will move on to Bill 41, which my comments will be much longer, cr25-26, I support the \$4 off and on,000 set aside for resilience hub and specifically the additional \$200,000 for 'Ohana resilience hub, but I do have concerns about the moving of who administers those funds and ask just want to make sure that whoever is administering is connected with the resilience hub network. I go to those meetings and they haven't been well-attended recently.\r\n\r\nI haven't seen any County representation this and I recommend that you attend them and go through the many different documents that they have provided in their Google drive folder about how a holistic approach to resilience hubs is necessary. I also support the \$250,000 allocated to Maui grass roots collective for emergency transitional housing and I hope we follow this to see

how we can provide more opportunities for transitional housing for residents. It's something we see often of people losing their housing and having nowhere to go in the interim while they look for long-term housing. I support the \$140,000 in funding for the Department of Human concerns water project. And now I'm going to get into the fun part, the opposition. Budget there's a budget item in there I couldn't quite find specifically where it is for Sprecklesville in upper Pa'ia transmission line and booster pump station and essentially connecting those two systems. I appreciate the creativity in trying to figure out how to get reliable capacity to central Maui, but I'm very concerned about transferring water from the Ha'iku area over to central and South Maui before the needs for water in Haiku are met.\r\n\r\nThis also brings up some and some of the conversation about water that was happening earlier with testimony by DHHL. And I mainly want to make sure -- I don't know if this is in budget anywhere, but I'm wondering if the Council is aware of an Intergovernmental Agreement between DHHL and DWS to drill wells in Waili Hawaiian Homesteads that is DHHL hearing on Monday and I have a lot of questions about it and I'm curious about how the County is involved in that? I also oppose to \$450,000 allocated to the agencies all for clean and safe program in Holomua road and \$400,000 allocated for Holomua road gates under the Department of Environmental Management. There has been such funding for the gates on Holomua road and I don't understand how the gates can cost so much money and then additional money for security on Holomua road and I feel it's a waste of taxpayer funding and would move to further criminalize the Houseless community that takes shelter on mol Mau road and has built a community this. I'm concerned with sweeps on that road and if we're going to move these people from this area that have now called this their home for many years, we should also provide a safe place for them to go and do this in way that is -- that is with dignity, I guess. These gates I'm concerned would block a potential evacuation root in case of Fire and the budget \$400,000 to put up a gate on one road is the same amount that is allocated to build seven resilience hubs. So I think we should look at these priorities and look at the equity of these things in the budget and I appreciate your time and my very quick talking.\r\n\r\nMahalo. >> Members, any questions? If not, thank you very much. >> Chair, the next testifier is Jason Economou, President and CEO of Maui United Way. It was a few weeks ago that I came and toke this Committee and the Council as a whole and on or around April 23rd, you all votes to give Maui United Way \$12 million as part of the budget in order to issue the Alice initiative, the Kama'aina credit. I want to say thank you. That is an incredible amount of money for you to entrust us with.\r\n\r\nI know we're kind of getting late in the game when it comes to the budget and you have got a \$1.5 billion budget and you have a lot of people coming to you and saying that is too much. You need to find areas to cut. And so you will look at the big numbers and \$12 million is a big number. Don't cut money from this. If you are going to make cuts in the budget, I understand that pressure. But cutting funding to a program that is going to serve our working-class residents, who are most vulnerable to having to relocate, to having to leave behind the islands that them and their families have called home for so long. That is not the area to cut.\r\n\r\nI can't tell you explicitly how much of an impact \$2 million would have on this official program, but I can tell you it's 1/6th. Budget that we're imagining. So it's 1/6th of the support we could provide to families that you would be cutting. It is 1/6th of our ability to collect meaningful data, and track it over the course of what we expect to be two years. That would be devastating to the overall program. Now will we still have a program for \$10 million? Yeah.\r\n\r\nThe community needs it. The community needs whatever support,

whatever help this Council can provide. And Maui United Way has been dedicated to this community for 80 years and we will continue to be dedicated to this community. But I think we can afford the \$12 million in the budget. I think if you are going to make cuts anywhere, it shouldn't be to programs that serve vulnerable families who are working hard and just trying to make ends meet. Thank you for entrusting us with that funding and I hope you entrust us with the full funding. Thank you very much.\r\n\r\n>> Members, questions? If not, thank you thanks. >> Chair, the next testifier is Katy Austin testifying on Bill 73 Resos 25-114 and 25-115. >> Aloha Chair, Aloha Council Members. Can you hear me? >> Yes. >> Awesome. I will try to make this quick.\r\n\r\nApologies, I was in the Chambers this morning, but I had to get on the road. I just wanted to show my support for Bill 73 for the Amendment to redirect \$40,000 to now go to Kaiaulu initiative and strongly request the full \$40,000. I have spoken to you folks before about my passion for this mission and means for our community and to speak really quick to the totality of the situation currently. We're currently 2.2 acres and looking to expand. I will say that our vision of a more sustainable and comforted community atmosphere is way larger than our current budget is right now. So we respectfully request that you all support this as well. I do want to say I am in strong support of resolution 25-115. Which would impose interim restrictions on new private swimming pools in West Maui Community Plan Area. I do want to as you guys consider this message, I do want to urge you to remember your Kuleana under Hawaii's public trust doctrine and all freshwater resources including streams and groundwater are held in trust by State and County for the benefit of the public.\r\n\r\nAnd that does mean that you folks have a Constitutional duty to prioritize water uses that serve the public good. So my understanding private swimming pools are not a public trust use and they are a luxury and not a necessity and in a time of extreme water rates in West Maui, we cannot afford to keep enabling any luxury uses at the expense of public health, cultural rights, environmental sustainability and just for the people of Lahaina to be able to if you know to live in Lahaina and in a desire situation and to really urge you to understand that Kuleana. You are Constitutionally required to do so. I would like to support resolution 25-114 really quickly as well for Hui f to come under the County is they can maintain. I will tell you folks that it is more stressful going up Hui Road than mauka to Kai Luca and I have concerns on cc 25-8. I'm extremely concerned with cutting of tax money that is coming from transient accommodation tax rentals from hotels and stuff like that that will directly impact our community resources. Rental assistance managed by Maui United Way, I know that is talked about still being an assistance, but I don't think we have that capacity to cut that. I think we need to be pouring more into our communities and, that they should always come first.\r\n\r\nI do want to support Bill 57 as well deed restrictions and Bill 59 I would like to support as well. And I couldn't find the exact wording, but I would love to support any allocations that you folks have in the budget for Lahaina community Land Trust now and forever. Mahalo. >> Thank you. Anybody have questions? Members? No questions.\r\n\r\nThank you for your -- you do? Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question. >> Mahalo, Chair. Aloha Ms. Austin and mahalo for your testimony. Really quickly to clarify what you said about the Kaiaulu initiative that I support and Member Paltin does too, because the item she allocated funding there for \$60,000. In your testimony, did you say \$40,000? Okay. >> My understanding the \$40,000 would be reallocated from Malama Maui Nui's previous budget.\r\n\r\nSo I am in full support of that. And then also any additional allocations in the budget that you folks are able to support us with would be



absolutely amazing. I mean, we -- the undertaking we have taken and our vision, and we're going to keep going no matter what, but we do need a lot of money, you know? So we appreciate you folks. >> For the level of work that folks are doing, for sure. Just to clarify, FY'25 \$40,000, FY'26 \$60,000. >> Yes. >> Mahalo, Chair.\r\n\r\n>> Mahalo any more questions? If not, thank you very much. >> Chair, the next testifier Dave Jorgensen, followed by the royal house of Hawai'i. >> Aloha and good morning, Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Sugimura, and Council Members. I apologize this happened the other day the camera -- I can't turn on the camera. But I'm happy to be here before you again today. My name is Dave Jorgensen, and I'm here on behalf of ARDA Hawai'i, and time share industry in your State and I'm a registered lobbyist. We appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony again on Bill 41 and community communication 25-8 and the proposed as real property tax and we respectfully express concern regarding the proposed \$2 increase for time shares that already carry the highest property tax rate in Maui County at \$14.60. This nearly 13% increase would be significant, not just for owners, but for the many Maui residents whose jobs depend on this sector of the economy.\r\n\r\nThe time share industry plays a vital role in Maui's economic with 34 projects we help sustain over 9500 local jobs, provide consistent year-round occupancy around 90%, and generate meaningful tax revenue for the County. Owners return year after year, supporting restaurants, small businesses, tour operators and essential services, a significant tax hike -- with the consistent visitor stream potentially impacting small businesses and workers who rely on that activity. We also note that the proposed \$2 increase is substantially higher than those for almost all other property classes. We respectfully submit that any increase should be shared more evenly. After the fires, our industry acted quickly to help, providing more than 25,000 room nights to displaced families and first-responders and contributed over 2 million to local relief efforts. Many of our members offered on-site counseling, food, supplies and emergency financial support. These were not isolated acts; they reflect the deep and ongoing commitment we have to this island.\r\n\r\nWe respectfully urge the Council to consider an alternative path forward, such as community communication 25-8, which preserves the current tax rate while still meeting budgetary needs. It is more balanced solution that supports Maui's recovery and protects the economic stability of workers and businesses that keep Maui Strong. Thank you very much for your time and thoughtful -- excuse me, thoughtful consideration of the broader impact on Maui's families, workforce and economy. Mahalo. >> Thank you. Any questions, Members? If not, thank you very much.\r\n\r\n>> Chair, the next testifier is the royal house of Hawai'i. If you could please let us know what item you are testifying on, followed by Budget Director Leslie Milner. >> Aloha, I'm testifying on every single individual Bill, and all of that. And I'm here to testify about if any of these decisions that are being made, and thought of, and being discussed, and put into work, are you guys letting the individuals of the Royal Patent land titles, are you calling them up, and clarifying all of the discussions being made? Because yeah, everybody -- I'm only in support if everyone is following Kamehameha III as Constitution and all his laws, all papa's laws because if we're not, it's breaking international -- it's like committing interwar crimes, and I request that you call up all the descendants of each Royal Patent and each beneficiary from the Royal Patents from the Mahele and I don't think everybody should be put in buildings, because everybody is supposed to be taken care ahupua'a. For example, Hawaiian homes you see everybody in the House, but not working on the entire Ahupua'a for the water to come back. Also for the water drilling please do not drill into my grandma, because she is getting polluted

at the bottom of that vein. What about the entire crown lands on the bottom of the hill, where times supermarket is located because I'm pretty sure that the Waiohuli is crown lands for everybody for the benefit of all people, and so why are all people getting charged over there in that area, but not on the top, where is Hawaiian homes area? That doesn't make sense.\r\n\r\nPlease call up the royal house of Hawai'i and the House of Nobles, because only they are allowed to make rules or plan anything in Hawai'i, and if not, it is breaking international law, and I request for international law to come in here, or something, to discuss and help us out, because we need for Malama the 'aina, for us to Malama ourselves. And okay, thank you and God bless you guys and thanks for hearing me out. >> Thank you. Any questions, Members? If not, thank you. May we have the next testifier. >> Chair, the next testifier is Budget Director Leslie Milner, testing on County Communication 25-8, Committee Report 25-26 and bills 73 and 74. >> Good morning, Chair, good morning Council Members.\r\n\r\nSomeone very tall was here I will try to be brief. County Communication 25-8 I did speak to the Managing Director about that. Just had some concerns about this cut as they cannot proceed with the package plan without the full \$1.25. So wanted to make you aware of that. I also spoke to the Department of Housing, they have already been in discussions with potential experimental and demonstration project proponents beginning in July, but they have already being in discussion and they have asked that you would not cut this fund. Cr25-26, I have a few Amendments to request for the Department of Agriculture to update the agricultural micro-grants program to specifically name MEO. They just did the RFP process last year and selected MEO again as the vendor and so by naming them they don't have to go through that process again. For the Department of Human Concerns if we could update the Maui United Way Countywide Alice initiative Kama'aina credit to just be very clearly state the grant is to Maui United Way program for minor language update for the Department of Oihi Resources to reinstate the budget cut of \$89,408 along with the associated fringe of \$84,026 and offset this increase with \$173,434 reduction to OPEB or whatever the body feels appropriate.\r\n\r\n'Oihi Resources has done a great job filling their new positions and found a way to work with DPS and already have people who are compressing interest in the new positions. So we feel like they'll be able to fill them very quickly. Appendix a, part 1, update the appropriation inform DEM for the Bureau of Reck nation. There's details in the transmittal letter with Bill 74, so I won't get too into the weeds on that. But the short version, we received the \$15 million already, so we're asking in Bill 74 to recognize that today and recognize \$3 million next year as we're going to be submitting another application. And Appendix a, part 2, DHHL-you have already spoken about this a little bit today, but to add a new condition so this isn't new money, but new condition under G.E.T. line item for Appendix a part 2 \$11 million for Intergovernmental Agreement. >> Sorry, I'm talking really fast and now I'm sounding breathless.\r\n\r\n>> We know you are talking fast and that is why we know that you are coming back. So when we take up each item you we will have you here. >> Absolutely. So \$11 million from the development of offsite water project including a 16" transmission line from the Civic Center pump station to Wahikuli reservoir to it's separate from the reservoir that was decommissioned. So I wanted to make that point. Finally I spoke to DEM solid waste we would request a change to Appendix b. In budget process we talk about several different possible rates and fees when we settled on the \$110 fee, the other Sub-fees were not updated to reflect that as well. That is the reason for this request.\r\n\r\nIt would not require any change in revenue. For Bill 73, we will divert to Council Member Paltin on that one and Bill

74, I have already spoken about that, but our federal partners have advised us drawdown on those funds as soon as we can. So we're asking for floor action on that today. Thank you, Chair. >> Member Rawlins-Fernandez. >> Mahalo, Chair. For 'Oiwi Department, you included the restoring of the account a for the salaries, but in that proposal when we made the reduction, it included the equipment for \$200,000 for those expanded positions.\r\n\r\nDoes your request include the restoring of \$200,000 in account B-c? >> Yes, that would be great. Thank you. >> Second question. Restoring the \$89,000 to account a for salaries for those expanded positions would only bring it up to eight months' worth of salary. If Department of 'Oiwi is already ready to hire folks, would it make more sense to either put more money to put enough money for ten months or 12 months? >> Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Council Member Rawlins-Fernandez.\r\n\r\nSome of those positions stilled need to be established. So I don't think 12 months would be appropriate. We were comfortable at eight months because we felt that give the flexibility, if someone were established sooner to have the funds to fill those and if some took a little longer than four months, we could fill those and obviously, we may have to come back to you for an Amendment down the road or may be able to draw on Countywide costs if it's a small amount to cover any gap. >> Mahalo for that clarification. Mahalo, Chair. >> Member Uu-Hodgins I don't have a clarification, but I have to say for the record, I have leave, and I will be listening on line until I drive home. >> More than likely we're going to take a lunch break very soon.\r\n\r\nOkay. And then before I call on you, Member Paltin, can I ask you real quickly, what is the appropriate amount to leave in OPEB? Because as you know, we'll need to adjustments, and that is considered like a plug account. So what would you say is an appropriate amount to leave in? >> thank you, Chair. It's a policy decision. >> I know it's a policy decision, but I'm asking you.\r\n\r\nI know it's not zero, but what is it? >> I think last year we left \$2.5 million in there. >> 2.5. Okay, and right now, there's how much? >> I don't have that in front of me because my computer is over there. >> You will figure it out and let us know. >> Yes. >> Member Paltin.\r\n\r\n>> Going back to the reservoir. >> So the left of Kilohana. >> That is when you are looking Mauka? >> That was how it was described to me by the Department of Water Supply. So I'm have to confirm which angle, but he said it fell basically between Kilohana and Kalaola. >> Thank you. And the tank is brand-new?\r\n\r\n>> Thank you, Chair. No, I don't believe it's brand-new. I think it's been in existence. I could try and find out how many years. >> Okay. Thank you. >> Any more questions?\r\n\r\nIf not, we'll see you later. Bring your pajamas. >> Thank you, Chair, I'm going to set up my laptop right now. >> Chair, the next testifier is Shannon I'i, if you could let us know what you are testifying on, followed by Jian Lee. >> Aloha, can you hear me? >> Yes. >> Okay.\r\n\r\nAloha I'm speaking on Bill 73. Also, in support of 25-114, and 25-115. My name is Shannon I'i and I wanted to share testimony on this, basically, Kaiaulu initiatives is not just a non-profit, but a lifeline for myself and many others, we're built ground-up from members who have lost everything that they have. We're Pai'aina rooted, solution driven and really guided our Pelina, akua and Kupuna, 'aina and the generations that consider before us and after us. In the devastation of Lana'i, Kaiaulu initiatives emerged not as r just as response, but restation of trust, balance and hope, from mo'olelo perspective, people are surviving, but in grief we return to what grounds us, the deep observation and environment around us Malama hands and hearts in the dirt, rooting back to Kupuna molelo sharing and creating shores from and our initiatives, our Kupuna can remember their place in the up lands and Shorelines, and where mental and emotional and spiritual health are

held with the same importance as physical safety. There are spaces of mental health resilience, not just services environmentally we're not just planting trees, we're reforesting ancestral memory. We're revitalizing ecosystems while regenerating identity. We understand deeply that Fire mitigation native planting, water restoration and 'Aina-based education are not just separate from health, nor are they luxuries, they are survival. Our initiatives addressing climate adaptation, food security, biosecurity through our cultural frameworks.\r\n\r\nThis is not just for Lahaina, but our impact is reaching mai nui akama and beyond. We're providing and proving when you invest in community-led, culturally- informed initiatives that gets results that are both measurable and immeasurable. Measurable in data and deliverables immeasurable in Pai'aina well well-being and Aloha we're committed to continuing this work not just for ourselves, but for the generations we will never meet. This is not short-term fix. This is a long-term restoration through Bill 73 it ensures that the work for the people by the people can continue with integrity and hope. Mahalo. >> Thank you.\r\n\r\nMembers, questions? Let the record show that Member Uu-Hodgins is excused for now. Ms. Clerk. >> Chair, the next testifier is Jian Lee. Ms. Lee, if you could let us know what items you will be testifying on, please.\r\n\r\n>> Aloha, Chair, and Aloha Council Members. My name is Jian Lee and I would like to testify first as a President of the West Maui personally on behalf of myself, in support of the Kaiaulu funding for Malama Nui over, as well as 26 for the \$60,000. My son and I have been up there and enjoyed time there as well and have directly watched that healing for ourselves, in our community, but also for our fellow neighbors in Kaiaulu who are able to benefit tremendously from that opportunity. We're really, really grateful to that that space and from the community at-large. Switching gears into a space of my work within Maui United Way as Director of impact in support of the Kama'aina credit under the department of healing concerns. I know our CEO Jason Economou was able to share that in regards to data that our community just really, really essentially needs right now. The data that we're receiving is not coordinated and consistent because of the silos created after the fires and our plan is to integrate into the Maui County specific Alice initiative report as product of this funding, as well as streamline data and application process to be able to increase accessibility of funding and support to our community, the for all of us not only to have a roadmap for proper investments in our community as we move forward, and be able to pilot this type of program be prepared and more resilient as we're able to have the systems in place as Maui United Way as a neutral convener to be able to respond better. Unfortunately not if, but when the next disaster strikes our community, we want to be better prepared.\r\n\r\nSo I would like to testify in full support of the full funding of the \$12 million. I believe that the funding is -- it's a large amount, but I can look you all in the eye and tell you we will do our very best to make it count and make it count not just for the next year or two, but in perpetuity and to create systems to support our community. Mahalo Nui for your time. >> Thank you. Members, questions? If not, thank you. Next testifier.\r\n\r\n>> Chair, the next testifier Jeff Waikoko, and he will be followed by Gracy Delas Reyes. >> Good morning everyone, I will try to be fast, support for resolution 25-86 for the dedication of Ka'iulani roads. I know it's probably not going to be for a few hours that comes up, but myself and people can be available if there's any questions. Just wanted to support for Council Member Paltin reso 25-14 for Hui Road F. Hopefully we can get those roads accepted. I know it's super complicated and feel bad for Corp. Counsel having to deal with that, but it's used by the public. Someone is going to have to take care of it, and if it's not the County, I don't know who is

going to do it?\r\n\r\nThank you very much. >> Thank you. what is that? Okay. >> Chair, the next testifier is Gracy Dela Reyes and Ms. De La Reyes followed by -- >> How many more? >> A total of three -- Ms.\r\n\r\nDe La Reyes is not online. Heidi, if you could please let us know what items you are testifying on, followed , Junya Nakoa. Heidi, this is your time to testify. I see you. You are muted on your end >> Do you see her? I see her. >> We see you, but you're muted on your end.\r\n\r\nYour video is on. We see you trying to talk or talking, but we can't hear you. >> I got it. Okay. Aloha. Thank you Council Members for hearing me today. My name is Heidi Lea and I'm checking in from the Hana District.\r\n\r\nI have three items that are all in the budget. The proviso funding for the HBC and the purchase of property under open space funds and the \$200,000 under MEMA for emergency preparedness. For the Hana District, I'm testifying as an active community resident, I have been operating in the community liaison in Hana for the Hahna hub project for roughly the last six years, initially as a Member of the Hana Chapter of the Hana farmers union which I'm still a Member and so is the Hana business Council and with the community outreach conducted through the Hana business Council, where I currently work as the Acting Executive Director. Also since early 2020 I have facilitated monthly online meetings for East Maui's emergency preparedness leadership affiliation, which is East Maui ready, EMR. I'm also the associate editor Hana side news quarterly paper and website developer for HBC sponsored website. I first want to give a big mahalo to our East Maui Council officer for continuing to support the HBC with a proviso that remains within the services for East Maui. And also currently there is I would like to request support for the acquisition of 20 Awalau Road property by the Hana Business Council to work towards establishing the location of the Hana hub agricultural aggregation commercial kitchen and education Center for East Maui.\r\n\r\nIt's located in the Special Purpose Revenues under the open space funds for 2.1 million dollars. And that would be for the acquisition of 14.5 acres at 20 Awalau Road. I wanted to provide background for the Hana hub project and also direct you to the website that we have created documenting and linking information about the project which was [www.Hanafood.org](http://www.Hanafood.org) and I have emailed this testimony so you have it as reference . for over 20 years the East Maui community has been asking for a community commercial kitchen and aggregation center, a place to build efforts of resilience and Hawaiian agricultural and cultural practices as a central hub located in Hana. This place would then also be a link for other areas within the Hana District, and to rest of Maui Nui. The location which is situated adjacent to the Hana airport has been identified as the best option from a pool of six properties which had risen to the top of the options studied. >> Time. >> The 2023 proof of concept study.\r\n\r\nSo you'll have my testimony, and also the last area is the \$200,000 that is basically dependent on this acquisition to be supporting building resilience hub outreach from that location for East Maui. Mahalo. >> Thank you. Questions? No questions. Thank you. >> Chair, the last testifier currently signed up to testify is Junya Nakoa, Mr.\r\n\r\nNakoa, if you could let us know what item you are testifying on? >> Okay. I got plenty. No only joking, on a little bit. First is the 25-cc 25-114. The Hui Road one. That bugger is right across my house. That is with I live in Napili.\r\n\r\nBefore that we walked down that road to go to the beach, to our beach, Napili bay. And now worse the bugger. I know takes cracks every time, you know? About hey, we need it fixed, need it fixed. Kind of know the people who take care of these roads here in Lahaina, it's kind of pissing me off, bumming me out, that they take cracks and now with you guys taking the step, mahalo, Tamara, like always you take care of us. With you doing that now, that Department can go and

take care of that road, and watch that road. I tell you, this Department goes all over the County.\r\n\r\nThey go -- they go Moloka'i, they go wherever, this Department, they smash. So now you guys are going to give them the power to take care of what they want to take care of all of these years, every damn year they have to deal with this. The community guy, and they got to walk around and see this community, and they get harassed by the community which is our community every time. And they cannot do nothing. Their hands are tied. Now finally, you guys want to hammer hammer -- watch them, watch them, the bugger, I bet you Monday, I know the guys, they got money and they going to smash the bugger. They will be so happy to take care of that place.\r\n\r\nAnd will do it with pride. So support this bugger. Okay? Many, many, many years of this happening. Okay, I live on road and I know all of the buggers who live on the road. They always come and testify every time at budget hearings and all these times, and I feel sorry for them, because I know the history behind it. And they come, Junya, we need your help, I cannot help, but if you take these buggers, you know how happy this whole community is going to be?\r\n\r\nSo please support these buggers. Please, please, please. Okay. Pau on that one. >> I have a question on that one. >> Oh, yes. >> Member Paltin.\r\n\r\n>> I just wanted to clarify, where you referring to that one time the County workers did pave the lower part, and then they were told oh, that is not County Road, you have to take off all that pavement? >> Yes. And those guys just trying to do -- you know, trying to do. >> Like a little bit extra asphalt, trying to fix it up. >> Why not put it where it needs it; right? And they got cracks. >> Thank you for the clarification.\r\n\r\n>> Okay. Now I'm good? Now I have to remember to stop everyone. >> Next one. >> Next one. 25-115. The pools one. Okay.\r\n\r\nI get a couple -- I will tell you a story straight up. I got a couple of those property owners on front Street approaching me, do the pools kind of stuff, yes, to support them? I say well if you are going to build the pool, don't even call me up, lose my number, because I'm not going to support this. We Hawaiians we get people in Lahaina, who cannot even build a house, because no more water. There's no way in heck I'm going to support a one pool, okay? So I don't know the logistics, sorry, I'm in Honolulu and just got all of the this information just now. I had a big case yesterday.\r\n\r\nBut the pools shouldn't come up before all the residents that lost everything get home, and, and, stopping all of this guys restricting us of using the water when we have to go down there and get pools. We have got to kind of use commonsense of my daughter went to College and what she he told me, dad, one thing I learned is commonsense. She has a masters. She has everything. She as a Masters. And she said commonsense is lacking. Alice Lee, my daughter is in College, educated, okay?\r\n\r\nHawaiians educated, okay? So I just want to tell you guys, that is what we got to make sure is -- you know, the pools, I mean, seriously. Hey, it's been said, I said it at the Planning Commission. You want to swim, jump over your wall, go swim in the best pool in the world. The best pool in the world. Yeah. And I get somebody these guys, I told you, I'm dealing with that, but said I want a swimming pool, you dumb ass -- that is not so weird, I'm good.\r\n\r\nSo that is the pool one. Next one, any questions? Any questions? >> No questions. >> Just making sure I don't screw up. The next one the Bill 73. Kaiaulu, what we should have been doing long time before the Fire. And now what they are doing is flourishing.\r\n\r\nI mean, I don't go up there, I just watch it because I'm busy, too, yeah, but trying to get them the water truck and try to help them, as much as I can. Plus, they don't like me up this, because I'm a fat, bald guy, who can't bend over and pull weeds, but these guys work hard. And on top of that, what is that big group? The one that

you give plenty of money, and they are asking for money and -- Hawai'i Community Foundation. >> That one. that one. You know, c'mon.\r\n\r\nThey could use this \$40,000 and go a long way to rebuilding Lahaina and bringing back the greenery, the Ulu, everything that they are planting up there. So we can get our water back. One time it was the wettest spot in the State because of the trees, because of the Ulu and all that stuff. So please fund this program. Fund this program. I don't know if you have seen the news where Lahainaluna agriculture, the Seniors, the AG, before our days I won't tell you how long ago it was, but our AG program was awesome. Yeah.\r\n\r\nHad chickens everything, we were flourishing. I was in carpentry, and we, carpentry we go down there, and we build one cover, Mr. Sakamoto love you brah. Build one shelter for walk in refrigerator, so we can store all the vegetables, all the hard work that the AG guys did. So support this program, guys. I don't know you know -- I heard like the reason this money that another group get whatever, just put it here. Because it's going to help our kids.\r\n\r\nIt's helping our kids, because I have seen kids go up there and work the aina. This is what we are here for Gangi. For keiki. >> Time. >> Okay. Pau with that. Any questions?\r\n\r\n>> No questions. >> Okay. Next one. Cc 25-8. Kind of hit me in heart this one. How long do we have to wait for you to actually do these meetings now, because of budget? And we had to wait and wait and all you guys hard work. How many hours have you put into dissecting the Mayor's budget?\r\n\r\nYou know, trying to -- doing all of this. All your hard work, putting into this, you guys dissect that bugger. You guys bring the property tax for everything, you know what? I'm not going to get fully into it, because that is now Junya is, you bust your okoles to do this and now sorry Alice, I don't want to throw you under the bus, because you are trying to change it go back to the Mayor's proposal, c'mon. C'mon, you are ruining the process, you are ruining the system. Leave it. You guys dissect his budget so leave it alone, because you are busting your okoles.\r\n\r\nI watch them. I watch them. I really watch them. You guys, you know, have to follow the rules. You can only testify one time a day and I testify every day and I bust my okole because I had to listen to this thing. Don't ruin the hard work that you nine buggers are going to do, and our community, who come and sit down and testify, and listen to all of these things. Again, I am here today in Honolulu, because the Mayor -- not the Mayor, the Governor emergency Proclamation wants to be the one guy who has all of the power, one guy, and the Supreme Court was good shot hill down and not going to do say nothing because it's not Pau yet.\r\n\r\nSo know that the Mayor has that same power. You nine buggers, when you do your job, that is the process; right? , don't screw up the process. You guys work hard to dissect this budget one billion, over one billion dollars, guys . You broke your okoles for this. We have to listen to it, we had to wait how long to get to the regular meetings? So do not -- ? >> Time. >> Ruin the process, all the hard work you have put in.\r\n\r\nYeah? All your hard work, do not ruin that. Stick with it. Questions? >> Thank you. Questions? No questions.\r\n\r\nThank you. >> And earlier, earlier part I heard somebody -- I don't know -- I missed who the bugger was talking about the Kailola place project. I call out Joe Campos guy and Kali Watson, who came to Lahaina Civic Center, and told us all these kind of stuff. Promises all this kind of stuff. But we never did get one written nothing, yeah? My word is good to my 'Ohana, because my word is my word. Sorry, we no trash the government.\r\n\r\nMake sure these buggers come with the signed thing, as soon get response from those entities that they made the Decision because this is our Hawaiian Homelands,? they said Hawaiians were supposed to have first preference, the guys on my list, my auntie on the list how long? And she is a Lahaina resident, who

lived right below Kailola and just wanted to live over there, by her house. You know what these guys said? Oh, you have to go Kihei. You got to go Kihei. So I know you are going to talk about them later, Alice. I know you brought it up.\r\n\r\nYou better hold these guys accountable. Make sure they sign the damn thing. Okay? Because we gave in, another project that we gave into on our land, our ceded Hawaiian lands. All I'm saying is get these guys to hold them accountable, yeah? I'm trying not to swear, trying not to swear. Oh, my God, this project the bugger broke houses, got water leaks, one has a big rain and ruined Wahikuli, and still no more confirmation that it's actually going to come to us Hawaiians with the infrastructure that was promised.\r\n\r\nI tell you this guy is not going to stop until these guys -- I tell you, this is sickening, sickening. It's too much -- this is almost one year that project. Almost one year, and we're still no more nothing. Questions? >> We have a question. Question is from Member Paltin. >> Thank you, Chair.\r\n\r\nI just wanted to clarify so what you're asking is on the additional \$11 million DHHL is asking for that we put the same condition that Memorandum of Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding that end of the five years, that the HHFDC land will be transferred to DHHL with all of the infrastructure is that what you were testifying about? >> Yeah. They are asking for your money; right? The \$11 million; right? I just want to make sure that was included in that. Because I'm still waiting for Joe Campos to come up with the whole contract thing, with the whole thing, like the guy was saying earlier. Into that package.\r\n\r\n>> I think we put the condition on the first 10, but you are asking the 11, the additional 11 be included in that same condition about at the end of five years you got to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will happen at the end of five years? >> Yes, I'm glad you brought up the Memorandum of Agreement because that is what I was told by Joe Campos. >> Thank you. >> Mahalo. >> Okay. Thank you. >> You have a good -- enjoy your week.\r\n\r\n>> Chair, the next testifier is Mr. Lau and he will be our last testifier. >> Okay. >> Aloha, Kakahiaka. Aloha Pulima. I will make it quick to save up more time for the Hawaiians, uncle used all my time I had reserved. A couple -- I am speaking on this now because I have something for Committee Reports when it comes up.\r\n\r\nKealoha Tangen and Vernon Kal among others I spoke this morning and restore \$250,000 and I'm sure it's somewhere under cr25-26 and in favor of that. I'm standing by them, my brother that I mentioned yesterday morning, died that -- there was a church across the Street in Waiohu and how I found out about Kaiahu and they treated me real nice and I felt welcomed down this and I'm thinking that is going to be -- >> Thank you, next testifier. >> Chair, there's no one else signed up. Last call for any item on the agenda, if you would like to testify, this is your opportunity. The countdown is 3, 2, 1. Chair, there's no one indicating a desire to testify. >> Any objections to closing public testimony at testimony at the beginning of the meeting. >> No objections.\r\n\r\n>> So ordered. Members, I was hoping to get through County Communications and start the first cr. Any objections to that plan? Ms. Clerk. >> Chair, there's no one currently signed up for County Communications, but this is an opportunity for anyone that would like to testify on County Communication to do so. This is last call.