

WATER AUTHORITY, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

May 21, 2026

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 1:38 p.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Kauanoe Batangan, Member
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

STAFF:

Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Criselda Paranada, Committee Secretary
David Raatz, Director
Jean Pokipala, Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Offices

Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Chaelin Ryu, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

ADMIN.:

Adrian Reifsnyder, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Ryan Ehlers, Sergeant, Vehicle Homicide Unit, Traffic Section, Department of Police
Ryan Anderson-Teshima, District Court Supervising Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney

OTHERS:

Testifier
Jasee Law

(20+) additional attendees

PRESS:

Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

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CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay. Aloha ‘auinalā and welcome to the Thursday, May 21st, 2026, WASSP Committee meeting. I'm Shane Sinenci, your Committee Chair. It is now 1:38 in the p.m. Mahalo, Members, for taking the time to attend this special meeting. As a reminder for members of the public to please silence your phones or any noise-making devices. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, workspace with you today. And minors do not need to be identified. Also, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Joining us this afternoon, we have Committee Vice-Chair Gabe Johnson. Aloha, good afternoon.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna‘i district office. I'm in the car, not driving, parked with my doggie, Hoku-chan Johnson, and she'll be snoring in the background. And I'm here and ready to work. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: All right. Welcome, Hoku. Also, we have...both Committee Members Batangan and Cook are excused for this afternoon's meeting. Joining us in the Chambers is Chair Alice Lee. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Also joining us today is Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha ‘auinalā. Streaming live and direct from the Council Chambers.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for being here. Also excused from the meeting today is both Councilmembers Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and Member Sugimura. I believe they're at a...a separate conference this afternoon. But joining us online is Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Aloha. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, everyone. I'm at my private residence, alone for maybe the next hour or so until my family comes home after school.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thanks for joining us. What time is the graduation tonight?

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: It starts at 5:00, but traffic gets a little crazy, so I should probably head over 4:00-ish or so.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Maybe before that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for the reminder.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And it's raining. So I have to --

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- figure out how to dress warm and...yeah. And it's out in the field, so I don't know, going to --

CHAIR SINENCI: Is this --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- have to wash my rain jacket, I think.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- King Kau...Kekaulike High School?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes, exactly.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. You heard it right here, everybody --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SINENCI: -- leave early and bring...bring a raincoat.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: From the Administration, we have Sergeant Ryan Ehlers. He's from the Vehicle Homicide Unit, Traffic Section, and he'll be joining us online. Joining us this afternoon in the Chambers, we have District Court Supervising Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Anderson-Teshima. Welcome. From the Corporation Counsel, we...we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Adrian Reifsnnyder. Welcome. And also, Members, we have our WASSP Committee Staff with us this afternoon. Good afternoon, everyone. Members, we have one item on today's item [*sic*], Bill 119 (2025), Penalties for Prohibited Noise Violations, WASSP-9. Staff, is there anyone wishing to testify to Bill 119?

MS. MCKINLEY: Yes, Chair. So far, we have one individual signed up to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Let's begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. In accordance with the Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting but cannot be limited to that start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called up on the agenda. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should sign up in the Chamber, join the online meeting via the Teams ink...or link or call in the phone number noted on today's agenda. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. And for those calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star-5 to raise and lower your hand and star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. And for those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then enable your microphone and video

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and call the name you're logged in under or the...the last four digits of your phone number when it's your time to testify. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes for each item on the agenda. If you're still testifying beyond that time, I'll kindly ask you to complete your testimony in 30 seconds. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to or anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you're in person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Once you're done testifying--excuse me--or if you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live or mauicounty.us/agendas. Again, mahalo for your cooperation in advance. We'll be maintaining decorum. Committee Members, I'll now proceed with oral testimony. And we'll do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. Staff, could you call the first testifier?

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, we have a person that would like to testify anonymously from the South Maui residency area office.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MR. LAW: Is that you, Ellen?

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. LAW: Oh, I...I signed up as Haole Stocker. I don't know why they doing the...anonymously. Hi, you guys. I think you know who I am. Hi. Hi, everybody. In the room with me is Officer Carol (*phonetic*), Officer Asuncion (*phonetic*), the Ambass...the...the Ambassador guy that's usually over there, but they send him over here. And Chaelin is the OCS Staff person for the South Maui residency office. Live and direct. Thank you all for your time. Thank you, Sergeant Ehlers, Deputy Prosecutor Toshima [*sic*], Deputy Corp. Counsel--sorry, I missed your name--and Ellen and all the WASSP Staff. It's a relief, I'm sitting in a cool air-conditioned office. I don't know how much you guys want to hear about the...the...the pilikia that I had today trying to get in here this morning to testify. I wanted to testify on the...

CHAIR SINENCI: Jas...yeah, testimony on the...on Bill 119.

MR. LAW: Right. I got it right here. So they...after I got inside it was smooth sailing. And so, that's my point, it's like you got to get inside the building to get any kind of service. I think you guys might've got a memo from somebody. They made Ambassador Martin sign it. Said Corp. Counsel said Blake Takayama's name on it. And it's kind of very ho ho, this process. So I'm glad to be here, and I'm glad to have an opportunity to testify. This bill is pretty straightforward. It's...I'm not sure what the word is, synchronicity, something like that, for the officers to be here because Kihei...I would think Kihei...I'm not sure how much noise you guys have in your towns, but probably Kihei and Wailuku

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would be my guess as to the most...the most noise. And I'm assuming that the noise would come from loud car stereos, but it could be from other stuff like people hollering outside the County building and other places like that. So that would be my personal testimony, is that...run this by the Corp...well, I won't say Corp. Counsel because I'm not sure if they be the right ones but something called the freedom of speech. Would this...my question would be, would this...you know, like, if I got a bullhorn and stood outside the County office, I'm wondering how long I'll...I could do that before the cops would be coming around here telling me that I couldn't do it. So . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . appreciate your time, Mr. Luna Ho'omalua Sinenci. It's...it's always good to see you. You're, like, a real tiny guy there in the picture.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for your testimony this afternoon.

MR. LAW: Oh, yeah. And thank you for working for the County.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, seeing no . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MR. LAW: Oh, and the...and the fines seem kind of excessive --

CHAIR SINENCI: -- questions.

MR. LAW: -- because there's some poor people around here. So is there, like, some kind of community service instead of the...this United States cash money? Thank you, sir.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Any other testifiers?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, no one else has signed up to testify. Would you like to do a brief last call...like us to?

CHAIR SINENCI: We'll just go ahead and proceed to the...to the item.

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. All right. Members, today we have scheduled Bill 1...oh. Oh, we can close it? Oh, we'll call a quick...is Member Johnson still on, or did he lose...he's back? Okay. Members, my apologies, we're at bare quorum, so...so we'll need to keep our cameras on. Thanks, Gabe, Member Johnson.

ITEM 9: BILL 119 (2025), PENALTIES FOR PROHIBITED NOISE VIOLATIONS

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Members, today we've scheduled Bill 119 (2025), Penalties for Prohibited Noise Violations. Bill 119's purpose is to amend Section 9.36.040, Maui County Code, to increase fines and establish penalties, including possible forfeiture of sound amplification...amplification systems for prohibited vehicle noise violations. The Committee last met on Bill 119 during its meeting on October 20th, 2025. And during that meeting, representatives from the Maui Police Department and the

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Department of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office expressed concerns with their ability to enforce the forfeiture penalty proposed in Bill 119. The Committee decided to defer, as further discussion was needed. To prepare for this meeting, I sent correspondence to both departments requesting updated feedback and comments on Bill 119. And you can find them under number 10 and number 11 on Granicus. Both their responses reaffirmed concerns regarding forfeiture. To address these concerns, I've prepared a proposed CD1 version to remove forfeiture from the third offense and increase the fine amounts for the first and second offenses. We can discuss this further, Members, but I will mention that we're unable to increase the \$1,000 fine for the third offense because fines for these types of violations, under the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, cannot exceed \$1,000. I also wanted to mention that Bill 119 deals specifically with noise from amplified sound systems in vehicles, and not mufflers, as there was some confusion during our last Committee meeting. Excessive noise from mufflers is dealt with under Code Section 10.20.440 and not part of our discussion today. For more information on different noise violations regarding vehicles, please see the Department of the Corporation Counsel's response on number 7 in Granicus. Before we take public testimony, I wanted to ask our representatives from the Maui Police Department and the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for any opening remarks. Any more testif...testimony [sic]? Oh, no. Okay. Yeah. We can go afterwards. Is Mr. Ehlers...Officer Ehlers --

MR. EHLERS: Hello, this is Sergeant Ehlers.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- Sergeant Ryan Ehlers --

MR. EHLERS: Hello.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- on...online?

MR. EHLERS: This is Sergeant Ehlers with the Maui Police Department, Vehicular Homicide Unit. I agree with dropping the...the forfeiture and think just increasing the monetary fine.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Sergeant Ehlers. Thank you for your opening remarks. And now, we'll go to District Court Supervising Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Anderson-Teshima for his opening remarks.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Thank you, Chair. The . . .(inaudible). . . --

CHAIR SINENCI: The mic. Yeah. Thanks.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Hello. Thank...thank you, Chair. The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney does support the intent of the bill and to address the nuisance created by sound amplification systems. We did have concerns with the logistical and practical effect of the forfeiture. First of all, the sound amplification system is broadly defined. Basically, it's anything from the stereo deck all the way through the speakers and anything in between. Nowadays, a lot of vehicles have these integrated systems

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where it's not just as simple as removing a stereo deck from the car. Plus, the...the lack of specificity as to what is to be removed could lead to inconsistent enforcement as far as one person just the speakers being took in, one person the whole system being taken out. And then there's the logistical concerns. The forfeiture does require special court proceedings. And during those proceedings, the sound amplification system would be removed from the car, would be stored pending those proceedings. There would have to be an auction to sell the amplification system once the forfeiture is approved, all for relatively little monetary benefit. We do support the amended proposal, which simply leaves it as a \$1,000 fine for the third offense. In my practical experience in court, fines do...unpaid fines act as a license stopper at the DMV. So if you do have unpaid fines, you're not able to renew your license. There's certain other complications that come with that at the DMV. We found that to be a very effective deterrence. And...and it...it's a safeguard in that if you don't pay the fines, there's still something hanging over your head. So we do support the new amendment of just removing the forfeiture and raising the fines to \$1,000. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Anderson-Teshima, for your opening remarks. Staff, is there anyone else wishing to testify on this item that hasn't already testified?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, no one else has indicated the desire to testify. Would you like to...me to do a brief last call?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Okay, proceeding with last call. If anyone in the audience would like to testify or on Teams, come up to the mic and begin your testimony or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams. I'll provide a brief countdown. Three, two, one. Chair, seeing no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, any objections to closing oral testimony for WASSP-9?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR WASSP-9 . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Members, I'd like to open the floor for questions and comments. Each Member will have three minutes for the first round and three minutes for additional rounds, as needed. If Member Johnson is okay, I'll start with Chair Lee as she is the introducer of the bill.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. And I want to thank you, Chair, for your assistance in getting this item to where it is now, where it's more likely to pass than before. I can...I can understand the Prosecute...Prosecuting Attorney's con...concerns about forfeiture, and at least the...the higher fine could well be a good deterrent to people continuing to play their music very loud, which is maybe not a problem in Pā'ia, but it is certainly a

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problem in Wailuku, especially Wailuku Town, in Kehalani and the surrounding areas. And so, I'm...I'm hoping that the Members will pass this today. And...and as a suggestion to the Police Department, for these types of new ordinances, I hope that you put this on social media and...and do press releases and say things like we will be...if not installing but at least studying the possibility of putting cameras in...especially at traffic intersections with traffic lights, cameras with audio capability so that people will think twice about trying to continue to break this law and...and back that up with a little bit more police present occasionally. Even if it's once a month. It's something. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair Lee. We'll go to Committee Vice-Chair Johnson, followed by Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Okay. I...I'm going to be honest with my opinion here. I don't like this bill. I don't like these types of bills. I think they're more like a footloose bill, like...it's not really...it...it smacks like territory law in...in a way. So I think that our departments have bigger fish to fry, and, in my opinion, this is a guppy. So I wanted to ask the...the Department who spoke, unpaid fines lead to bench warrants, and that leads to arrest, and does that lead to jail? Is that...is that the path that someone could go down on if that were to happen, if they don't pay their fines?

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Thank you, Vice-Chair Johnson. In this particular case, this...the infraction here is considered a violation. There is no possible jail associated with this type of offense. So no, it does...it would not be a bench warrant to arrest type of deal. First of all, this...this type of infraction would be, I guess, initiated by way of citation, basically a traffic ticket. And it's...it's...and --

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: -- because it's a violation and not a criminal offense, it's one of those where you can just pay the fine, go to court, pay the fine. You...you don't get a court date. And...

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: So can I ask this, then? So let's say I...I can't afford the fine and my driver's license expires because you can't renew it, your driver's license, until you pay off your fines. That's correct?

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: That is correct.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: So now I'm driving with a expired license, that could put me with a bench warrant, could get me in deeper trouble. Is that correct?

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: That is correct. So now, driving without a valid license is a criminal offense, where if you do miss court for that offense --

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Right.

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MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: -- a bench warrant would be issued. And the offense --

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Right.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: -- itself has possible penalties, up to 30 days in jail for driving without a license.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: So right. Correct...

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: That...that is correct. Your...your unpaid fines does not allow you to renew your license, then you're going to be driving without a license, which does lead to a bigger offense.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Right. So Chair, I...I'm...I have concerns. It's not really my...I don't like this kind of legislation. I'm just going to say it. But we're at bare quorum, so if we all don't vote yes, this doesn't move forward. Is that correct? That's...that's...because your Council [sic] is seven, there's only four online is what I'm seeing. Okay. All right. Well, those are my questions, Chair. I just wanted to clarify that that's where we're at right now. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Johnson. Member Paltin, for your opportunity. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I kind of feel similarly to Member Johnson. You know, this isn't necessarily like a...a priority or an earth-shattering revelation. I mean, I can understand that it can be a nuisance, especially in neighborhoods, especially at night. But in the scheme of things, if this is your biggest complaint, I'd like to be you. I guess my questions would be around...you know, they have those...they have an app that I heard of, if you run a red light, and the red-light camera gets you, that it'll get you off 98 percent of the time. Like, so say a police says, hey, you're in violation of the noise ordinance or whatever. And then the person who got the violation or the citation says, no, I'm not. You know, how do you prove yes or no, it...when it comes to, like, appeals? Or, like, do they have to have their body cam on and measure the decibel level? Or they have to measure out 50 feet or more and be, like, oh, I'm standing over here, and I can hear you. And then they're like, that wasn't me, that was the other guy behind me. Or how does...how does the logistics of it work is my question?

CHAIR SINENCI: Would that be for the Sergeant?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Whoever can answer.

CHAIR SINENCI: Sergeant Ehlers.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and what would the priority be like, say between hearing the noise and seeing an expired safety registration or safety...what is it called...safety check? Or a expired registration? Like, is there a prioritization, if one guy is driving by you with loud music, and the other guy is driving by you with an expired safety check? Which one would you go after? Sorry. I just curious.

MR. EHLERS: Okay. Hi. Again, this is Sergeant Ehlers. So as far as prioritization, it's whoever you're actively stopping at the time, right? So if you see two, you can't stop both. It's...it's who you...you were already actively committed to doing enforcement at the time, right? So if you see a safety check, and you're in the middle of pulling over somebody over for the safety check, and you hear loud speakers, you're probably going to still pull over the safety check. If you are pulling somebody over actively for a...you know, the loud speakers or...or a loud vehicle, then you're going to continue on with that active traffic...traffic stop, if that's...if that was your question. As far as logistics, it...it basically goes off of...typically off of officer's observations, right? So if you are a long ways away, over 50 feet, obviously, but usually it's much further than 50 feet for these citations. And you're...you're going to go to that...that person and...and talk to them and...and make your...if it's a traffic stop, or if it's in a park or wherever...wherever the citation is initiated.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and no offense, Sergeant Ehlers, but what if there's a dispute. Is it like well, this guy is law...sworn law officer, so we got to believe him? Or . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . is there an opportunity to say, that wasn't me. There was another car, like, blasting their sounds, and you stopped me, or something like that?

CHAIR SINENCI: Sergeant.

MR. EHLERS: Well, that...that dispute...the dispute, then, in court, obviously, right? That's...I'm not the trier of...of fact, that would be a judge.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . so there is...in this particular...it is a violation initiated by way of citation. However, if you do want to contest it, there is a procedure where you do inform the court, file a notice, and you will get your day in court. The offender would be able to show up, present their case to a judge. The State would then enter the case, bring the police officer who issued the citation, have that officer testify as to what they observed. We may be able to back it up with body camera, if that's available. So no, it...it...and in this case we would have to prove the case by the preponderance of the evidence rather than beyond a reasonable doubt. So it's a little bit lower standard. So it just really comes down to, you know, the...how...how do we present our case. Do we have measurable, verifiable distances? Are we able to make just the common-sense type of case? I mean, that...that...that's going to be a case-to-case basis. Bottom line, there is a procedure for people who are issued such a...such a citation to contest it, appeal it in a way to a judge. And there is a opportunity, then, for the...the State to present its evidence, if it has any. And then up...then it's just up to the judge to decide whether they find the officer more credible, whether there's mitigating circumstances that warrant a dismissal. Yeah. At that point it just becomes part of the judge. Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Next, we have Member U'u-Hodgins for your opportunity.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I understand where Chair Lee is coming from with this one. Sometimes music is so loud it's completely obnoxious. The other day I was taking my children to school, and somebody's music was so loud it was rattling my car. And I could hear it so clearly, and he was so far away. I was almost impressed if I wasn't going deaf. I don't think...if you have money for sounds, you should have money to pay a ticket because sounds is [sic] not cheap, that's one. Two, the only thing I will probably add is if the max amount of the fine we can issue is \$1,000, the forfeiture of the sound system, how do we calculate how much things cost because a lot of things are aftermarket? Do you guys have a system for that? Or should we just stick with the fine of \$1,000 to make it easier to...for you guys to issue?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Teshima [sic].

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: I guess the forfeiture process is basically an auction. So, right, it's bid prices. And I'm not necessarily sure how they set the initial bid price, whether that's based on fair market value of the components. I'm not too familiar with the forfeiture process, but I do know that it's an auction. So you most likely are not getting fair market value of what you are auctioning off.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So does the auction amount of whatever is being sold did...include or is up to only \$1,000? And then that would...how would that work?

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: No. The...the...the...the fine is separate from forfeiture. So if you fine somebody \$1,000, and you could still have...and the law allows, you would still be able to institute forfeiture procedure...procedures for...yeah, the...the...the cap for the \$1,000 is...is strictly for the...applies strictly to the fines only.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And then who removes the sound system from the car? You guys have a way to do that? I don't want to put somebody...

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Well, that...that's part of...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I mean, to Member Johnson's point, I don't want to take away somebody's car, and they can't, like, get to work because you folks are removing their sounds.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Well...and that's part of the logistical concerns we had, is who's going to be doing that. You know, we could assign it to MPD, but do they have the mechanic or the technical experience to take apart a car, and take out the sound system, and put the car back? You know, that...that's part of the --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Right.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: -- practical and logistical concerns.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I hear you on that one. I think that's all I have, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. Before I go back to Chair Lee, I just had a question, Mr. Teshima. For the fines...and is...if you just don't pay the first fine, second fine, or the third fine, your...your license can be revoked?

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Correct. So any...any fines.

CHAIR SINENCI: Any fine.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Any fines, whether it's from this particular charge or any type of offense or --

CHAIR SINENCI: Not the third fine, but even if you don't pay the first fine.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Not the third fine. So even if you don't pay the first \$250 fine.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Or just pay part of it, and you don't fulfill the entire obligation, you're --

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: -- still subject to that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Now, there is a provision where it's called restricted license where say you owe \$50,000 in fines to the DMV. And I don't know anybody, really, who can pay \$50,000 off at one time. You are allowed to enter, basically, a payment plan with the court. You...you make monthly payments. You go to court every three months to show that you been making these payments, and they reissue you what's called a provisional license.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: So even if you do have a lot of fines, if you're in good faith, have a job, and you're making payments you can still keep...you can still have a license. But that's...again, you have to enter into a payment plan with the court to get that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Otherwise, it is any...any obligation. It doesn't have to be fines. It can be community service. It can be other obligations that deal with traffic offenses.

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If those obligations are outstanding in any way, shape, or form it can act as a license stopper at the DMV.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. I'll let my nephew know. Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I thought we took out the portion on removing, you know.

CHAIR SINENCI: That was...that was my proposal --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- in my ASF.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. So we didn't get to that. But that...

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's going to be the proposal. It's not to include the...the...

CHAIR SINENCI: The forfeiture.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The forfeiture, right?

CHAIR SINENCI: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So getting back to the other part, the...the fines. This is really no different than fireworks. It's really no different. But this...in this instance we are rewarding those who blast their radios and disturb other people, and they get away with it. And it's easier to identify them because they're the...the only ones on the road, usually, doing that. So I think this one...this instance, it's easier to arrest people or fine people and...and show them that let's not do this again because it's going to cost you. Yeah? In the cases...in the case of fireworks, which is a...it's a major menace to everybody's neighborhood, and now it's a danger because of the fire possibility. We have to start somewhere, and if this is the start, let's do it here where the noises are so extreme. And we're not talking about, you know, for a few seconds somebody has their radio on very, very loud. It's right down the whole street. It's the whole street. So the neighborhoods, surrounding neighborhoods are disturbed by this, you know, ridiculous music, or whatever they call it. And it's...you have to wonder about anybody who does that. I mean, it's a total disregard for other people, like zero aloha. And if they can do that, you know, you're...you're wondering if that's...that's their nature to do even worse things in the neighborhood. So I think these people need to be taught a lesson early on before it gets more serious. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Member Paltin, you have your hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Just couple clarifications. So it's already illegal. We're just talking about increasing the fines, right? So it's already a law. We're not

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creating new legislation. So I would like to ask, probably Sergeant Ehlers, like, when was the last time somebody was cited for this violation or given a citation? How many citations for this violation have been given in the last year? And then maybe the last ten years? Can...can you...do you know? Do you have any? And I'll start there.

MR. EHLERS: So I...I don't have that offhand. I wasn't prepared for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. EHLERS: The...the other issue that you have is that not only do we do the citation, DLNR can write the citation . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, DLNR as well?

MR. EHLERS: Yeah. So I can...I can look into it, but I don't believe I will be able to get ten years.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. EHLERS: That's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: About like the last one, how many in the last year, you think you could get that?

MR. EHLERS: I might. I might be able to. Yeah. I can look into it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could we send it in writing so that we're official?

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because I guess, you know, I think it could be, like, just a paper tiger. We're already...it's already illegal. If we're still having that problem, I don't know how much...I mean it's already a Code violation. So I don't know how much increasing the fine is...is really going to help since it's already a problem. So it feels like a paper tiger, kind of like, you know, illegal parking, or illegal abandoned vehicles or all the nuisance things that we have. It...it...we're making an effort, but it...it doesn't really address the issue. The other...does...does the Prosecuting Attorney's Office have any idea, like, how many fines have been collected to date for this violation?

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Yeah. So like I mentioned before, this being a violation, we don't see these charges unless they want to actually fight it in court.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Has anyone fought *[sic]* it in your --

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: I...in my time at the Prosecutor's, the last 15 years, I have not seen anything like this. They...they'll come and fight their seatbelts and their cellphone tickets. I haven't seen anybody fight a noise violation ticket.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And it could be because they haven't been given one . . .
(inaudible). . . --

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Either that, or they just pay the fine rather --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Uh-huh.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: -- than waste the time to come into court and...and hassle with the court. So I...yeah. I wouldn't be able to answer how many citations we...have been issued or how many fines have been collected. I can only say that I haven't seen anybody come into court to challenge it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then currently, are there exemptions to this ordinance? Like, you know, if there's a parade, and you're on the float or something like that, and you're playing the music and people...is that existing, or should we add it in?

CHAIR SINENCI: Like a block party. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Graduation party.

CHAIR SINENCI: Graduation party. We...on --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or like the...you know, the last ride. I don't know if you guys do that, but it's a thing in West Maui.

CHAIR SINENCI: Or a stereo sound off?

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: Yes. The...the current statute does have an exemption for advertising or in parades.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Funeral procession, no?

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: It says advertising, or in parades, or political or other special events. Also, if --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: -- you're broadcasting amplified from your vehicle for emergency purposes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mmm. Mmm. Mmm.

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: So there are certain exemptions already in the current statute.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I feel like we should take off that political one. That's like saying,

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we can but you no can. Although, I...I kind of do remember Pele driving around with his bullhorn.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff did remind me that on Granicus number 3, MPD's response to your question. There were...there were none...nothing was...no violations were issued in 2024.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Yeah, paper tiger. That's...I mean, I guess I can be with it and do it because it, apparently, doesn't get enforced as it is anyway. I don't know if that's a good reason or what but...and then the...the money...the money doesn't go to us. If the Police or DLNR stops it, the money goes to the State anyway. It's not like it's going to come to Maui County.

CHAIR SINENCI: Is it a moving violation? Or does moving --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're asking me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Does moving violations --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Lifeguard, not Police.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- go to the State or --

MR. ANDERSON-TESHIMA: I don't know.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- or...or...or--Mr. Reifsnyder.

MR. REIFSNYDER: I just want to point out. I think that correspondent [sic]...is my mic on? Oh, yeah. That correspondence from MPD related to Title 10, which was the muffler. And this is 9, so this is more like the boom box or the bass in the back of the car. So those numbers relate to noise violations caused by a illegal muffler.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh.

MR. REIFSNYDER: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that.

MR. REIFSNYDER: Yeah.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Johnson or Member U'u-Hodgins, any need for a second round? Member Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: I...okay, just real quick. You know, I don't know if you guys have been noticing, but for me, in my community, this has been a bit of a fad. Like, this has not been around...I mean it was been around a long time ago, and it seems to be coming back, like, this really loud music. And I don't think making...adjusting our legislation

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fines to fads is...is a good policy. I mean, didn't this Council fix...untie the knots of banning pinball just recently because that was a fad back then? And now, you can play pinball on your cellphone. You can play pinball anywhere. And just...it's...it...it's just kind of...it's not really worth...if I really wanted to have this and make a effective change, it starts at the dinner table. My mother would tell me, don't do that. My father would be the one tell me don't that. My uncles would be mad at me when I drive to their house with this loud music. That's much more effective, and I think that's where these kind of rules and policies should start and end. We don't need Government, Big Brother, in there to tell you you can't do that, and the only solution we got is to give you a higher fine. So that's kind of my ten cents and I...I think I'm done. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. If you don't mind, Members, can we just refer this to Council because I think other people should have the opportunity to...to weigh in. And if...I said this before a couple times, I started the first...I initiated...initiated the first ordinance. And it was based on somebody dying, yeah. So, you know, as light as you want to make of this, that's up to you. But if I can save another life, if we can save another life, I'd like to see that this goes through. So if you don't mind, just defer it to the next Council, and then we'll take it as a group, as a full group. Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair, for that suggestion. For...for my discussion, I guess, Member U'u-Hodgins mentioned...she kind of pinpointed the...the ampli...amplification. I mean, if you're...you're in your home, and you can...it's shaking the walls, some of these systems are so huge that it just generates this vibration, you know, that kind of, you know, would impede everyone's right to quiet and...and solitude sometimes. I mean, that's how loud some of these that I...I've experienced. I...I've been in...in my house, and I can hear it from the street or rattling the windows from the street. So my...my suggestion would be, you know, should we anticipate this, you know, if it gets any louder or...and we're only visiting this because we've never seen the magnitude of these systems. Nowadays, these systems are not just your 8-track radio in the car. These are sophisticated systems that take out...take up the whole space of your trunk. And so, I don't know if...you know, if we...we want to anticipate this getting even worse, but I'm...I'm supportive of...of areas, you know, whether it be at a nursery school or a hospital where people are healing. Or...or in neighborhoods where you shouldn't be late at night or during, you know, kids' nap time, or something, and you're...you're coming through the neighborhood blasting your stereo. So that's...that's kind of my...my thoughts. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Like I said, I don't really have strong feelings. Even if I voted for the increased fine, I don't feel that it would make a difference because I don't...I've never heard of anyone getting cited for it, but I can vote to move it forward. I don't have strong feelings because I don't know that it'll make a difference. But I guess my question is, I'm not clear on what the request was to move it to the full Council. Is that, like, without taking a vote here? Or discharging it? That's the question I had.

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Discharge.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, discharge. Okay. Whatever.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and we would still send the letter, though, to...

CHAIR SINENCI: We'd still send the letter.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, Staff is requesting a quick recess.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure.

CHAIR SINENCI: We'll...we'll take a...a quick recess to 2:30. Is that enough? Five minutes?
2:30. The WASSP Committee meeting is in recess to 2:30. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:23 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:30p.m.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . WASSP Committee of Thursday, May 21st. It is 2:30 p.m. And mahalo, Members, for that quick recess and...and for the...the discussions we had prior. We've invited Mr. Raatz today to...we've had some requests to include some...some of the other Members. But at this point, Director Raatz, would you want to express our options for the Committee to...

MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Chair. For the record, David Raatz, Director of Council Services. So anytime a Committee gets a majority of Voting Members to approve a motion, that will trigger a Committee report. And the motions from a Committee are to make recommendations to the Council, and among the recommendations that a Committee can make is to request that it be discharged from further consideration of legislation that was referred. So a Committee report of that nature, of the...if the motion is approved, would put the bill before the Council via Committee report. Another option to get the bill before the Council that is a goal, say, that you have, Chair Sinenci, is even if you don't have the benefit of a formal Committee recommendation, it's transmitted through a Committee report. You could ask the Council Chair to put the bill itself back on a Council agenda. And then when it comes up, there could be a motion to discharge the Committee from further consideration. So there's a couple ways to get a bill to the Council without actually having a recommendation to either pass the bill or...or to...to file the bill. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Raatz. Members, any other comments after hearing Director Raatz? Chair Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I would suggest that you just ask all the Members present if they don't mind discharging this matter, even...even though it doesn't mean that they agree to it. I mean, it doesn't mean anything about passing it or not passing it, it's just moving to the body, to the...the Council body.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair Lee. Member Paltin, any --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No objection.

CHAIR SINENCI: No objections. Okay. No objections from Committee...Committee Vice-Chair Johnson.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: No objections, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No objections, Chair. All good with me. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. So with that, Members, we'll...I'll entertain a motion to discharge Bill 119 (2025).

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So moved.

CHAIR SINENCI: It's been moved by Chair Lee, seconded by Member U'u-Hodgins. All in favor of the discharge, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, seconded by Member U'u-Hodgins. Staff?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, that's five "ayes," four excused. Councilmember Batangan, Cook, Sugimura, and Rawlins-Fernandez. Motion passes.

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VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Sinenci, Vice-Chair Johnson, and
Councilmembers Lee, Paltin, and U'u-Hodgins.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmembers Batangan, Cook,
Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sugimura.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Discharge by committee report.**

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff, is there anything else before we adjourn today's meeting?

MS. MACDONALD: There's nothing else outstanding, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Members, thank you all for your great questions, comments to our panelists today. This concludes today's Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee meeting. The time now is 2:34 and this meeting is adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 2:34 p.m.

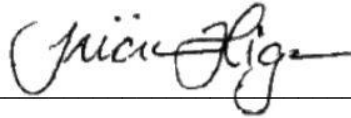
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CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 20 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 8th day of June 2026, in Mililani, Hawaii

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tricia Higa", is written over a horizontal line.

Tricia Higa