

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

MINUTES

March 25, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lanai Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Josiah Nishita, Managing Director
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Michael Lilly, Vice-Chair, Board of Ethics
Steve Sturdevant, Chair, Board of Ethics
Jasee Law
Others (9)

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee. And it is now 11:30 a.m. exactly. Today's an exciting day. We all received a copy of the Administration's version of the Fiscal Year '26 Budget, and it's now dig-in time for all of us. So, this meeting today is about the dig-in time that we're going to be doing, as well as to look at Bill 18, which is the salary for the...for the Board of Ethics, and hiring their ED. Welcome. And first, I'd like to call on Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Ohayou gozaimasu.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha kākou, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ohayou gozaimasu. Next, we have Vice-Chair Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and ohayou gozaimasu.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ohayou gozaimasu. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka and konnichiwa.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's a little late, ohayou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Konnichiwa is noon. Getting there. Next, we have Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Minasan, ohayou gozaimasu. Ikaga desu ka? Gabe wa genki desu yo. Lāna'i District Office...Lāna'i District Office wa dare mo inai desu. No one's at the Lāna'i District Office. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ohayou gozaimasu. Next, we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, and nobody's at the Kīhei Office to give testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I'm sorry, she's...she'll be coming, I'm sure. She's excused for now. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Konnichiwa, Chair. Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Konnichiwa. And Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, konnichiwa, Chair, and ohayou gozaimasu.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ohayou gozaimasu. From the Department of Management, we have Josiah Nishita, all of us know him, he's our Managing Director; Department of Personnel Services, Cynthia Razo-Porter, Director of Personnel Services; Corporation Counsel, we have Yukari Murakami, as well as Kristie Wag...Waggleworth [sic]. Are they here? I don't see them here. Committee Staff, we have Lei...oh, they're all online? Okay. Okay. All right. Thank you. Committee Staff, we have Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant; Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney, sitting right here in the front; Kirsten...Kirsten Szabo is our Legislative Analyst; James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; and Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary. Please refer to the last page for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting. And we have two items on our agenda, is...which is Bill 18 (2025), Establishing Section 2.56.080, Maui County Code, to Establish Pay Scales for the Board of Ethics, which was on our...which was voted in by the electorate; Rule 7(B), Proposed Fiscal Year '26 Budget for the County of Maui. Let's begin public testimony. Do we have any public testifiers?

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no individuals signed up to testify at the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Last call?

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, Chair, we do have an individual who is raising their hand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. That looks like Michael Lilly, the initials. Yeah. So, Michael, did you want to testify when we take up the item--I'm sorry, Mr. Lilly--or did you want to testify three minutes now? Can you hear me?

MR. KRUEGER: Mr. Lilly, we see that you're unmuted on our end...and...and on your end, but for some reason, we can't hear you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can't hear you. Oh, okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Mr. Lilly, perhaps you could try calling into the meeting instead, and we might be able to hear you that way instead?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you give him the number? Okay. We're going to...our Staff is going to give you the number, Mr. Lilly, so you can testify. *(pause)* Members, Mr. Lilly is part of the Board of Ethics and...and testified before us when this item came up to be placed on the Charter. So, I wonder, since he's having connectivity problems, can I establish him as a resource, and then we can figure out his connectivity, and take it up when we do the bill?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. In the meantime, Mr. Lilly, our Staff will assist you.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

MR. KRUEGER: We've...we've posted the testimony...the call-in number for phone testimony in the meeting chat. So, Mr. Lilly, you can refer to that to call in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, I'm going to move on. Is there any other testifiers?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, no one else indicated they'd like to testify at the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, I'm going to proceed. I'm going to close public testimony at...at this point in the meeting and accept any written testimony with your permission.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF THE MEETING . . .

ITEM 25: BILL 18 (2025), ESTABLISHING SECTION 2.56.080, MAUI COUNTY CODE, TO ESTABLISH PAY SCALES FOR THE BOARD OF ETHICS

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Members. So, the first item on our agenda is Bill 18, Est...Establishing Section 2.56.080 for Maui County Code to Establish the Pay Scale for the Board of Ethics, BFED-25. This is the first item on our agenda, and last election, County residents voted to amend our County Charter to authorize the Board the Ethics to hire staff starting July 1, 2025. We have been requested to take swift...swift action so the Board can begin recruitment. Assisting us with our discussion today is the Managing Director and the Director of Personnel Services. Cynthia Porter, you want to come down here, as well as Mr. Nishita? I thought I saw Cynthia here earlier. Thank you. Oh, is she online? Okay. Let's see...I'll be asking for opening comments first from the Managing Director, Director Nishita, as well as from Personnel Services, and then hopefully we'll hear from Mr. Lilly. Mr. Nishita, welcome.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members. Long time no see.

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

MR. NISHITA: Good to see all you folks again. I'll just offer some brief opening remarks. The--as you noted, you know, the Charter language was passed in the last election. It requires the salaries of the staff of the Office of the...the Board of Ethics to be established by ordinance, so that's why we're proposing this here today. You'll see in your budget

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packets when you finally have time to . . .*(laughing)*. . . go review them, that there are positions being requested in the FY '26 Budget for Board of Ethics, and the first three positions we put into this ordinance to be...to establish the pay scales. How we came up with the pay scales for the positions is, we utilized existing pay scales that we have through our union contracts. So, we have like-for-like positions with Administrative Assistant and Investigator positions that we have as civil service positions, and so we're asking the Council to consider pay scales that would be comparable to that. And then the Executive Director position, we provided the pay scale that is equivalent to our EM-8 positions, which is the highest civil service positions that we have in the County. So, that's...that's the rationale that we have on the...the pay scales that were identified. The Board of Ethics does have the position posted right now for the Executive Director. They can probably clarify when it...the time comes for their remarks, but the last I heard, I don't believe they had received any applicants to date in...in part, I would assume, or possibly in large part due to that we're unable to advertise a salary for the position at this time until it's established by ordinance. So, I think that would help with the recruitment efforts. The Office itself, you'll see in the budget, is falling under my Department to be administratively assigned to, and we can get into that later too, if needed. So, that...that would be kind of just brief opening remarks. The...the timeliness for this is so that we can get a pay scale set so they can start advertising that with the ongoing recruitment...and hopefully be able to collect all the applications, interview, and then make a selection before July 1st so that the individuals selected would be able to give notice to their current employer if that...if that's so the case, and we can get this office up and going by July 1st. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Director. Next, we have opening comments from Cynthia Razo-Porter.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Hi, can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay. Good morning, everyone. I am here--available to provide a resource, and to answer any questions that you may have. I have no opening comments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. And I see that Mr. Lilly, you have your hand up. You can press star-6 if you would like to--oh, okay. Mr. Lilly, please give us your opening comments.

MR. LILLY: Aloha kakahiaka. I want to thank the Council for sponsoring this Charter Amendment that was successfully voted in on. It is critical that we have this full-time staff, and the Charter, I know, set a cap of the salary of the First Deputy Corp. Counsel. We have advertised for this position, and...and the Board has established that--by the way, I'm...I'm...I'm the Vice-Chair of the Board of Ethics. We've established

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a page to interview applicants, but as far as I know, there haven't been any. And I...I think that until we have the salary schedule set so that we can advertise, it's going to be difficult to get applicants. But once we have that salary set by the Council, I think then we'll be--have applicants, and we can move forward. And we hope to have someone sooner rather than later, which is July...July 1 is the...is the date. So, we really look forward, and thank you for your kokua.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Lilly. And so, at this time...we have no other resources, just...just Mr. Lilly. So, Members, do you have questions for the resource?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, apologies. Could we do a last call for testimony --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. KRUEGER: -- after opening comments?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I thought we didn't have any testifiers. Okay. Do we have any testifiers for this item before we go into the questions?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 25 . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, no one else has indicated that they'd like to testify on this item, so we'll do a last call. If there is anybody who would like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. We'll do a countdown. Oh...oh, on Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. Here's the countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has indicated that they'd like to testify on this item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. With your permission, Members, I'm going to close public testimony and open...and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 25 . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time, I'd like to ask (*echoing*) Members if you have questions. It's echoing. I guess we're fine. All right. So, Member Kama, do you have questions for the resource?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I do, Chair. I think probably...probably Mr. Nishita. So, the salary for the Executive Director has to be between 110,000 and 157,000, and it says, Unit 13, EM-08. So, I guess that's the...the unit that they would...you're gauging it based on union wages, right?

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you, Chair. I believe the Charter Amendment itself specifically calls out that they...these positions would be exempt from civil service. But we wanted

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to have some kind of rationale on the range that we're providing the Council, and so the EM-8 classification was kind of the closest comparable we could come up with. It was something that Council's already familiar with. *(echoing)*

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oops. Okay. Do you have any more questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes. So...so, do other jurisdictions have paid staff for their Board of Ethics?

MR. NISHITA: Chair...Chair, I'm sure people can clarify me if I'm incorrect, but I believe the State of Hawai'i and City and County of Honolulu have Ethics Commission staff. I'm not aware if any other county does, but I don't know if Cynthia or...or Mike, if you guys have any additional information.

MR. LILLY: I can share --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Lilly?

MR. LILLY: -- share with you that the Honolulu Council...the Honolulu Council has had full-time staff since 1984, and the...the State Ethics Commission has full-time staff, and that's been long-term. And I don't believe the other counties have full-time staff.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Mr. Lilly, do you know if the salaries are comparable?

MR. LILLY: I don't offhand. I'm sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

MR. LILLY: It's been a while. I was on the ethics....yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Are you done?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee, do you have questions?

MR. LILLY: Yeah, I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No questions? Member Paltin, do you have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes. Can my camera be unmuted?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. You got that? Okay. They are working on it. I don't see you on...oh, there you go. Do you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For Ms. Razo-Porter, have you seen the position description and minimum qualifications, and is it in line with an EM-08?

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MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, the ED that I reviewed establishes that for the Executive Director, it shall be an attorney...let me read it out to you...which is what we're posting. Typically, our attorney positions are not classified, so they don't have an EM-8 ranking. I think as Josiah shared, you know, that's...they kind of wanted to align it with, you know, a salary schedule, just to--you know, as a starting point, but the qualifications for the position...let me find that piece of paper here...it's...shall be a graduate with a Juris Doctorate degree from an American Bar Association-accredited law school, a licensed attorney, and member in good standing of the Hawai'i State Bar.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, for a 12-year salary, what's listed in our book would be like 105,000, and is that...you don't know if that's comparable to what we're paying our Deputy Corp. Counsels?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Our Deputy Corp. Counsels are paid more, between 104...starting 104 to 162.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And the Investigator I is also comparable to --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: The investigator, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- to what we're currently paying our --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is it a specific position --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- investigators.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- description? Do you have...do you have a copy of the position description for a Board of Ethics Investigator V?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Let me see...I think that's what they say they needed, so I don't know that we actually reviewed the position description that is...will be in existence.

MR. NISHITA: And Chair, if I...if...if I may just real quick, I think what the Board's plan was to do was to get hired the Executive Director, and then work with the Executive Director to make sure that the position description and any required qualifications was, you know, included as a part of that discussion with them. I...I think they didn't want to just go out and determine everything without having the leader kind of in place.
...*(timer sounds)*...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I guess --

MR. LILLY: That's right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the...the only question --

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MR. LILLY: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is, why are they all eight-month's salary?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MR. NISHITA: Are you talking about in the budget, you're not talking about the ordinance itself?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Because if we're going to hire the Executive Director first, I would imagine the secretary and the investigator would be like maybe one or two months behind?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I'd have to check with Budget Office, but I believe any of the new positions that had been put forward, I...I think they're putting that kind of generic timeline on it with the anticipation that some of the positions are going to face some problems hiring and whatnot, and there'll be some savings.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Johnson, followed by Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My question has been answered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Well, I'm excited that this is being funded, and that the Board is going to have...be full-time to be able to answer citizens' concerns...address citizens' concerns, and address the issues promptly. So, I don't have any input on the...the salary range, but I'm just glad that this is happening.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That's all, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, point of information?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did see Steve had his hand up. I don't know if that's Mr. Sturdevant, and if you want like him to be a resource --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is Mr. Sturdevant on the call?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It was --

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It was just Steve.

MR. KRUEGER: We do see an individual connected to the meeting as Steve, but we're not sure as to his full identify. If...if you're all right, Chair, we can make him a presenter and see?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. If--could you...could you bring him in? Mr. Sturdevant? He's...yeah. So, you're the Chair, right, of the Commission? Can't hear you. We'd like to bring you in as a resource. Can you introduce yourself? Members might have questions for you.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we see another phone number connected. Perhaps that's Mr. Sturdevant. He's also calling in, so we...we've unmuted the other phone number as well.

MR. STURDEVANT: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Hopefully that helps.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And then he has to press like something --

MR. STURDEVANT: Hi.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- star --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Star-6. Can you press star-6?

MR. STURDEVANT: Yes, I'm --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there.

MR. STURDEVANT: I think I'm...I think I'm live now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. STURDEVANT: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I think I'm --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you introduce yourself, please?

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MR. STURDEVANT: So, yes, I'm Steve Sturdevant. I'm the Chair of the Board of Ethics, Maui Board of Ethics. And I have a question regarding...the salary that's being posted, we don't have any salary right now, so it's hard to really get--attract...people to attract to the...the actual application. But if we do find...you know, settle on a...on a salary now, can we actually--if it doesn't attract somebody, can we actually add to it later, or is this one-and-done type thing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, this is the range...we're establishing the range that you can...or Personnel Service can help with...with hiring this Executive Director, and it's 110...500 and...thousand--oh, I need to designate you as a resource, Mr. Sturdevant. Members, is that okay?

MR. STURDEVANT: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're...you're an --

MR. STURDEVANT: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- official...all right. So, the range that we are recommend...that is being recommended--who wants to speak about it? Do you want to speak about it, Mr. Managing Director?

MR. NISHITA: Well, Chair...Chair, I think the essence of the question is, can they come back to Council to ask for like a...you know, a increase in the upper limits of the range or whatever --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. NISHITA: -- the case is if they're not attracting individuals. And I...I think the short answer is yes, we can propose something to Council if there's problems in that area, although they will be limited by...the Charter specifically calls out limiting the Executive Director's salary to no more than the First Deputy Corporation Counsel. So, there...there will be an upper limit there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct. Did you hear that --

MR. STURDEVANT: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Mr. Sturdevant?

MR. STURDEVANT: So, that's...yes, I did hear that, and that answers my question. So, I think it would be good if we can...we can post that as soon as possible if...if you do come to an agreement today. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, that's what we're trying to do today, which is expeditiously support your action for both you and Mr. Lilly.

MR. STURDEVANT: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have Member Johnson, Miss--oh, I'm sorry, you're already done. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I do have a question. I'm not too sure who can answer this, so happy to take whomever answer. But for City and County, their...County employees can call the Board of Ethics for real-time advice on...if they have some sort of dilemma. Is that something we're going to have as well? And if so, how can that advice be actionable?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Lilly or Mr. Sturdevant?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Or Managing Director. Whoever.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, if I was, you know, let's say, an employee, and something was happening to me, and I didn't feel it was right...and I called and asked for advice, and they said, do it, or don't, or whatever, how do I ensure that that employee doesn't face any potential backlash, and that their advice can be actionable? Member...I mean, Member...maybe Managing Director can answer me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. So, Chair, I mean, ultimately, you...you know, we will defer to the...the Board of Ethics on this on how they want to set up the office, but my understanding from an...initial conversations with them was that regarding like the Executive Director position and whatnot, that there would be a way to like utilize this office to help filter, you know, concerns or complaints that are coming through to maybe do some, you know, less...initial groundwork or investigation into them to maybe come with some determinations for kind of...I don't want to say like low-level offenses, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. NISHITA: -- maybe things that aren't, you know, rising to a bigger issue or...or whatnot, to be able to get like, you know, quicker dialogue and quicker communication with individuals corresponding to the Board of Ethics. And then, you know, the Executive Director and their staff can make formal recommendations to the...the Board of Ethics who, as you folks know, are a volunteer commission that --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: -- you know, I think generally only meet about once a month.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. NISHITA: So, I think that additional assistance will get information and communication flowing a lot better between --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Good.

MR. NISHITA: -- themselves and potential complainants.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Good. I'm happy to support this, I just...we have an ED--well, we will have an ED, which I'm stoked about--I just...I would love to see that we have real-time advice so we can address some real-time dilemmas in the moment. And we can probably save us a few lawsuits we have in my Committee.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Mr. Lilly has his hand up also. Mr. Lilly? Oh, we can't hear you. You need to star-6 to unmute maybe? *(pause)* Can't hear you.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, Mr. Lilly, we can't hear you in the Chamber. We do still show that the phone...microphone is enabled on our end. You'll have to hit star-6 on your end to unmute. *(pause)* Nothing yet, Mr. Lilly.

MR. LILLY: Oh, okay. All right. Two...there are two issues here. We recently changed our rules so that our exec...so that our legal counsel can give real-time ethics advice by a phone call or an email, and you can do that now. And our...and Caleb Rowe has been giving informal legal advice. And once we have a full-time, that...that...that Executive Director of Legal Counsel would continue to do those kinds of informal advice, and people can rely on those in going forward. And the only caveat is that the Council has to have some confidence that it...it...it believes what we would rule on, and...and then the exec...then the legal counsel reports to us what...what informal advice has been given. And that...that's going on right now, and anytime you want...you have some urgent thing that you want to clear up now, you can call Caleb, and then later when we get an Executive Director. The second issue that you talked about is investigations. Investigations are really hamstrung because we just don't have staff. But once we have staff, they will be inde...they will be conducting investigations independently of the Board and moving forward, and that will expedite investigations going forward, and then they would bring any claims before us that needs adjudication. But...but you're going to see a lot more responsiveness by the Board with this full-time staff.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much for that answer. I'm so happy to hear that we have that available to our employees how. I do trust Mr. Caleb Rowe's advice, so I'm stoked that he's the one providing the services.

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MR. LILLY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you so much, Mr. Lilly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. LILLY: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, just a couple questions for Director Razo-Porter, if the Department will be doing the recruitment, and where would you be doing that recruitment? And also, who would be part...would be...the Board be part of the hiring process? Do they have a process to follow in that --

MR. LILLY: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . We're doing it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The Board will be doing the --

MR. LILLY: We do it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- hiring?

MR. LILLY: Yes.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you. Yes. So, we are currently recruiting for the Board...the Executive Director. As Mr. Lilly and Mr. Sturdevant noted, they haven't received any applications, probably because there is no salary associated with the position. But yes, we...we'll work with the Board, you know, to help promote their positions and, you know, kind of get that started for them, you know, whatever enter...you know, help they need in the process, we're willing and able to assist.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see Mr. Sturdevant has his hand up. Please respond. *(pause)* Mr. Sturdevant, can you hear us? Your hand is up. Did you want to say something? Star-6.

MR. STURDEVANT: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. STURDEVANT: So, I just want to thank you for...oh, this is Steve Sturdevant. Are you able to hear me now?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. STURDEVANT: Okay. All right. Good. So, I just want to thank Cynthia...Cynthia Porter, that she was able to get our job posting up. And, you know, I'm going to be looking at the resumes and...as they come in, and I...I will be collecting them, hopefully, and be able to do some research on them so I can present them to the Board so they can look at each individual, and we can make a decision as a...as a board on...on the Executive Director. And the same with the other positions that come up. If the Executive Director picks an investigator, then we would be a part of that hiring process also. So, yeah, we...we do want to be...we want to be hands-on in that, and we appreciate any type of help that can come from the County as far as getting the...getting the word out, you know, that we can add somebody to our staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- follow-up for Director would be...would you be using different types of websites to...to recruit?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We can. I mean, traditionally, we recruit on NEOGOV, you know, GovernmentJobs.com. We've used LinkedIn, that's...you know, it kind of depends on the position. You know, we kind of evaluate . . .(timer sounds). . . that. But in this case, I would think LinkedIn might be a good...another good place to conduct a recruitment.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. Great. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Sinenci. So, it sounds like you already have incorporated these positions into the new budget, Managing Director. Is that correct? Okay. And for the full year? It's not like...

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. I mean, full EP, but I think as Councilmember Paltin noted, with eight-months' funding for each position.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. And it sounds like timeline, you're already working on this, and it's in process, and you just needed this one segment in order to then attract some candidates...possible candidates. Thank you. So, I guess the important question is, how will this improve your Board of Ethics in...in terms of services and the ability to manage inquiries? What is the process utilizing this staff?

MR. STURDEVANT: So, the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Sturdevant.

MR. STURDEVANT: -- the proc...can you hear me okay?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. STURDEVANT: Okay. Yeah, this is this Steve Sturdevant. Yes, it will improve our process, and so...you know, as long as there's not anything that's really...we don't like this...you know, in cases where it becomes difficult for us to really pros... to prosecute as well as adjudicate, then it's...it gets to be a problem. But...and we've ran into that recently a couple of times, and so it may...that's...that's where it runs a little bit hard to...to do our job, is when we have to do both jobs. So, this will help us to be able to...to hear the issues, and be able to adjudicate the issues. That's what we...that's what the Board is all about. And so, when--we can't do all of it, so we're not very efficient at it, so--and we're all, you know, volunteer. So, it would be best to have the staff so we can do a better job at taking care of the issues that come up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. And Members, does anybody else have questions? If not, I will call for the question...call for the vote. Okay. So, thank you very much, everyone. Members, I will entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading, Bill 18 (2025), entitled, "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SECTION 2.56.080, MAUI COUNTY, CODE --

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- oops--TO ESTABLISH PAY SCALES FOR THE BOARD OF ETHICS," incorporating any nonsubstantive changes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook, and second by--who was the second?--Member Kama. Thank you. Any discussion? Seeing none. Okay. All in favor, say "aye." Raise your hand.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I guess we have eight "ayes." Member Paltin? Okay. Eight "ayes," one excused, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Motion carries.

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VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending FIRST READING of Bill 18 (2025).

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Congratulations, and thank you, both of you, for all your hard work to make this a reality. Thank you, Managing Director. Appreciate everyone. Okay.

ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (Rule 7(B))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, now we have the second item on our agenda, which is just talking...is talking about next steps forward. We all received the Mayor's Budget this morning, and I just wanted to go over, under a Rule 7(B) to talk about proposed Fiscal Year '26 Budget for the County of Maui. And this is the final item. It is now 12:07. Did you want to take a little break, or shall we just continue? Continue? Okay. And this is the final item on our agenda. As we propose...as we prepare for deliberations, I wanted to thank you for your feedback and willingness to make the process more efficient. I'd like to also review the approach we plan to take with department presentations with the goal of streamlining our meetings, reducing redundancy, and keeping the focus on the fi...fiduciary responsibility. So, I want us to focus on the Budget and not necessarily--I think all of us had--or some of us had the departments coming before you so you can...you know, like how many employees or whatever, which is current, and then we had questions that we have now sent out to all the departments in the new Fiscal Year Budget, which kind of digs in to some of the details that we often ask the departments when it...when they come to us. So, that is the purpose of why we are talking about this now. I'd like to open it up for public testimony, in case there is any.

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

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no individuals signed up to testify on this item. If there is anyone who'd like to testify, please identify yourself now. Chair, there's an individual approaching the podium.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, do I need to read the passage about public testimony? I think Member Law...Mr. Law comes to us very often, that he probably has it memorized, so I'm not going to read the long description of what public testifiers need to follow, but if you could say your name and...and --

MR. LAW: Jasee Law.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. LAW: Kula Uka --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Three minutes.

MR. LAW: -- Waiakoa Ahupua'a. And all's I would like in this Budget to see is a cardboard dumpster at the Kula Community Center. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. All right. Members, so now, at this time, I'd like to start on our discussion on increasing --

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- efficiency.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, ap...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'd like to close public testimony. No objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I want to start with some discussions on budget review, and Staff is distributing--did you distribute, yes?--example...an example page from the pro...proposed Fiscal Year '25 Program Budget depicting major changes to the Department of Prosecuting Attorney's Budget. I'd like to recommend Members to refer to pages like this in the Program Budget during your review, and focus on these major changes to the Budget instead of minor adjustments. In...in turn, I also ask that we use our meeting time to also focus on these broader changes instead of smaller ones, and...and I just wanted to know your thoughts on this. So, in your Program book, this is an example if you look on the...the pages of what is provided by the Administration, and it is in...it is in there for every department, and it talks about changes greater than 10,000. It...it'll bring up EPs and any kind of equipment changes or whatever, and it's tied to the Detail Budget, so what's in the Program Budget is consistent with what is in the Detail Budget. But this is a summary. It's a tool for you to use. And as you're

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looking at it, anybody have any thoughts? I see none. Okay. Member Johnson, then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, if I get this correctly, the changing of tax tier rates must be submitted to you--the...this Committee by Tuesday, April 1st?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wait. That's further down.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay. No questions at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We made that for you, by the way. Okay. I meant the tax thing, I don't mean the Program Budget thing. Okay. Anybody have any questions regarding the use of the Program Budget? Okay. That's going to be available for every department, and you can look at that as a tool for the toolbox. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, this sample is what we would follow...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, this is mine? Okay. Thank you. Go ahead. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, you're giving us this sample --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, a sample.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- to follow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And then are you recommending that we...we all use the Program Budget, and not the Detail Budget?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, you can do whatever you want. This is just showing you that what is in the Detail Budget, that's--what you're looking at is a summary. So, it says, changes, additions, or deletions that are greater than \$10,000. So, it's a tool for the toolbox. You can go through the Detail Budget, you can do all of that. I'm just trying to figure out how to --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, are you--did you folks go through the...all the 1,000 pages and make the changes, and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no, no, that's from the Administration.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The Administration gave you in--this morning--every department has this, but I'm just giving you an example. In this case, we looked at Prosecuting Attorney, and it was in the Fiscal Year '24 Budget. So, it's an example of what is in Fiscal Year '24

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Budget. But if you pull out the Program Book that you got from the Administration this morning at 10:00, you'll find similar general provisions for each department.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, this is a summary --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- of changes --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- for every major area --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- per department?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And the Budget Office did all of that for us?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And they do it --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They do it every year, and it is...it is --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But somehow, we don't follow it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, it's a document --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, you're saying this is the tool in the toolbox --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- we always had --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- that you're hoping we'll follow --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- this year?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...and Members, remember --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But who picked the 20,000 [sic]? Before, it wasn't 20,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's 10,000. It's greater than 10,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I thought you said that we were going to go for a change in 20,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, I'm--okay. If I said that, I was mistaken. It's 10,000, as is stated in this document.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, 10,000. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. It is...it is a reference that we can use, so when we talk about Budget. And what my office did was, we said, listening to all of you, that you don't want to spend Saturdays here, and you don't want to be here until midnight, and so how can we make ourselves more efficient? And the way that we came up with to make ourselves--us, the Councilmembers--more efficient is use tools that are available, and this is one. This is just a summary. And then you can look at the Detail Budget to find out what this is all about, right? So, this is one tool.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Can I ask one question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. That...this doesn't necessarily prolong our meetings, it's those long, long questions and whatnot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Going...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You...you getting to that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, all of you, right--and...and thank you very much, Kirsten, and James, and Staff--because all your questions were...have been submitted to the departments. The...the same questions, right, that we ask all the time, and we asked you if you wanted to add more questions. And I think Member...only Member Kama added more questions, but everybody else took it as is. And the departments will be answering that and sending it to us. What we are going to be doing from OCS, as the responses come

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back, it'll be placed on Granicus as a response to that particular item in Granicus. So, the questions will be one, and then following that, they'll insert the answers so that you'll see the answers from the department as you have requested.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. That makes me very happy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah. So, those are the questions. What did you say? Member Paltin.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Oh, you didn't ask me to bake cookies. That'll be even harder. Yeah. Yeah, you cannot eat chocolate, yeah? Okay. So...so, we...a second on the pretzels. I'd like to also draft a letter to the Budget Director requesting the departments to focus their reports on what has changed in their Budget instead of general operational details, right? So, I want us to--if we focus on the Budget, our meetings will be faster, I think, right? And if we read all their questions and answers...and we read all their answers, it'll take us exactly where we need to be. And I also would like to encourage the departments in this letter we're going to send to them is to not have a...not require PowerPoint presentations, unless...if you all want to have a PowerPoint presentation.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think that's an excellent idea.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Excellent. I hate when they give us PowerPoint presentations when it's right in the book. They do that all the time. I don't know why. I mean, they think that we--well, I guess they don't think very highly of us. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Oh, wait a minute. Okay. So, again, they're going to answer all our questions, which everybody had a chance to add more, right? And since all of you are returnees to this term, I think you're very familiar with the budget process, and the faster we can--or more expeditious and efficient we can be, then you will not have to come and work on Saturdays. As you know, our budget calendar has time reserved on Saturdays in case we never finish, but I'm hoping we don't get there, and I hope that we can finish our daily budget deliberations early enough so you can go have dinner with your family, Tamara, which was your request last year. And April 1 for your...your birthdays, Nohe. Okay. So, any thoughts? You're all fine, right? All right. All right. I wanted to also...I also wanted to know rounds of questions. Do you think one round of questions, three minutes each, will be kind of enough?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Depends on the department. We don't even need Liquor Com...Liquor Department. I mean --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was going to be one of my questions. You're answering another one of my questions.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're there. We're there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're there. We're there. So...all right. So, to that then, questions, is it one or two rounds, and three minutes, it'll be depending on the department. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We might need like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- three rounds for Mayor's Department, but okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I think we're going to have to need more than one round of three minutes because I think sometimes, when the discussion gets to the other end and it spurs something about a question that you have, then you might want to ask that question --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- because somebody on that end spurred your thought processes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, we'll...we'll leave that open, depending on the department. Another thing is just...I just wanted to remind everybody that when...when we do the Office of the Mayor and/or whatever department is on the calendar, the next morning, if you still have questions, please submit it to Staff at staff.bfed@mauicounty.us by 9:00 in the morning. So, it's on this sheet, but it's...it's...you know, what we've been...what we did last year. So, basically, if you have more questions that were not answered, please send it to BFED Staff in writing, and...and then we'll reach out to the department. I'm sorry, what, Member Kama? staff.bfed@mauicounty.us. Okay. That's clear, right? And then the next question--I think you answered it--I wanted to know if there are any departments that you think we may not need to hear from. I believe that the departments are starting to reach out to my office regarding what their new budgets may be --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't think --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- we need Liquor, or County Council.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think we need --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Chair Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- County Council because we need to make changes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, only Liquor. Is that the only department that you think we don't need to hear from?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, the--I would like us...I would like to see us spend very little time on the departments that are self-funding, like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Water.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Water or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: DEM.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you know, Wastewater, and like that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For those statements? Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't mind Wastewater, but I certainly want to talk to Water.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, right now, we only have Liquor; is that right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wastewater.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you don't want to talk to Wastewater? Well, we're going to get a --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What about East Maui Water Authority?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any others? East Maui Water Authority, Members? We do not have to hear from East...East Maui Water Authority, Liquor...I want to hear from Wastewater. Okay. I'm going to delete those two. Did you get that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could we say like which ones we feel might go faster, and which ones might go slower?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. For me --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Which one may go faster?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, the...I was going to start with the slower, and then --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You go slower.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- everything else would be fast. So, Parks, Public Works, Human Concerns, Mayor, Managing Director--slow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Slow. I want to say...did--you said Human Concerns. I'll...I'll add Housing. Anybody else, Members? Okay. So, are you assuming then everybody else will be faster?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's kind of my assumption.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I mean, I'm open to other peoples' feedback if they want more time with any department that hasn't been mentioned --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- by me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, these are slower, right? So, Finance, Personnel, Parks is slower, Water is slower, East Maui Water Authority is out...let's see...Fire, Public Safety is going to be faster, right? It's not on the slower. DEM, Planning, Agriculture. You're all fine?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They're faster. Okay. Prosecuting Attorney, 'Ōiwi Resource.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think faster, personally.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Faster? Okay. Management, including Office of Recovery. That's going to be slow.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, slow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes? . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Okay. Human Concerns, we have that on the list, and Housing is on the list. Transportation, that's faster, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. For...for now, until the CDBG kicks in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Public Works, that's slower.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, I don't think we need to hear from the Auditor either.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. We'll take out Auditor.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can we though--to clarify, when we send you our department questions, they will still respond, they just don't need to come before us? We will get our answers, if any, through correspondence to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- written correspondence? Okay. Good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And we have --

MR. KRUEGER: Chair? Apologies. Could I...could Staff request like a really brief recess, like one minute?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Anything for you, James.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 12:30 --

MR. KRUEGER: I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 12:25. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 12:25 p.m.
RECONVENE: 12:28 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Okay. Thanks for the brief recess. So, I would like you to consider this. Instead of us coming up with a list today--I think we kind of have an idea of the departments we probably don't have to dig into that deeply, but we haven't had the chance to look at the Budget because we just got it. So, what if we do this? This came from Staff. Instead of us--and we'd probably come up with a very similar list--but look at your Budget this week, and on Monday, come back with a list of those departments you think you do not need to spend so much time on. I am particularly interested in where the DR funds are going to show up in the Budget. I haven't had a chance to look, and all of you haven't had yet, in the CIP or wherever the Action Report is...is taking the County, right? So, there's some really important actions or...yeah, actions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They won't turn in the final draft until April. March 31st is the deadline for comments, so they turn it in to HUD, and then HUD has 45 days to get back. So, it might not be during this budget process that we find out.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting. Makes it even more interesting. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But if you look at the chart in the Action Plan, you can see that most of it, 900 million, is going to Housing --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- and then 300 to Infrastructure and...so, there's only like five or...yeah, five breaks...pie...pie sections. And so, it's...and then...yeah, I don't think it's...it's going to be settled for some time because they have to agree to it, and...and right now, the big thing is when we approve the administrative cost. So, yeah, I don't think it's going to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 80...87 million or something.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So, I don't think we're going to see that breakdown too soon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Lots to learn. But at your request, the Administration, they probably offered first, is that the reports that they give regarding the DR funds, we...we will receive a copy, Chair, through your County Communications. And I'm going to schedule it so that you all can look at it and we can, you know, make sure that we have the progress that we need. And we have six years to spend this, the DR funds, but there's also the State Revolving Loan Funds and the, you know, other funds that are coming with this. So, it's not only the HUD CDBG-DR funds, there's...there's lots to it. But anyway...Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. You did mention the...the additional--are we receiving the revolving funds? Is it Appendix B also?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You mean --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Today?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, what do you mean?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That additional...the binder?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh...oh, the bills. So, you're looking for the --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, the bills.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- bills.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: The bill.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: We haven't...so, when I left my office to come to this meeting, we hadn't received the bills yet. Upstairs, Lesley Milner said they were waiting for David Raatz, I think, to sign off on the bills, so I'm not sure; is that correct? Do you have any update on that?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, yes. So, the...the bills have...have made their way to the County Clerk's Office at this point, so...so they...they're in process. Admittedly, we haven't...you know, we have to go through the direct referral process to bring them into Committee, and we'll...we'll be able to do all of that once this meeting concludes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then, Mr. Krueger, what about district copies?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: Do you...are you referring to like the Program Budget copies for each of the Residency Area Offices?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: We are already in possession of the binders, so Staff will be reaching out to coordinate the delivery or...or to...to give those binders out to the Members.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was fast. You mean all the copies are made?

MR. KRUEGER: Not all the copies. Specifically for the Residency Area Offices, we have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: -- I believe we have...Budget Office provided those copies. But the other extra copies that the Members will...having, those are being created.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Very good. So, next, I would like to also discuss using a template that is drafted and was passed out to you for your priorities. The templates would streamline information-gathering for Staff, and enable a quicker return for the compiled data. So, it is this one--this...this document, right? So, it shows your--put your name in, budget bill proposals, residency area, two proposals, Countywide is five, and grant conditions are two. So...okay. Got it? So, use this form so that it will be easier for the OCS Staff to compile it, and come up with their list. So, it's due...does it have the due date on this? Due date is April 17th at 9:00 a.m. for these priorities. Do...do you see that? It's on this...it's on this sheet. I'm sorry, what? It's due April 17th, 9:00 a.m. Member--Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And do you have one like this for the district?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can make one.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, you're going to make one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we can make one, just so that it's easy. And all of you should have received from OED a list of your current priorities, and I...I don't know if there's a status of it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, they did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They did? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: They did send. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That...that was helpful.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So, when do we get to talk about raising that district allocation?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: When we go through Budget. So, you're talking about instead of 140,000, you --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- want to raise it? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can talk about it. Not now, but we can talk about it. That will be one of your priorities.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Huh?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that one of your priorities?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Of course not. That...that's for everybody, so it cannot be my priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How can that be my priority?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. She's just trying to delete it, you know? Okay. You guys are my witnesses. Thank you. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you got the template? Yes?

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Can we do this digitally?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Staff, please answer.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So, we just distributed physically for the Members' convenience --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: -- but we'll provide the...the digital. It's an Excel --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: -- document.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And then can you make one --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Peoples' handwriting is horrible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for the district priorities also? Okay. Very good. All right. So, I'm going to put this aside, we're done with that, and Staff is going to create a similar form that you can submit regarding the district priorities--the residency area...140,000 at the moment. And so, the last thing--oh, that's not the last thing. I think you may remember that last year when we were discussing real property tax rates and tiers, that there was some discussion from the community, as well as from Members, that actually wanted to change what we already had published and submitted to the...submitted to the public through *Maui News*. I guess it wasn't *Maui Now* at that time, but through *Maui News*, and we weren't able to change it. So, we wanted to talk about this early on, and look at any suggestions that the Members may have to propose any ranges, right--as ranges to be considered. And please submit this to Staff by April 1. Got it? Okay. And last, we have a simplified version of the Budget Session calendar. Did we all get that? Did it come out? Is that this? We're going--using this format? Oh, okay. So, same format. But basically, what we did was, we took all the departments and the schedule, and we took off the internal ones that we have to file for first reading by this day, or we have to do *Maui News* posting. We took all of that because that's OCS Staff. So, you can see how hard they work just to get us to where we want. But this...this document then has just departments and highlights. So, you can look at this generally every single day so you can tell which department we are talking to, as well as...oh, we don't have the...we don't have the budget...the residency--oh, here. And on the backside, it has which residency area meetings, starting from Upcountry all the way to Makawao, on April the 15th. And due dates, department questions on 3/31 to 4/3 due at--the departments that are being discussed during that time period is discussed on March 28th at 4:30, and all other departments, March 31st at 4:30. Got it? So, look on the back of this. It has other deadlines that are relevant to everybody. Proposals, RPT ranges, April 1st at 4:30. OED...residency area grant conditions, 4:15 to 4:30,

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4...April 14th at 4:30. And all other priority proposals, April 17th at 9:00. Okay. Got it, yeah? And that's it. Do you have any questions, Members? Do you have any thoughts?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have a thought.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have a suggestion to the Members. It...it's less taxing if you attend from your house online. So, like if you're really tired, and you can't come to Wailuku, please don't come, okay? Because you're just...if that's going to cost us meeting on Saturday, you know --

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- it...it's better you stay home, relax, you know, and take it easy, and still be with us online. Okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's her perspective.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All of you are welcome to be here.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're so funny, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I meant it. I wasn't a joke... . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you...you notice that when--this is my experience of being online. Can--like I'm trying to like, oh, get your attention. It's...it's very different when you're online versus in-person. So, in principle, I try to be here online--I mean, I'm sorry, I try to be here in-person because then it is easier to, you know, communicate and--oh, you could read the body language of your fellow Councilmembers, you know, which is another part of communication that gets lost online. Chair--Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you can mob the resource during recess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Correct. Correct. Okay. Any other comments? Oh, this is great. Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I...I want to say this is my fifth budget. Some people have been at this a lot longer and some people not so much, but one of the things that I do when I reflect on our budgets is, it works well when this is a framework and not just so hard. Like we--there are going to be times when we don't agree, but maybe somebody thought outside the box that didn't really follow this suggestions. So, I think

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if we come in with that attitude, Members, we'll go really smooth. You know, yes, you know, Chair worked hard on this procedure, but let's work together and not--you know, let's help each other, and...and it's for our community. So, I...I just want to say that I...I tend to bend some of the pro...pro...rules, processes a little bit and...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We noticed. Just kidding. Just kidding.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, don't...don't hate on me. That's all. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Anything else? Oh, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And one of the things I look forward to is visiting all of our constituents in your district...dis...other different districts so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- I'm looking forward to...to hearing from our communities and, of course...so, I know it's...it's, you know, a big ask, or going through to the different districts, so just make sure that everybody's well-hydrated and healthy for the tour.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. We'll...we will always wait for your food, Member Sinenci. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I just wanted to add that...following up with what Member Johnson said, you know, it's actually much more gratifying and satisfying as Councilmembers when we work together as a team. Like if somebody...if we...we hit a bump in the road, and everybody puts all their minds and efforts to fixing that problem, that's way more satisfying and...and I...I hope we take that attitude to every meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cooperate and communicate. Okay. So, I--my Staff is telling me to remind everybody in--on Monday, in writing, if you could submit what departments you think we do not need to hear from after you review the Budget. So, this is new. I know we...we already decided next week Monday we'll hear from all of you after you have time to review the binders that you received today, and then which departments you think we do not need to hear from, and maybe which departments are lots of information that we still need, that we definitely will spend more time with them. Okay. Anything else, Members? Did I miss anything? Okay. Thank you very much for working hard on all of this to get us to this moment. And we have a lot of important work ahead, and I look forward to working with all of you. So, at this time, I would like to defer this item and...with no legislative action, and we will be in budget mode forever. Well, until the ending of April. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (Excused: KRF).

ACTION: DEFER.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 12:42 p.m.

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Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

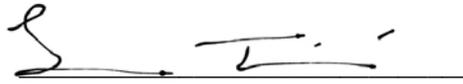
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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 33 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 23rd day of April 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

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

Logan Tsuji