

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

MINUTES

April 15, 2024

Mitchell Pau'ole Community Center, Main Hall

CONVENE: 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Maria Leon Committee Secretary
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary

Additional staff

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka'i Residency Area Office
Haunani Madela, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez
Keomailani Hirata, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez
Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Angela Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin

OTHERS: Claire Albino
Kawika Gonzales
David Kangas
Patty Ann Ellis
John Wordin
James Rarick, Board Vice-President, Moloka'i Community Health Center
Ku'uilei Arce, Program Coordinator, Molokai Rural Health Community
Association
Clay Ching
Daniel Sulser
Emma Velasco

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Emilio Macalalad
William Yama Kaholoa'a Sr.
Camie Kimball
Janey Anderson
Dayna Harris
Justin Luafalemana, Head Coach, Ainapa'a Wrestling Club; and President,
Moloka'i Hunting Club
Kairae-Wehiwa Lester
Adrian Canencia
Roland Yartzoff
Helen Kahunanui
Edwin Mendija
Ronald Cabanting
Michael Kahale
Suliana Aki
JJ Sanchez
Valu Kali
Sumu Asano
Kanoelani Davis, Executive Director, Ho'akā Mana
George Kahinu, Interim Commander, Moloka'i Veterans Caring for
Veterans
Tehani Ka'alekahi, Sust'ainable Moloka'i
Zhantell Dudoit-Lindo
Others (31)

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

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BILL 60 (2024), BILL 61 (2024), BILL 62
(2024), BILL 63 (2024), BILL 64 (2024), and RESOLUTION 24-66)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Hello, everybody. Thank you very much for joining us tonight. And we're so happy to be on Moloka'i, such a beautiful place. And thank you for welcoming us. So, we are the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee with the Maui County Council. And we're here today to listen to you, and you can share with us your thoughts about what you think is important for Maui County...Maui County to do for you. And so, at this time I'd like to introduce your Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and she can introduce her fellow Councilmembers. And then--thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have my own mic. Mahalo. Aloha nui, everyone.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for coming out tonight. Okay. So, we'll start from my left. With us, we have representing--or the residency area for South Maui District, Tom Cook...Councilmember Tom Cook. The...for the residency area of Lāna'i, Councilmember Gabe Johnson. For the residency area of Wailuku, Council Chair Alice Lee. From the residency area of Upcountry, we have our Budget Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura. From the West Maui residency area, we have Councilmember Tamara Paltin. From the East Maui residency area, we have Councilmember Shane Sinenci. And from the Kahului residency area, Tasha Kama, and for the Pā'ia-Ha'ikū-Makawao residency area, Nohe U'u-Hodgins...both send their aloha. Okay. And then, let's see...we also have in the audience, from Councilmember Shane Sinenci's Staff, Uncle Don Atay. From Councilmember Paltin's Office, we have Angela Lucero. And of course, you all know my Staff. We have Zhantell Lindo, Haunani Madela, and Keomailani Hanapi Hirata. Okay. And then, I would like to--is there anyone in particular who we should invite, Zhan?

MS. DUDOIT-LINDO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, yeah. If the, you know, Committee would entertain, I'd like to invite one of our kūpuna in the community to open us in a pule. Uncle Clay?

MR. CHING: All right. Let's bow our heads. Father, we thank you for all of our leaders here in our County. We thank you for them coming here. Tonight, we just would like to pray for peace, we pray for understanding, and we pray for resolution. And we just pray that everything that's on everybody's heart would be able to be explained in a peaceful manner and a sane manner. And so, we just give it up to you, and we invite your presence in our midst here in Jesus' name. Amen.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Amen. Okay. And then I would also like to introduce Dan Emhof from *Akakū*, mahalo for filming live. And then we have our master of mics, Darin Kimura [*sic*], he's from Parks and Rec. So, mahalo, Darin, for everything. And then I...I would like to quickly highlight some of the items relevant to our District, to Moloka'i...3 million microgrants for farmers Countywide; 20,000 for Moloka'i livestock co-op; 100,000 Moloka'i agriculture production; 47,000 Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows from Moloka'i; 95,000 STEM funding for Moloka'i; 570,000 Moloka'i Rural Health Community; 180,000 Moloka'i and Lāna'i youth and student travel; 285,000 for feral animal control on Moloka'i; 50,000 suicide prevention on Moloka'i; 97,022 Moloka'i Child Abuse Prevention Pathways; 140,000 for Boys & Girls Club on Moloka'i; 140,000 for the Moloka'i Humane Society; 15,000 for Moloka'i Veterans Caring for Veterans; 30,000 for Moloka'i-Lāna'i soil water conservation; 250,000 for the East Moloka'i watershed

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protection; 500,000 for the Moloka'i Landfill scale house replacement; 200,000 for the Kaunakakai effluent forced main replacement; 200,000 for the Ho'olehua Fire Station reroof painting; and 25,000 for the Kaunakakai Fire Station irrigation and landscaping for slope frontage. So, those are some of the things specific to Moloka'i in the budget, and I'm sure we'll hear some of these things and more tonight. So, mahalo, again, to all of you for coming out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good job, Keani. Thank you very much. So, I also wanted to introduce--we have Staff here that came with us from Maui, which is Maria Leon there, and Jennifer Yamashita, as well as Ellen McKinley who flew here to help us. So, thank you very much for that. And I want to--thank you very much, Dan and Darin. I...I think you were here last year also, and I--we kept on hearing on what a good job Darin was doing. And Keani already told me we can't take him.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No stealing Darin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No stealing Darin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No stealing Zhan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Anyway, so I wanted to also let you know that we have one item on our agenda today. This is a meeting, Sunshine. And all of you who have signed up to testify, you will be given three minutes to testify and 30 seconds to wrap up. And you can speak on anything in the budget, and you'll have three minutes to share your thoughts with us. This is a time for us to receive public testimony and listen to what you may want to share. The Members may ask you questions after, so bear with us as we...we ask--after you speak, we may ask the Members to ask you questions. We...we encourage written testimony, so if you have anything, please do submit it to us. You can either give it to our Staff there or submit it on mauicounty.us/agendas and submit it in eComment in our link. And we really appreciate you taking the time for being here. So, at this time then, I'd like to --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Timer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- begin --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The timer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- public testimony. Keani reminded me, we should let you know what the timer sounds like. So, when you hear this, that'll be the three-minute sound. You have the...you have the clock? The buzzer?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, we didn't give them a heads up before

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we asked them to do it. And then, so while we're waiting for the timer to give us the sample sound, I just wanted to, you know--oh --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They don't have a mic.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, you don't have a mic?

MS. LINDO: No, we have one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, good thing we did that. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Perfect. So, that'll be the three minutes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that's the three-minute clock. And when you hear that, then that will be the end of your testimony period, and we'll give you another 30 seconds to complete your thoughts. So, at this time then, do we have any testifiers?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our first testifier is Claire Albino, followed by Kawika Gonzales. Okay. We got to turn it down then.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. ALBINO: Okay. Aloha, Councilmen and women. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. ALBINO: Gosh, I'm always nervous every time I get up, even though I'm a schoolteacher and I'm talking to all the kids. But anyway, my name is Claire Seeger Albino, and I represent Youth in Motion. I'm a high school teacher, business owner, and there's one thing that I have a big passion for, and that's doing stuff for our kids. So, it was recommended I came here tonight because we have a small budget shortage. Anyway, for the past 21 years, we've put on an event with the goal of inspiring our youth, and we've gone through changes; however, we've tried to remain true to our values and our mission statement. Our event has evolved, what we have today with the Moloka'i Holokai Ho'olaule'a, with our channel races...channel race bringing over the adults and youth to celebrate our Moloka'i youth, with Day 2 being the highlight with our Keiki and Makua Race. We also have cultural workshops, and we try to bring out the community. Bottom line, we are trying to inspire our kids, and we are short on funds for the keiki race, with their jerseys, food, and prizes. So, we're trying to raise money wherever we can get it. A lot of this is volunteer time, so we put a lot of time into that. And...but we're also trying to find healthy alternatives for our kids. You know, I'm a teacher. This is the problem--well, one problem--so,

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trying to get them to the outside. And usually, every year we have about 50 kids plus family members that come out for the Ho'olaule'a. And...yeah. So, we have submitted for other grants, and we are waiting to hear back. And the other thing that we are doing this year is 10 percent of all our entry proceeds are going back to a West Maui fund. We decided that was really important since we're doing this event, and we're about youth. So, thank you for hearing me. I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. I have a question, then I'll turn it over to the Members. So, when is your event, the Ho'olaule'a?

MS. ALBINO: It's July 19th through the 20th. So, it's a two-day event.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: July 19th and 20th. So, is this an annual event?

MS. ALBINO: It's an annual event. So, we've gone through different changes. We started off with A Celebration of Youth Opportunities back in 2003, and I think I knocked on every single Councilmen and women's door, including the Mayor's Office, to try and get them excited about trying to celebrate our kids because I used to work at the swimming pool as a lifeguard, and the kids would say they were bored. And so, my goal was to try and inspire the kids, and at least get them on the ocean. My background is ocean.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. ALBINO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi. I didn't hear you ask for the amount. How much are you asking for?

MS. ALBINO: About \$5,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: \$5,000?

MS. ALBINO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. ALBINO: That's what we're short on right now.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions, Members? Seeing none. Thank you very

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much.

MS. ALBINO: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry. Kawika Gonzales, followed by David Kangas.

MR. GONZALES: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. GONZALES: My name is Kawika Gonzales. I am a teacher at Kaunakakai School, and I am also the 2024 Teacher of the Year for Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Lāhainā, and Hāna Complex area. Today, I am here to speak in support of the Maui Economic Development Board. For the past 23 years, I have been teaching science, technology, engineering, and math, and computer science in the classroom. In addition to numerous school-level fundraising efforts, funds from the Maui Economic Development Board, or MEDB, have supported my teaching of STEM programs, not only financially, but also by providing many learning opportunities for our students and teachers. The Maui Economic Development Board continues to purchase Minecraft in Education licenses for our school. Our students already love Minecraft, and I found that when you connect culture, and technology, and computer science, students become excited about learning and engaged in these lessons. For example, my students research Makahiki games, and were able to design their own versions of Makahiki games through Minecraft. MEDB also provides professional development for both students and teachers through the Hawai'i STEM Conference, held annually at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Students and teachers have hands-on training opportunities, mentoring, and networking with leading industry professionals. Topics include AI, computer science, AR/VR, and creative media. MEDB has supported many of our Moloka'i students and teachers to attend this conference. The types of support and resources provided by MEDB help to keep our students and teachers up to date with the latest technologies available, and also helps to excite and engage our students in learning. As an educator, it makes my job a lot easier when my students are enthusiastic about their learning, and when I have the tools and resources available to teach them in computer science. Thank you, County Council, for your many years of support to our island through the funding of MEDB. I respectfully ask that you continue your funding of the Maui Economic Development Board, as it has truly made a world of difference for our keiki. I would also like to speak on behalf of the Department of Education Teacher Housing, as I am the Cottage Manager. On October [sic] 7th, 2023, the day before the Lāhainā fires, one of our cottage was completely burned down due to an

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undetermined cause, and another adjacent cottage became unlivable. We need funds to remove and restore our burnt cottages. Please help us restore our cottages to house our teachers. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Kawika. So, that's a DOE housing for teachers?

MR. GONZALES: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. GONZALES: Yeah. So, have you --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Police.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- spoken to the Department of Education or your Board of Education?

MR. GONZALES: Yes. They said that right now, funds are limited. We don't have the...the funds --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. GONZALES: -- to remove that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Thank you. Anybody else have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I do. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Can you hear me? Is it--okay. Hi, there. So, the cottages are Police and teacher cottages, and it is under the County. So, it is our responsibility. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Gonzales.

MR. GONZALES: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I wanted to clarify. So, when you said the date--August 7th was when it burnt?

MR. GONZALES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

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MR. GONZALES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then --

MR. GONZALES: Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I wanted to ask about the MEDB Program and how, in your class, you've integrated some of the culture into technology.

MR. GONZALES: Yes. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you could quickly just speak to that?

MR. GONZALES: So, they provided me training, like, code.org. So, in my classroom, my students made actual 'ulu maikas for Hawaiian bowling. And we took their actual 'ulu maikas and created a digital version of their actual 'ulu maikas so that they can code, and program, and create their own video games. And my students have done that. And so, I'm very thankful for the...the training for those kinds of programs that my...my students have and have inspired me to design in my own classroom. So, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Gonzales. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very well done. Any other questions? See none. Thank you very much. Congratulations, again. Next testifier.

MR. GONZALES: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: David Kangas, followed by Patty Ann Ellis.

MR. KANGAS: Hi. I'm David Kangas. Thank you, again, for being here. And thank you from the bottom of my heart, all your beautiful help for those victims from the Lāhainā fire. All of you work so very, very hard. I moved here about 14 years ago from Seattle and continue to help Moloka'i as much as I can, and enjoy it deeply, and appreciate the MEO. It's--they're great. And, you know, we know MEO helps so many people, low-income, and disabled, and seniors, and please continue that service, and the wonderful food distribution. And I must say, it helps everybody so much. You know, I read the newspaper, they said, oh, inflation is so low. And it sure ain't here, the gas is the highest in the nation here on Moloka'i, right? And the MEO staff, just that they continue to be so very professional, kind, and helpful with their, you know, kuleana, their aloha...just plain hard work, like all of you. Thank you, again, very much for coming here, and I look forward to another meeting, maybe sooner than a year, huh? Thank

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you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions, Members? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier, please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our next testifier is Patty Ann Ellis, followed by April Kealoha with Hālau Hula 'O Kilohana.

MS. ELLIS: Aloha. My name is Patty Ann Ellis, and I am here to speak on behalf of MEO Head Start afterschool and summer programs. This program has helped working mothers like myself be able to work longer hours while my child goes to school and learn to make friends and write her name and numbers. Without this program, I would not be able to work. This program has done so much more for my 'ohana and my child. Please consider MEO Head Start in your Fiscal Year Budget. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MS. ELLIS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: April Kealoha, followed by John Wordin. You don't have to tell me next testifier. I can do it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's the routine.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, she left? Oh, okay. Okay. Ms. Kealoha left, so we'll go with John Wordin, followed by James Rarick.

MR. WORDIN: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. WORDIN: Sorry, I'm a little hard of hearing. That's why I have these devices. I'm...I'm not really the Borg. I'm before you today because I wanted to call your attention to Kuha'ō Business Center. It's located here on the island, it's a very important agency for starting businesses. I volunteered, myself, there for ten years, working with people with intellectual properties such as patents and

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trademarks. And that's a very worthwhile effort on...on many people, and so I highly recommend that you support Kuha'ō Business Center. And my other involvement has been Kaunoa, and I was a volunteer there for seven years. I've...I finally finished out my term. And it's a senior program...many, many different kinds of programs. There's Meals on Wheels, as well as a volunteer recognition program and nutrition programs. There's, like, six or seven programs altogether. It's a very well...worthwhile program for helping senior citizens, and I highly recommend that you support it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: James Rarick, followed by Ku'ulei Arce.

MR. RARICK: Aloha, Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. RARICK: Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit my testimony on behalf of Moloka'i Community Health Center. My name is James Rarick, and I am the Vice-President of the MCHC Board of Directors. Community Health Centers are the backbone of the primary care safety net in Hawai'i, providing medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare to people of all ages, regardless of ability to pay. Moloka'i Community Health Center is one of 14 Federally Qualified Community Health Centers operating statewide, and MCHC is a main component in the...in maintaining the public health system on the Island of Moloka'i. In calendar year 2022, MCHC treated over 2,000 patients and provided more than 8,000 patient visits, including over 1,500 medical patients, and just under 1,500 dental patients. I would also like to note that our dental department is now the only dental healthcare provider that accepts insurance on the Island of Moloka'i, and residents are voicing concern over the vulnerabilities of continued access to dental care on island. Our dental department has increased our patient base by approximately 22 percent each year since 2021. In response, Moloka'i Community Health Center has applied for and received 1.2 million in congressionally-directed spending to renovate the dental building, which includes updating equipment and providing additional space for an additional dentist and hygienist. This 1.2 million will fund just the physical costs associated with the expansion; therefore, MCHC is requesting discretionary funding for the unfunded operational costs associated with expanding dental access to Moloka'i residents, including staffing a second dentist and hygienist estimated at approximately \$330,000 in FY 2025. This year marks the 20th year of operation of our Health Center, but our Board and senior management are facing significant challenges in trying to ensure that we'll be able to continue providing these important safety net services for the next 20 years. As nonprofit organizations, health centers such as ours depend on the limited revenue we

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receive from health plans, Federal Government reimbursements, and private grants. Many FQHCs across the country are currently facing the possibility of closure, a situation that is made more difficult for community health centers that operate in medically underserved rural areas such as ours. The support we are requesting will help to ensure high quality local...locally available dental care, and reduce the hardship and expense for residents who have previously needed to seek dental healthcare services off-island. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of our center.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions, Members? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier, please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ku'ulei Arce, followed by Clay Ching.

MS. ARCE: Aloha. My name is Ku'ulei Arce. I am the Program Coordinator for the Moloka'i Rural Health Community Association Kūpuna Program, and I just wanted to thank you for the...the funding that you've continued to support our program with. We are on our third year and expanding very nicely. Right now, we have over 900 kūpunas over the age of 65 in our program, and we actually stopped taking registration because our capacity to serve them has maxed out. So, we are looking at expanding, it's just taking us a little more time, but I wanted to thank you for that funding, and continue to fund us throughout the years. Second part, let me flip my cap, but I was...I think I made a mistake, but somebody sent me a letter saying that this was a pickleball meeting, so I invited 500 pickleball players here.

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

MS. ARCE: So, sorry. But anyway, on that note, since I'm already here, I just wanted to say that our kūpunas are also playing pickleball. We started with, I believe, 20 kūpunas, and now we have a 10 strong that come out every Mondays to get drilled by our Coach Adrian over here, who brought pickleball to the island, and now is very active with a lot of people at the courts. And I...I was going to...I was going to read this whole thing about the pickleball, but what I am going to do is, I understand the reason why you cannot do improvements on that tennis court. It doesn't belong to the County, it belongs to Moloka'i Ranch. And I was going to say but the structures for the baseball and softball parks are beautiful. I mean, all the lights work. That over there, I think we're missing eight light bulbs maybe. But, you know, it's just, I don't...I not real concerned about--I mean, I am concerned about resurfacing and all that and the structure, but I just like play. So, I was told that we couldn't play pickleball there because it's a tennis court. So, when I...when we go there, there's only Moloka'i High School playing, practicing tennis. So, we share the courts. So, I couldn't understand why it wasn't a tennis/pickleball court. But anyway...but I just wanted to share that.

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But you might have 500 people after me coming up about pickleball. Okay. All my fault. sorry. But thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Ku'ulei. Any questions for her? Seeing none. Oh, any questions? No? You do? No? Okay. Thank you. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Clay Ching, followed by Daniel Sulser.

MR. CHING: Aloha. Mahalo again for you coming and hearing us. I, too--actually, I'm here for pukaball, okay? We call it pukaball because it comes local, right, not like one mainland thing. But our most important--to me, anyway--thing on Moloka'i is our kūpuna. Like Ku'ulei says, hey, I'm part of the Kūpuna Program too. I get my lomi and all of that too. So, we need the Kūpuna Program. We also need pukaball for the kūpunas to play. And, you know, we're always in a quandary to figure out whose responsibility is it to fix the cracks in the...in the...in the courts? You know, we really have, like she said, zero pukaball courts. We just tape out one section to play, you know, of the--it's pukaball--actually, the...the whole thing is about one-third the size of a regular tennis court, and we have two...one, two. That's all we have for the whole Island of Moloka'i. Seriously, two tennis courts. And on that, we try to tape out, like, to make three, you know? And so, I can't even ask you for 100,000, 200--I have no idea what, you know, it cost to make a court. And I don't know all the logistics, like Moloka'i Ranch, County. I kind of--big...big question mark, big zero, you know what I'm saying? But it's just that that's the fastest growing sport in the...in the nation, in the country. And exercise galore. I used to walk, and it's so boring. Play pukaball, good fun. Twenty--raise your hands, how many of you play? Come on, there's your chance right there. That's a pretty good amount, you know? And...and...and most...most of them over 60. So, we really definitely kūpuna, you know? I...I going be 77 and I still playing, and I...I'd rather do that than walk, okay? So, we'd like to ask for money, but we don't even know how much. We don't know where we could have something built. Like I said, it's a big question mark. So, I'm asking for you because I heard Maui get some beautiful pickleball courts, yeah? Well, that's what I heard. I don't know, you know what I'm saying? But I'm just saying, we need help. This is something...an activity for our kūpuna, and it's awesome. It's awesome sport. You never try, go try. I'm serious. It's fun, it's healthy, outdoors. And help us to, you know, get something started for our kūpuna because everybody just wants to come out. And...and this is just a little fraction of the people that are coming out. You should see nighttime, as soon as the sun goes down, poof, the lights come on, and the place is packed. This probably--what do you think, Ku'ulei, over a couple hundred at least, yeah, on Moloka'i, right? Yeah, easy. Easy...2, 300 people coming out to play. So . . .(timer sounds). . . it's a real deal. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions?

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MR. CHING: Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. CHING: Okay. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Daniel Sulser, followed by Emma...I don't know what that says --

MR. SULSER: My name is Daniel --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Velasco.

MR. SULSER: -- Sulser. I think the pickleball concept has been covered pretty well. My only concern really now to add to what's been said is we have a very serious safety issue. Those cracks are this wide, and they're uneven. Someone's going to trip and split their head open, so it...it needs to be addressed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Emmo--Emma. Emma Velasco, followed by Emilio Macalalad.

MS. VELASCO: My name is Emma Velasco, and welcome each and every one of you here to Moloka'i. I've been here on Moloka'i since 2009, to join my husband at Home Pumehana. He is the one that uses the rollator and disabled and Vietnam vet. So, I...I ask for funding in 2025 for the MEO bus, is very helpful to get him as I can accompany him to Nā Pu'uwai. It's enjoyable to see that we're not the only two that are on the bus. The driver will stop and pick up another individual as well to take them maybe up to the hospital before stopping at Nā Pu'uwai. It is a great benefit to us, especially those of us that choose not to drive. As for myself, I am not disabled--or at least I could still get around with my cane--my husband uses a rollator and a scooter. But there have been times where I've been at Nā Pu'uwai, and I love the Makahiki wind. But yet when it rains, boy, I discovered that I'm standing across the street waiting for the bus to pick me up, and it is coming down hard, and I'm getting wet, and I leave the house without my umbrella. So, I am asking for maybe some funding to get a shelter so that more people like myself would be willing to catch the bus. So, I thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Emilio Macalalad, followed by William Kaholoa'a.

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MR. MACALALAD: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. MACALALAD: My name is Emilio Macalalad, science teacher and ag teacher at Moloka'i High School. I'm here to testify on three...three issues, so one of them being MEDB. So, they've been able to provide a lot of support for our students and teachers. One example is a couple weeks ago at a Hawai'i STEM conference, two of my students won first place for their NASA Mars Farm Project, and the...the amount of resources, professional development, and financial support for travel over is invaluable. And to my second point is on student travel. So, the...the...the support that you...you folks have made in terms of giving our students the opportunities to travel to--not just for sports, but for, you know--we're...we're back in it. Students are doing well with their science fair projects. They're...they...they did well at their regional science fair, they did well at the state science fair, now they're going to inter--...back to international science fair. So, your support and continued support for those would be appreciative. And it's not just for those, there's other organizations that...that the school works with, like Future Farmers of America, and as well as STEM opportunities and robotics. We're...we're about to go to Texas next week for Worlds, for VEX, so your...your continued support is much appreciated. And then the last--to...to piggyback on some of the issues that were brought up with the pickleball. So, I'm also the tennis coach for the high school. I've seen the...the numbers of our students drop because our courts at the high school are falling apart. I mean, students don't want to...don't want to play in a...on a court that's dangerous, but the basketball courts are falling...falling down. It's a lot. So, our only alternative is to come down here and--on--into the town courts. And to share that space with the...with the pickleballers...you know, there's only two courts, and they've said it before. And when...when they take students to...to Maui to...to compete, and they see that the...the courts there, there's...there's space for pickleballers, there's space for tennis, but not here in Moloka'i. So, I just ask for some kind of solution to this issue because as it's already been said, this...this growing sport of pickleball, like, you need a space for them, and we need to find a way to fix what's going on here in town with the courts. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: William Kaholoa'a, followed by Camie Kimball.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

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MR. KAHOLOA'A: My name is William Yama Kaholoa'a. And . . .*(inaudible)*. . . today speaking. I'm speaking on behalf of our community. So, it's very frustrating when politicians run for office, and they want our vote. And when times comes that we need help, they're not around, yeah? So, they've been using me as a yo-yo. And so, I have an issue, yeah? So, I have 7 children, 35 grandchildren, and 19 great, and I'm very adamant about the safety of my little ones. And I'm sure everyone here on Moloka'i feels the same, yeah? So, I've been on this issue...this is going to be my fourth year, and I haven't got anything from the County, okay? So, what I need is a right-of-entry from Parks and Recreation. I've talked to the Mayor, I've talked to the...the Director, Shane Bush *(phonetic)*...Shane Dudoit, yeah? And all they do, they refer 'em. Go here, go there, right? We went to Sybil Lopez. Sybil Lopez told me that there was this meeting tonight, that's why I'm here, okay? Hopefully, we can have something done. So, there is a right of way over at Pūko'o. I met with all the...the community...most of the community people there, they're very concerned about the safety of their...of people that walks on the sidewalk. So, there were sidewalks that was built long time ago, but it got deteriorated and was crumbling apart, and brush was overgrown, and kids are still walking up there. So, for three years...four years now, we trying to get . . .*(inaudible)*. . . approval from the County, a written approval giving us...giving us permission. Now, it's not going to count the...cost the County any money, yeah? I'm not here today for money, okay? It's not going to cost the County any money. It's going to be over \$100,000 to repair this project. So, the owner, who is the Scroll Foundation *(phonetic)*, they're very concerned about the...getting sued. So, they asked me if...if I could look into this, and I've been trying very hard, yeah? And so, what do we need...what do I need to do? You know, what do I need to do to get this thing taken care of? We're talking about public safety. I don't want to be like Lāhainā, okay? Yeah. We have an issue here. I'm sorry that I didn't...didn't come and talk to Keani. I know she would have done something, but I thought I'll go in channels, you know, to who I need to talk. Yeah. But I'm having hard...get any response. So, I thought the Mayor was going to be here tonight. I thought Shane Dudoit was going to be here tonight because I'm on there. I'm...I'm done . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . being like a yo-yo. I'm cutting the string today...tonight. From...from tomorrow on, if I don't get a word, I'm going to be . . .*(inaudible)*. . . We don't need a permit. I...I...I met with the Moloka'i Planning Commission, they gave me approval three years ago. I...I met with the building department. I...for that, we're not doing it. All we're doing is altering, putting back the sidewalk that was already there. We're not adding, and we're not doing any addition to the sidewalk. So, I met with a...a building permit, they said I going need a permit. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I met with DLNR when I checked with them, they said there's nothing to do with them. And so, I went to Parks and Recreation. So, that's what--and then furthermore, I don't even need to own Park and Recreation land. We can pour the concrete from that individual's land. It's --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...so, can I ask you something? So, you ran out of time, but...so, are you saying that a certain street, you want a sidewalk? That's your issue?

MR. KAHOLOA'A: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And what is the name of the street? I'm...I'm sorry. Keani probably knows.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: Oh, this Pūko'o...Pūko'o Harbor, the right of way. Yeah. It's on the left side.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: So, that thing all fell...all crumbled up, so it's unsafe for the children to be walking--or anyone within the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: -- the community.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions, Members? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Mahalo, Mr. Kaholoa'a. So, you say it's the County property --

MR. KAHOLOA'A: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- at the...at the Pūko'o Harbor?

MR. KAHOLOA'A: It...it belonged to the Scrolls, but they have a joint where the County took over. So, the County--anything we do on that...the property on that has to come permission from the County. And that's all I'm asking for, is a right-of-entry.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: Why take four years?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: Yeah? So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. No other questions.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: So, I not going tell you thank you until I hear from you guys
. . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

MR. KAHOLOA'A: After that, I'll talk to you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Camie Kimball, followed by Janet Anderson.

MS. KIMBALL: That's good. Thank you very much for coming and allowing us to come and...and share some of the issues that we have on Moloka'i. My name is Camie Kimball, I've lived here for over 40 years. I married a local boy. I'm a teacher, I taught for over 30 years at the middle school and the high school. I started playing pickle--I'm here to ask about pickleball. Sounds silly, but it's not. I was the athletic director, PE teacher, at the high school. Our high school has--that court that the tennis coach talked about has not been fixed. It's been over 15 or 20 years that it's been on the books. When I was athletic director, they were going to bring it in...not done. But that's a State issue, so I don't want to talk about that. But there is a tennis team. They have, I believe, five members--I talked to the AD the other day--and they don't have a team. And I understand why, they don't really have a court. The high school court has been shut down. Our kids don't have any place to play at recess at the high school. Our court...as I understand, our tennis team comes over here, and they play, they practice a little bit, and they're allowed to go to the MIL Championship, from my understanding. And...however, they can't...they don't go as a team because they don't have enough, I think they have four girls and one boy. But so, they at least get to go to the MILs. But basically, I think it's a travesty. This island has two tennis courts. That's it for the whole island. West end has a tennis court, east end has a tennis court. We don't have. We can't play at those places. Those are private. Local people can't play there. I'm really shaky because I'm so passionate about this. This island is a small island, and we deserve better than that. And pickleball is an activity that kūpuna play, Keani's classmates play, youth play...it's become a big deal here. We started...I...a little over three years ago, a girlfriend came, and she taught me how, and I brought some girls in, and

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we...we...we've been playing, and we taped the court over there. And then I talked to Darin, and he was very generous and sweet, and he tried to help us. I said, hey, can you...can we make a kitchen line--and if you know pickleball, the kitchen line is very important--we tape the others. And we pay for the tape, and we try and keep them...the court nice, and we clean off that court when it's dirty. And we have tried to fix the cracks. There's a safety issue there. We've...we've had people fall. But you know what? We're from Moloka'i. We don't sue people. We're pretty good about that. . . .(timer sounds). . . But I know safety is a big issue. Ku'ulei talked about...when I went to...Darin made that pickleball line, that court line, and I understand he got in trouble for that because it's a tennis court, and you can't do that. I was appalled. I was upset. Lāna'i. Lāna'i has two tennis courts, it's exactly like ours. They have pickleball courts as well as tennis courts on their...their courts. And they have that sign that we have, that's a County of Maui, exact same sign. My girlfriend went, showed it to me, looked at ours . . .(timer sounds). . . exactly like ours.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have questions?

MS. KIMBALL: I'm furious. I...I just think it's horrendous. It's horrible. Moloka'i deserves better than that. My other girlfriends hopefully will finish what I have to say, but I'm very passionate about this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. KIMBALL: Moloka'i deserves way better than that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. KIMBALL: And the idea that it's owned by Ranch land--that gym is owned by Ranch land. Those things out there are owned by...the...the baseball fields, the...the pool, tell me they don't fix those up. They fix those up. Oh, we can't fix that up. They're...they fix all that up. Come on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Janet [sic] Anderson, followed by Dayna Harris.

MS. ANDERSON: Aloha and good evening. Thank you all for being here and listening to all of our concerns. Thank you for all you do. I won't spend much time. I just want to speak to the pickleball concern. I am a long-time educator here as well. I have been coming to Moloka'i since I was five years old, and I started teaching here in 1993. I retired two years ago, and I wondered what I was going to do with myself, and how I was going to gain a social group moving forward into

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retirement. My life was at school and with my family. What pickleball has done for me is not just an activity to get out there and play and stay active and healthy, it's a social connection. And it's a social connection with all these beautiful people, right? It's special, and it should be supported. It needs to be supported, not only for our kūpuna and us old folks, but for the young kids coming up. This is a game that everyone can play, and it's gaining popularity. And so, I think, you know, planning forward and staying ahead of the game is a really good idea. Well, we're kind of behind it, but the last thing I wanted to say, again, is the safety issue. If you haven't yet taken a look at the courts, it might be worth your while to go take a look. It's really appalling. It's dangerous. It's not okay. I appreciate your thoughts, thoughtfulness, and your support. I hope that we see some support in the future. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Seeing none. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Dayna Harris, followed by the Ainapa'a Wrestling Club and Moloka'i Hunting Club.

MS. HARRIS: Aloha. I'm Dayna Harris, and yes, I'm here to advocate for the resurfacing of the tennis courts. They are dangerous. I have been one of the people to fall and, you know, I did something to my wrist. There's another lady back there who tripped and fell and broke her femur. The holes and cracks are horrible. They've got weeds growing. They're really nice when they weed whack, but then they just leave the weeds, so then when you're playing, you're slipping and sliding and...and there's potential to really hurt yourself. And we are not the kind of people to sue, but there's a lot of visitors here who are, and they do come out, and they do use them. So, I really am advocating for the...the fixing of the tennis courts. And if you do, if we could have a tennis court for the tennis people, and then maybe two pickleball courts for us. Excuse me. The lights need to be fixed. The screens on the side just sway. I mean, it--and it's all...it's funny because I started playing about three years ago, and now I see kids out there. I come down on a Sunday night, I see families with three generations playing. They're off their little iPads and their computers, and it's just great to see it. So, I hope that you guys will rethink this issue and, you know, help us out. And I'm not really a public speaker, so I didn't go up at the time, but I do want to thank all you guys for the resolution that you gave my son, Tanner Mosher, for the fire, and I was--just couldn't go up and say that that day, there's too many people. But thank you very much for honoring him, I really appreciate it. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Next is Justin Luafalemana with the Ainapa'a Wrestling Club and Moloka'i Hunting Club, followed by Adrian Canencia. Um-hum.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, it's a girls' wrestling club.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum. Yeah. Aloha.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Aloha, everyone. Thank you guys for being here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aloha.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: I really appreciate it. I am the head coach of the Ainapa'a Wrestling Team, and behind me is all the athletes and the wrestlers. We're so grateful and thankful with your...with your support that we had.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Justin, have them come on the side of you.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Can come right in the front . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right...yeah.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Come in the front. Come in the front.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Come.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Come in the front. As you guys can see, the team is female-dominant...female-dominant. Female wrestling is one of the fastest-growing sports in the nation. I had five sisters of my own. I'm the only boy. I'm really happy with all the parents, the support that we get, and I'm really grateful for all the support that we did get from the County, Keani, for helping us to transport these young kids to Maui and in Hawai'i, to get them exposure to compete in--at different levels within the wrestling. Also though, you know, we have a lot of support from our...from within the community. We do a lot of fundraising. You know, these kids, they put a lot of time, a lot of sacrifices, a lot of things that we...as the Ainapa'a Wrestling Team, we instill our four core values. You know, we have 'ulu, which represents growth; we have the kalo, which represents 'ohana; we have the kukui, which represents enlightenment; and we have the pueo that represents the leadership. So, I know that we are instilling life-learning lessons within these young athletes and individuals. We always talk about, you know, goal settings, we talk about them visualizing, we talk about them in being positive and help to encourage their teammates, their parents, and being respectful. So, we're really grateful for all the opportunities that you have given to us in allowing these athletes to travel. I'm really thankful. Also, you know, with that being said, we would like you guys to continue to support us. We do have some hiccups with all these athletes and plus some. We...space is a...it is an issue for us. You know, we do have a space with them practicing is

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an issue. And we want to continue this sport to grow on Moloka'i, and we want them to continue to fall in love with this sport and continue to grow. We would like to have more exposure, more tournaments to be hosted here on Moloka'i so we can grow and that everyone can experience this sport. So, I'm really thankful and grateful. With that being said, I like ask any of my...any of these athletes like come up and talk? Go up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Come on.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Yeah. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then please...and then say your name when you testify.

MS. LESTER: Hi, my name is Wehiwa Lester, and before I started wrestling, I didn't even know about wrestling. And when my mom told me, I wanted to join, and it led me to here, and it helps with physical toughness and mental toughness.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: All right. Okay. Before we go, we like actually do our oli before we go to--when we enter a place or when we leave, we always oli. So, we like leave you guys with our oli that was made and...by our treasurer, Leimana. Okay. . . .(inaudible) . . . Face them. Face them.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: E ulu, e ulu.

IN UNISON: E ulu, e ulu.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: E ulu, e ulu.

IN UNISON: E ulu, e ulu.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pā.

IN UNISON: E ulu e ulu kukui mālama, ke kalo lau loa, ke kahua pa'a o 'āina pa'a ē.
E ulu e ulu kukui mālama, ke kalo lau loa, ke kahua pa'a o 'āina pa'a ē. Aloha 'ohana. 'O Lonopaiahina. E ola mau loa. E ola mau loa ē.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Thank you guys very much. Appreciate it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There's a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Oh, yeah, you get one question?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Question.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, not a question, but, you know, mahalo for taking some of our Lāhainā hammers, but --

MR. LUAFALEMANA: . . . *(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- afterwards, we like 'em back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: I think up...I up again for the --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: How...how long did he have? Did he take up all three minutes? Because he...because if it's...it's one agenda item, but you going speak on the Moloka'i Hunting Club? How much more time did he have?

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Maybe a minute, Chair, if that's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, go.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Oh, go?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Okay. Asides of coaching and spending great quality time with my kids and my wife and all my 'ohana, I also am the vice...the President of the Moloka'i Hunting Club. So, again, we'd like to thank the County for helping the Moloka'i Hunting Club empower the community. We'd also like to, you know, say about all...all the members. I could thank all the members, all the Boards of the Hunting Club, all the advisory committees with us donating back all the venison deer meat here on Moloka'i, with the community meat drives. I'd like to thank all the landowners that participate with us and helping us to educate ourselves more about the axis deer, and just being very supportive. I'd really like to thank all the landowners. But we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We do have liability

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insurance. We are looking for consistency in getting more education and empowering ourselves over and over, and learning about the axis deer, and helping to control it. And also . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . for us to, you know...food security, learning how to use the meat for our 'ohana and for our kids. It's very healthy. I feed it a lot to our wrestlers and...yeah. Anything...any question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Keani?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: With the...oh, mahalo for your testimony and --

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for bringing the team. I just wanted to clarify. Have you seen like the...the management get a little more under control with the deer?

MR. LUAFALEMANA: You know, from right now, what I see is that obviously, there was a great rain this year, right? Great rain. With all the...with all the hunting that the club does, you can actually see the quality of the meat from the deer. Also, we did decrease the numbers of the deer on the landowners that we are working with, and with that, we collect all the data from that, just not the meat that we distributing, but also the buck-and-doe ratio, female-and-doe ratio. So, definitely, the population is healthier right now we seeing, but that is because of the...a lot of rain and vegetation that we're having. However, you know, we do have challenges, some...you know, we just try and work with the landowners to meet their goals. So, landowners sometimes only limit us to when we can go. So, you know, we do...at least want to try and do at least anywhere between 6 to 12 hunts a month so that way the members all can participate in those hunts. It is optional if the members want to show up, but it is very successful. You know, we do, do studies, and we want to continue on doing the studies. But yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Adrian Canencia, followed by Roland Yartzoff.

MR. CANENCIA: Good evening.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good evening.

MR. CANENCIA: I'm another pickleballer, but...but I come in at a different angle. Being a former tennis pro in Kona for many years and seeing the things that...on the

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Big Island that they've done for tennis, and as well as now, pickleball is taking over tennis in...on the Big Island, and it's taking over tennis...I mean, pickleball is taking over tennis in the mainland. And I would say in... probably in another year, pickleball is going to be a high school sport. So, if we are already neglecting our tennis program here in Moloka'i with the way the courts are with the...what we have available now, how can we go...raise up another generation of good pickleball players? Yeah, we do the kūpunas, and the kūpunas is great, but kūpuna is going to get old to the point where they can't play anymore. But we have so many young ones that are coming up. And so, I'm speaking on behalf of them, not just the kūpuna--even though I love the kūpuna because I'm one of them--but I know there's a way that we can do something with the courts because I know you guys can fix the baseball fields. So, what...you know, the reasoning that I get from the people that I've talked to before--not mentioning any names--it's because we don't own the land. But what the heck, you don't own the land, but you make the grass nice. You built your...the dugouts get leaks you fix the dugouts. The gym has light bulbs, you do that for them. But why not the tennis courts? What's the prejudice there? Is it because maybe they don't play that sport? Maybe they should try. You'll probably like it. So, I just want to...and it's a frustration for us that they out there now, that we try to make improvements, but we get scoldings because we're making improvements because it might be a lawsuit. somebody...you know, liability. But it's a liability now. People have fallen. In my lessons with pickleball, when I help with the Kūpuna Program, I try to be very careful. Don't...don't go...don't try for that one. And they still fall because they...they can't...they don't lift their feet very high, so their shoe gets snagged on a big crack. And I talking about two-inch crack, not just a little hairline crack. Okay. So, I'm just putting it out there for the pickleball community back there. We just need some help, and we're willing to do the work. That's the thing. And we have people that have enough funds to go in there, and with--they...they know about construction--that we could do the work as a community service if you just allow us to. And we'd love to work with the County. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir.

MR. CANENCIA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Are the courts concrete or asphalt?

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MR. CANENCIA: These are asphalt.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Could it be concrete or asphalt, like main thing is flat?

MR. CANENCIA: Yeah. Main thing it's level. Yeah. It can be concrete.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Are these courts that get the big cracks asphalt courts?

MR. CANENCIA: Asphalt.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CANENCIA: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Seeing none.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Roland Yartzoff, followed by Helen Kahunanui.

MR. YARTZOFF: Aloha ahiahi o Roland Yartzoff ko'u inoa piha. I want to talk about the ongoing problem we have on this island with fallow farmland. For decades, less than 5 percent of the farmland on this island has been in productivity. This is a problem in a number of ways, where there's huge potential for agricultural production on this island, which means there could be generation of wealth at the local level, creation of jobs, the youth of the island. If they're...if we did have functioning farms, we'd be able to stay on the island, close to their family. There would be connection with 'āina. There would be food security. Obviously, the approaches that have been taken are not working. This is not something that's 10 or 15 years old, it's 50, 60 years old or more. So, I would suggest that it would be prudent to take a new approach, to step back and look what...at what could be done comprehensively to address the issue. I speak as someone who has 15 years of professional experience in the production of horticulture. I know that much more can be done here. In my view, the two biggest issues are cost and reliability of that...of sustainability of that cost of agricultural water. There are many farmers right now who are in production who would take the view that water is too expensive now. And a few months ago, there was discussion and an article or two in the local newspaper talking about how the water...the agency that's handling water is talking about an increase of more than 100 percent. Well, if it's already difficult for some farmers, and you double the cost of water, that doesn't make it any easier, and it has a chilling effect on any prospective farmer wanting to get into agriculture. Also, if...if the...the rate of water can be doubled now, and then in five years doubled again, it's difficult for anyone who is trying to create a business plan to project recurring expenses. There has to be stability of...of the cost of water in order to enter into business. Ideally, the...the

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cost of water could be subsidized. That's the simple fix. But what revenue stream would be used for that? It may not be possible for the County Government to come up with that sort of funding, but at the State level, the visitor occupancy tax could have a portion of it dedicated specifically to subsidize the cost of agricultural water so there could be stability of that cost over time. If all of the visitor occupancy . . .(timer sounds) . . . tax is currently allocated, then perhaps it could be raised by a few percent. The other issue is the cost of interisland transportation, which is prohibitive. That could be subsidized through a surcharge on all imported agricultural product from the mainland or elsewhere, and that could be used to stabilize the cost of transportation interisland. Would there be any questions for me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Yartsoff. I was just curious, are these are these County properties or State properties?

MR. YARTZOFF: It's...it's agricultural water, which I know is going to the homesteads, and I think that anywhere in...in...on island.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I mean the actual farmlands. Are those --

MR. YARTZOFF: It's...it's --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- State?

MR. YARTZOFF: Some of it is private, but much of it is homestead, Ho'olehua Homestead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Homestead? Oh, you're talking about homestead.

MR. YARTZOFF: When you fly into the airport, it's virtually barren. It's...it's all koa haole forest. There's very little that's in production.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. YARTZOFF: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. I have a question for you real quick. Thanks for your testimony. Are you aware this year, we have now introduced a

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bill that's in effect for this year's budget about tax tiers for agricultural lands? So, we give you a great--because you first came out with the idea of the fallow lands --

MR. YARTZOFF: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- and this was a bill that we wrote...we...I wrote that the Council supported, that we would tier the tax...taxes of those...of those ag lands. So, we incentivize people because you get a lower tax break by...by putting your land in the...into production, where if you don't, you're going to have a higher tax rate. Are you aware of that?

MR. YARTZOFF: I was not aware of that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, that's going to be happening. That's one thing. The other thing are you--and now, this is something, I...I don't know the details of it, but I...I had heard that the State has a program to help farmers pay for the transport of goods interisland. Now, that's a State program that I'm not aware of, but I was...I know you mentioned the idea of the cost of shipping goods, you know, farm...produce between islands. There is a program that the State runs that helps farmers pay down that.

MR. YARTZOFF: I'll look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

MR. YARTZOFF: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: One more question, sir. What is the cost per thousand gallons for ag water on Moloka'i?

MR. YARTZOFF: I do not know.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. YARTZOFF: No. But as someone who is considering getting into production, knowing that there is serious consideration to double the ag rate, I haven't even penciled it out.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, and...and it's...it is an expensive and important part of cost. Thank you.

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MR. YARTZOFF: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Seeing none.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Helen Kahunanui, followed by Edwin Mendija.

MS. KAHUNANUI: Good evening.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. KAHUNANUI: My name's Helen Kahunanui, and I am just a resident of Kaunakakai. My...I just want information. I came because I saw this wonderful flyer, so I knew all your names and who you were. I see budget. Wonderful, beautiful flyer here that I really don't understand too much. What I want to know is, Keani, when you rattled off everything...all the money that was going to go to Moloka'i, I'm kind of old school. I was looking for a handout that would show me where the money goes or the websites. You were...you rattled it really fast. How do we find what goes to Moloka'i?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Let her finish her testimony and I can ask her that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You want to finish your testimony, please? Is that it?

MS. KAHUNANUI: No, that's...yup. That...that's it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's it? Okay. Any questions?

MS. KAHUNANUI: All I see is Moloka'i listed here, 1,200. I read through all this. I'm...I have some education in my background, and I'm going hey, this is beautiful.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I can...I can answer, Chair.

MS. KAHUNANUI: Yeah. Where...what's --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your...your...your question.

MS. KAHUNANUI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, my office is right over there, yeah?

MS. KAHUNANUI: Yup.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: By DMV, and you're welcome to come by anytime, 9:00 to 4:00.

MS. KAHUNANUI: And you have the numbers to show where all the money in the budget is going to go for our island?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Most of it. Just the highlights.

MS. KAHUNANUI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And it's also on my Facebook page, but I don't know if you're on Facebook.

MS. KAHUNANUI: I don't Facebook.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I can try to put that on my --

MS. KAHUNANUI: Okay. That's all I wanted.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- my website. But it's also...yeah. Yeah. If you're only concerned about Moloka'i --

MS. KAHUNANUI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- items, then just come to my office, and I can print it out for you.

MS. KAHUNANUI: Okay. That's all I need. Thank you kindly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry. Edwin Mendija, followed by Ronald Cabanting.

MR. MENDIJA: Howzit. Hi, guys. Thank you. Edwin Mendija, I'm here representing both MEDB STEMworks and Moloka'i High School Robotics. First off, thank you guys for coming out. Thank you for having us. First off, I just wanted to say...give you guys thanks for helping fund our...one of our trips earlier this year. We took some Moloka'i kids to Tokyo, was really cool. You know, in my years of doing this robotics thing, it's become more than just about just the STEM education. It was kind of turned into opportunities for our kids to experience new things. This was big for us. A lot of these kids never even been out of the state, so, like we literally took them international for their first time out. We'll be headed to Dallas next week, next Monday. We actually won a world championship award.

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We're one of five winners of the...of Community Award, which was actually sponsored by Google. So, we'll be going up there to...not just compete, but to accept that award. And, you know, again, a lot of...a lot of it's not possible with the continual funding we get from the County. You guys...you know, you guys helped us a lot this year and in years prior through MEDB, and I'm getting to that point. You know, I've...I just started working under the STEMworks AFTERSchool Program, and they...I didn't realize how many students they serve over Maui County. It's...we just kind of started more recently here on Moloka'i, and it's been really good for our kids, the kids who want to, you know, stay after school and do STEM activities. And it's also kind of...it kind of...it's a good safe space for a lot of these kids too, I've been finding out more recently. So, you know, I've been working with those guys, and they...they really have a passion for the kids. They...they do a lot of workshops and whatnot. So...yeah, mostly just, again, thank you guys for continuing to support us. You know, we're really proud to represent the County of Maui and, you know, Moloka'i, of course. And yeah, that's all I got. Thank you, guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you for being a wonderful teacher. You must be inspirational also. Okay. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ronald Cabanting, followed by Michael Kahale.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to take a break?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Almost pau.

MR. CABANTING: Aloha ahiahi. My name is Ronald Cabanting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, wait.

MR. CABANTING: I have a question about the Moloka'i Veterans Caring for Veterans. The grant that was submitted, okay, who submitted for that grant? A few years ago, Moloka'i Veterans Caring for Veterans did not receive any of the grants. But now, we get this grant, and I didn't even know about it...who submitted and what is it for, okay? We have new board members. The old board was voted out. So, how did this go about? The old board did not agree or ask the members for any situation that they wanted to do. The board members was the only one that voted on things, not the members. Our whole membership did not participate in anything that going on since 2018. And we fought this. We've been fighting them. In January, we voted the...the board out. We had the members come together, we got together, and we voted. So, who submitted for this grant? Because prior to this grant, our veterans didn't get nothing. Our building over here looked like crap. Never have money, never have nothing. And it was the

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board members' insubordination of doing things like that. So, I'd like to know. And if it's a private information, you got my email. You guys can send it to me because I'm a new board member too. The commander of us is George Helm right here, and we want to find out what's going on. Okay. And it's--another thing. As a Moloka'i boy, born and raised over here, 1958, I was in O'ahu this past weekend because my daughter had to go for oral surgery, okay? While we were at Pagoda, we met other Moloka'i families. Kūpunas was stuck over there. They got medevacked from Moloka'i, went to Honolulu, got taken care of, left the hospital, and they had to stay at Pagoda until they can get flights home. How come nobody doing nothing about this Mokulele Airline? It was kūpunas over there. I was shocked to see that. Well, that's all I got to say, so if you all got questions for me, go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you.

MR. CABANTING: That.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't know who applied for the Caring for Veterans, but did you ask the Administration? Because we got the budget, same like how you got it, and we don't know what they did. So, did you ask the Administration who put in for that grant?

MR. CABANTING: Thing about it is, we were never granted the grant, okay? So, we're trying to get it...well, George going to come up, he can explain about that. But we've been trying to get everything together. We even went through IRS and stuff like that, submitted, and we had to pay them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was saying because in the budget, the Mayor said he's doing this Holomua Kākou, where he comes to Moloka'i and Lāna'i and Hāna. So, when he comes, did you ask him who put in the grant?

MR. CABANTING: When he came, we--I never know he was here.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you, then. That explains, I guess.

MR. CABANTING: So, a lot of it...we don't get a lot of information.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll...I'll...I'll explain a little bit. Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Cabanting, for your testimony. So, every year, the veterans' groups gets funding for Veteran's Day, and it's, like, basically the same amount every year in the budget, but it's up to the organizations to apply for that funding, and then to do whatever event that they get qualified for...for the grant. I don't

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know anything about who applied for this current fiscal year or...or past fiscal years, but that grant is under the Department of Management, and so you can contact the Department of Management and find out the information that you're asking because we don't have that information. That's the Administration, not the Legislative Branch.

MR. CABANTING: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But...yeah. So, you can get that information, and I'm happy to talk story with you more offline.

MR. CABANTING: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

MR. CABANTING: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Michael Kahale, followed by Suliana Aki.

MR. KAHALE: Aloha, everyone. My name's Mike Kahale. I'm currently a teacher at Moloka'i Middle School, having previously taught at the high school and at Kualapu'u Elementary School. I'm here just basically to mahalo you guys. Thank you for your continued support of MEO, especially their transportation services.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

MR. KAHALE: I'm the athletics coordinator at the middle school, so I coordinate all the sports and all of our off-island travel, practices and so forth. So, that MEO bus service that, you know, provides transportation for our kids after practice back to town, to Mana'e and Maunaloa, is greatly appreciated so that our kids can participate in sports. Thank you for that...that funding, and your continued support in that. The other thing I want to thank you guys for is your funding that you guys have now provided for student travel. It's great. It's funding robotics in other areas but, you know, I'm here on behalf of athletics. I'm also the head football coach at the high school as well. So, the funding that you provide for our middle school sports is...which is really our JV program. We don't have a JV program at the high school. That is our feeder program. So, now that our...our students have the opportunity to participate in sports at the middle-school level, it really helps them to stay on track academically, behaviorally, when they go...go off-island, that is a huge incentive for our kids.

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So, they really, really work hard at that, so thank you for your support in that. And, you know, if at any point...I heard there was some talk about building a stadium with lights down here in the County, but if you guys are working towards that, it would be great.

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

MR. KAHALE: Or if you want to partner with the high school because we just entered the 11-man arena at the high-school level, and we want to be able to play under lights and not always in the hot sun at noon on Saturdays. But thank you for your time. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for being the football coach. Oh, question.

MR. KAHALE: Question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Coach, for doing all you do. You know, your...working with your Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, we put that budget...that budget line item in to support kids' travel, and luckily, the Council approved of...of that.

MR. KAHALE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's a big chunk of change. I'd like to kind of hear your feedback on that program because it's a new program, and how's it going for you? Because I've been trying to get the Lāna'i coaches to do it --

MR. KAHALE: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- but they're kind of afraid of the bureaucracy involved. So, can you give us some...some, you know, positive or negative, how's it working out for you guys? Is it a --

MR. KAHALE: So, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- burden on you to fill out all the forms?

MR. KAHALE: Great question. So, initially, when I heard we had this big chunk of change, like, oh, yeah, fantastic. Get plenty money, we can get them. How do we access the monies?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

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MR. KAHALE: We, as a school, couldn't necessarily apply for it. It had to be passed through a nonprofit. I don't know if that's actually correct, but that's how it worked out this year. Fortunately for us, we have friends at Moloka'i High and intermediate schools --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. KAHALE: -- or middle schools. There are --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Like, the alumni association?

MR. KAHALE: What's that?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Was it like an alumni association, or --

MR. KAHALE: Yeah. That's a...that's a nonprofit group --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. KAHALE: -- that was founded over 20 years ago that helps support the middle school and --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. KAHALE: -- high school with, you know, whatever means necessary.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Got it.

MR. KAHALE: So, Ron and Camie Kimball who testified earlier, they kind of help run that with their board, and they applied for the funds. So, they--whenever we travel then, we need to request the reimbursement of funds through them. We...as a middle school, we don't have any State funding for athletic travel like the high school does, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's crazy.

MR. KAHALE: So, this funding is...is --

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

MR. KAHALE: -- awesome. Now we don't have to tap into our weighted student formula funds --

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. KAHALE: -- that we have at the middle-school level. We can use County funds to give our kids opportunities to travel.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, it's working?

MR. KAHALE: It's working.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. KAHALE: We'd like to access more monies --

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

MR. KAHALE: . . .*(laughing)*. . . But...but yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. KAHALE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much, Coach.

MR. KAHALE: Appreciate that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

MR. KAHALE: Okay. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any...no other questions. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Suliana Oto [sic]--sorry, Aki. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Just...just . . .*(inaudible)*. . . .*(laughing)*. . . followed by Sumu Asano.

MS. AKI: Aloha. Suliana Aki. I am the Moloka'i Middle School AFTERSchool Uplink Coordinator, and I'm here on behalf of MEO. I just wanted to testify in support of your guys' fundings, to continue to fund them. They don't only...again, ditto to what Mike Kahale said, but they don't only fund our students, our athletes. All afterschool programs from college, middle school, all the way to our college students, as well as our community. I've used it many times just to go come town just for save gas...so, I mean everybody use it for all kinds of things. And so, if you guys can continue to support them, Amy and her staff are wonderful, and we work well with them, and they're easy to work with. So, we thank you guys. And

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I just have two students.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. AKI: They just want to talk really quick.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: JJ Sanchez?

MR. SANCHEZ: Aloha. My name is Johnathan Sanchez, and I am here to testify about the MEO busses because afterschool programs, some kids don't have rides back home and because some parents are working hard or probably doing different stuff to...different stuff that other...to pick up their kids beforehand to finish that. And . . .*(inaudible)*. . . should do a...they should bring a--I forgot what I'm saying--to keep MEO busses going so kids can go...go back home and to their destinations before they go afterschool programs.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good job. Followed by Valu Kali.

MR. KALI: My name is Valu, I'm...and go to school. I'm here on behalf of the MEO to keep it because we want...we want it so we can get to our destinations where we're needed to be at. Yeah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Good job.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well done. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sumu Asano, followed by Kanoelani Davis.

MR. ASANO: Aloha, you guys. My name is Sumu Asano. I'm here to speak about the athletic facilities, and its maintenance issues, such as the gym, lighting, more vent systems to be applied. Also, our baseball fields, you know, it's probably one of the best ones on island compared to the rest of the facilities that we have, but the bathroom doors, you know, not getting fixed, still broken, has none. Another one will be pickleball as well. I'm a tennis player, probably spent my whole life on that court. Safety is a big issue, fixing the cracks. And I know I just recently heard that the courts is leased with the Ranch. Maybe a possibility could be to...oh, I guess we would urge the Council to speak to the Mayor on trying to get that lease to renewed maybe for another 50 years if that's what's stopping us from getting the courts to be fixed. I don't know if they're selling in the future or if they're looking at that, but maybe the Mayor could renew that. So...and then another issue would be whether it's for tennis, you know, or for pickleball players. We're locals here, you know? We learned to share the facilities. If you're there first, plenty people just sit on the side. You know if you're taking forever, we going go home, you know? If not, we going stay, and we're going to be like, hey,

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we're going to wait the next half an hour to an hour, we can share, you know? So, we're not asking to be shut down, we're basically asking for help, you know? It's a low-impact sport, which is why the kūpunas are vouching for pickleball. My godchildren is five and seven years old, they're learning. You know, I'm a tennis player, I didn't want to learn. Now I've been playing for the last four months every night, you know? So, you know, it's...it's...it's one of the fastest-growing sport in the world, and it's also one of the fastest growing sport here on island. To have two tennis courts here isn't enough to hold, you know? We ask that...either build us one...we have a skating rink that hasn't been utilized for over a decade. There's lights that was put up there, that lights won't even work as well for that. So, if it is renewed, or if we can repurpose that to build a pickleball court, you know, that could be an option. If the lease is not renewed, maybe look at other areas where we can build, you know, maybe between the baseball park and the college, that open spot. You know, years ago, I heard that they were looking at building a brand-new gym right above the hospital. You know, there's other, maybe, possible solutions that we can look into, you know, that can help the community. Two tennis courts isn't enough, you know, for us, why two--or no...no pickleball courts, but Maui has a lot, you know? If we had the millions of dollars that Lāna'i got, I'm pretty sure we would only need a million to build us one small one here. But, you know, so vouching for everybody. And, you know, as we speak right now, we have pickleball players playing. You know, we don't sue. If people get hurt, it's our liability. You know, we just want to have a safe place where people can go, friends can go and have fun, people can take their families to learn, and just a place to...to kick back, relax, and enjoy. We don't want kids being on their GameCube or their phones all day long. Yeah. . . .(timer sounds). . . It's...it's a place where they can go and...and learn the sport. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Kanoelani Davis, followed by George Kahinu. Mahalo.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh . . .(inaudible). . . Thank you. Oh, unless they got more. Oh, okay.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Aloha mai kākou.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. DAVIS: My name is Kanoelani Davis. I'm coming on behalf of Ho'akā Mana, Native Hawaiian Organization here on Moloka'i. I gave to you folks our brochure and

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some of the programs that we do. I want to first mahalo you folks--mahalo, Keani--for the support to...of our Pūlahala Small Business Accelerator Program that was created with MEDB, with the help of MEDB and SBA last year. We finished the cohort, and it was successful, and we have seen those small businesses accelerate beyond our own imagination. With that said, the County has blessed us with a third of the amount that we had for the first pilot, and we are so grateful for that. And we now have 12 small businesses that we're working with. Last year, we had 24 applicants. This year, we had 24 applicants, but we're only able to take so many small businesses because of the funds we're getting. We also work with Lāna'i...or sorry, Lāhainā, and some of the folks out there are asking to be a part of this Pūlahala program. And so, we've gone and spoken on behalf of our island, and we just got back from Merrie Monarch, and they are successful. The other handout I gave to you folks is part of Malu I Ka 'Ulu. It's our crisis counselors, we call them 'ulu. We are helping...we've been helping with the Lāhainā survivors since August, and we continue to do so. We have cultural programs, we have crisis counseling programs. We are supported not only by the State, but through funding through different entities. And we work with ten women to do cultural workshops with them, and that was so successful that they begged for another one. So, we pulled out another one out of nowhere, our back pocket, out of aloha. And we have a second cohort, and the first cohort elevated to a third cohort. So, the need for this has been successful. I hope you visit our website. You'll find our YouTube. You can hear the voices of the...the women in Lāhainā, how much this has helped them. And we're getting...we're getting...we've been so successful that we're getting more people from across the State asking us to do the same program, but our focus is Lāhainā first. And with that, our Moloka'i people who are crisis counselors have been going out there, been getting trained to help. Why are we on Moloka'i helping over there when they have people over there? There is so many people that have moved across the State of Hawai'i and all over Maui. And their pilina, their closeness to us, is comfortable for them. They feel safe, they feel secure, and we want to foster that and continue that. We have people all over Maui. We have folks here on Lāhainā and Moloka'i. We have people in Lāna'i, we have people also that we're helping in O'ahu, as well as on the continent who had to move. So, we're asking for support after that funding . . .(timer sounds). . . is over to continue the work. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Davis. Mahalo for your testimony tonight. Are you receiving County funds for the Malu I Ka 'Ulu?

MS. DAVIS: No.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It's all private, or --

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MS. DAVIS: It's both State and private.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: State and private. Oh, so, nothing like...but you are working...you're not working with Women Helping Women?

MS. DAVIS: No.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No? This is just a cultural --

MS. DAVIS: No. This is just the aloha we have, and --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. DAVIS: -- right now, the funds end in--or September, and we already know it's going to be needed longer --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Right.

MS. DAVIS: -- than that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We're seeing that.

MS. DAVIS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MS. DAVIS: And we've...we've built a relationship with them of trust and connection. And, you know, even our Pūlahala small business, it's based off of confidence and building, strengthening identity. That is our main focus and goal, and that has been helpful with a lot of the programs that we serve.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier. Oh, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for your testimony. I was wondering if you applied for HCF monies?

MS. DAVIS: We did at the beginning. I think everything was just rolling out so quickly. Because of the work that we were doing, for whatever reason, that preceded us, and folks were reaching out to us to help us get the funding, to help us keep moving. They believed in us, they...they trusted us. And when I say people came to us, HCF gave us some funding. We didn't apply for it, it was minimal, and

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some of the other folks that have...like, Women's Fund Hawai'i reached out to us, and DOH actually reached out to us, and they just saw the...the amount of work we were doing and wanted to fund us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You guys go to Lāhainā, or it's over the phone, or --

MS. DAVIS: Crisis counseling is both. We go to Lāhainā, we also take over the phone. We do...we have also a deaf community that we work with. We do that over Zoom, and that has been successful. And then because a lot of our folks are also across the State of Hawai'i and on the continent, we do Zoom and phone calls with them. And those are just basic crisis counseling phone calls, right? The programs in which we do outreach to bring people in to...to build trust, our cultural workshops, our art workshops, things like that. And so...and even...we have one family that's also part of our Pūlahala Program. And although we have funding from OED around there, that funds, we use funds from those who donated for Lāhainā families for her to be able to...to participate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And did you put in an application for the Mayor's Budget?

MS. DAVIS: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. But were you going to apply for monies under DHHC or OED?

MS. DAVIS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh okay. And then this one is Statewide?

MS. DAVIS: We are Statewide, yes. And we serve Native Hawaiians and Indigenous peoples across the continent as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You guys designed this --

MS. DAVIS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- yourself?

MS. DAVIS: I... yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. DAVIS: My background is in graphic designs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Cool. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: George Kahinu, followed by Tehani Ka'alekahi.

MR. KAHINU: Good evening. Aloha. My name's George Kahinu. I am the Interim Commander of Moloka'i Veterans Caring for Veterans Center here in Kaunakakai. We...we've been there for about two months now, and we've been fixing up what the prior guys forgot to do. And I see, yes, you...you guys allotted us some money. And right now, no enough. But...but anyway, it's a start, and that's what we got to do. And I just want to make an invitation to you to come down and look at our Center and have an idea of what we are going through. A lot of us are putting up our own money to get the services that we need at...at the Center. So, like we...we're going through, and we've lost a grant money prior. The guy...the...the commanders of our prior board didn't pay the taxes or the...the money to keep our...our status open. So, we...we...we got it, and we're renewing it. And we're on...on the...on...in the process of getting everything brought up to date so we can maintain our facility. And we do need some money, and we thank you for it. And we...and we have to get a lot of things fixed, like our kitchen...we have a certified kitchen that we can't even use. So, we want...we want to make sure that we do the thing that has to be done to get this facility operating and be almost self-sufficient. Not quite self-sufficient, but almost. But...so, I thank you...you folks for...oh, yeah. By the way, which...which Veteran's Center going get the money?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Whoever --

MR. KAHINU: Because you guys realize Moloka'i has two Veteran's Centers, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Whoever applies?

MR. KAHINU: Okay. Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If he's pau with his testimony, I can answer the question.

MR. KAHINU: Yeah. So, anyways...anyways, the...I...I...I'm looking for my facility to get the money. So, I thank you, and thank you for listening for my gripes and stuff. Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I can answer.

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MR. KAHINU: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Kahinu. Mahalo for your testimony. So, it's not money that's for any specific center, not Ho'olehua or Kaunakakai specifically. It's for the organization, Moloka'i Veterans Caring for Veterans. So, it's for...to the organization. And I don't believe that's...that...it's...I think it's like \$12,000 that's for the facility. It's...it's for like Veteran's Day celebration. I think that's what was in budgets in decades past, and it just continues to remain in the budget for all the veteran's organizations in the County. They have funding under the Department of Management.

MR. KAHINU: So...so, how do we...you mean it's just for one...one day. is that what you're saying the money is allotted for?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't know how in the past the organization has used the funding --

MR. KAHINU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- but I'm happy to talk story with you more about that --

MR. KAHINU: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- at my office. Yeah.

MR. KAHINU: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Kahinu. I was just curious, you guys receive Federal funding too, for the veterans?

MR. KAHINU: We...like I said, we're...we're just...we...we voted the other guys out, and we're in an interim. We're the interim Board...Board, president and all. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. KAHINU: We...they've lost some of...some of the money that we had before.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it.

MR. KAHINU: And now, we're...we're starting from all...we're starting all over again.

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Okay. Thank you.

MR. KAHINU: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that it?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry. Tehani Ka'alekahi. And I believe...oh, it looks like we have one more testifier after that. Best for last.

MS. KA'ALEKAHI: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. KA'ALEKAHI: My name is Tehani Ka'alekahi. I don't have a handout, but I get one QR code in case you guys get one. So, I am born and raised Moloka'i. I am with the organization Sust'ainable Moloka'i. It's a nonprofit community development organization that's been around since 2010, and I've been the Executive Director for going on three years. I am here to simply say mahalo. By way of background, our organization...our mission is to restore 'āina momona, and we do that in a number of ways. Our programs stretch from food sovereignty, renewable energy, climate change, sea level rise, sustainability center, as well as community buy-back of Moloka'i Ranch. And we went from a team of 4 to a team of 20, and we continue to grow as we identify various needs within the community. And so, I am here to say thank you for not only being there to support us in terms of funding, but being there in terms of being a champion when it comes to building relationships within our community, within the network, and within others...with others across the State. And as we continue to grow and identify our little pukas of, you know, what we got to do here and there, just having you guys show up and support us, and give us feedback, and help us course correct...because what we're doing in our organization is kind of sort of unheard of. When it comes to food sovereignty, we have our farmer training programs. We have our food hub, Mobile Market. We also have our...we provide technical assistance to farmers. So, that's our food, and that's pretty much...we probably run with under 18 to 20 grants. With our sea level rise, we're...thanks to funding from you guys, we're completing that piece in terms of identifying spots. The community identify...helped us identify locations on the island in which we should be mālamaing, and, like, what are we going to do about it? There's also some contingency plans in terms of what do we do with that plan. When it comes to our sustainability center, I mean, that...we just got an earmark of 1.3 million. Jill Tokuda helped us get there...actually, Kali...Kali Arce started, she planted the seed, and then it went up to Jill Tokuda, and so that's coming down the pipe. So, I have a team of two . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . part-time people, so figuring out what that's going to look like. And then our renewable energy is--that's a whole

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beast in and of itself about what it's going to look like for the whole Island of Moloka'i, and then buy-back of Moloka'i Ranch. So, just here to say mahalo and answer any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier. Last --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Our last testifier--we saved the best for last--Zhantell Dudoit-Lindo.

MS. DUDOIT-LINDO: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Don't start the timer yet, I get plenty to say.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Take it away.

MS. DUDOIT-LINDO: Mahalo, Council, for coming. We always look forward to you guys coming to Moloka'i, and then I just wanted to round off this with a couple of thoughts. I wanted to acknowledge, for the record, that this County has been working really hard to figure out and negotiate the Moloka'i Ranch lease between the County and getting the pickleball field. And...and Darin has been pounding the pavement trying to do that, and so has Keani. So, if there's anything that I would like to say on behalf of all the pickleballers and everybody else that is utilizing those fields, it really is urging the Mayor and urging the County to do something about the lease that has expired since 2014 on all of Moloka'i Ranch properties that the County sits on. It's...when it comes to the Planning Commission, it's irresponsible for us to spend millions of dollars on property that is not ours, but we do need safety, and if we still using them, the Parks is stuck in a pickle, and they need help with that. Secondly, I just want to thank our Councilmember. I don't think very many people see how much work she does to secure monies for all of this, but I would like to ask the Councilmembers in each District to consider a plan for homelessness that might help us to combat that issue. I believe that a District-specific data collection in each District, specifically formulated to find actual numbers, to weigh out resources and natural landscapes, to look at possibilities of what we already have in those districts and how each District is significantly different in the way we approach homelessness, as opposed to this cookie-cutter method, is the start of us figuring that out. Unlike any other County in the State, or pretty much in America, we have this microcosm of like all different types of districts with different economic, social, cultural...all kinds. So, the cookie-cutter approach that's being led currently is not going to answer our problems. But I do believe that it's going to start with accurate numbers and asking the community to take part in solutions and piecemealing it like that won't be as overwhelming as the way that our Department of Housing, and how our County has been--and State--has been trying to look at the problem. That's one thing. The second thing is, I watch

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people over and over again ask for money from the Council and out of grants funds. I think that it's very responsible for us, whether by proviso, or by administrative rules, or whatever it is, to require that grant funding attach to it a way of becoming self-sustaining in a number of years. As we go forward, having less and doing more . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I think there needs to be a concentrated effort in trying to figure out ways that people become responsible for not just asking for money every year. And I do know that there are some people who cannot help it...you know, there are programs, but there are a lot of people that can figure out ways to at least supplement that so that the funding is more responsibly used. And so, that's all I got to say. Oh, and DMAP. Kanoe wanted to say please support DMAP later on after we help out with all the fire and...and all the stuff. But thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Member Sinenci, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Lindo, for your testimony. I did...on your issue on homelessness, I did ask the Director if...you know, that was going to be one of my priorities, was to add more workers, help in...in the homeless program, and she said no, that doesn't help her. The...the three people that are in her homeless program is more for administrative, and they're not going actually out to do the work with the homelessness. So, as the Chair of the Committee...Commission on Houseless Solutions, do you guys need funding to...to advance your work on the Commission?

MS. DUDOIT-LINDO: The answer is no, not to the Commission right now because in order for us to function like that, we need staff, and we don't have staff. So, that wouldn't be an appropriate place, I think, right now. But I do think that just from what I know about your District priorities and your ability to...to reserve some of your District-specific funds that can come through OED, where nonprofits in your District can apply to actually do the work, I think that...and...and I do have...in case you're interested, the Commission does have a presentation on the District-specific plan if you ever wanted to invite us to your Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes. You got it.

MS. DUDOIT-LINDO: . . . *(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. And then I have a clarifying question. When you say...when you said in your testimony regarding the phase-out of grants, are you speaking specifically to Economic Development

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grants, or are you including Watershed Protection grants, or Human Services grants? Are...are there --

MS. DUDOIT-LINDO: I think it --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because that all grants are --

MS. DUDOIT-LINDO: I think I'm speaking of grants in general. Like, I think that it's...when I look at 20 years of funding something with not even a blurb of how you can sort of kind of become self-sufficient, or get matching funds, or like try to help yourself, and then it becomes you cut my funding so I can't do this, I mean, I just think...you know, that's our tax dollars. We should be required to have one plan that is more than just being dependent on Government. You guys the first guys everybody blame, so if you going...we going blame you, make it...make us responsible for figuring out how we going to become self-sufficient and build capacity in our communities rather than become dependent. That's colonization at its worst.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No other questions? Thank you. Was that the last testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yep.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, thank you very much, all of you, for participating. And thank you very much, Daniel...oh, Dan?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Dan.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Dan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Dan, for filming this so that we can share it with the rest of the community. And at this time then, this meeting is now adjourned. And it's 7:51 p.m. And please watch for yourselves on *Akakū* at a future date, right, because it's not live. But --

MR. EMHOF: It's live.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it is live? Oh, fabulous. All right. Watch for the replays also. So, thank you very much for everything you're doing, and this meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ACTION: **DEFER** pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 7:51 p.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:min:240415-Moloka'i;jay:lt

Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

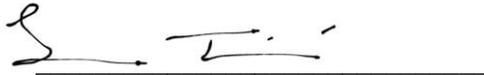
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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 48 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 3rd day of June 2024, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Logan Tsuji", is written above a horizontal line.

Logan Tsuji