BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

March 31, 2023

Mitchell Pauole Community Center

CONVENE: 6:06 p.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 (online via BlueJeans)

Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (online via BlueJeans)

STAFF: Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst

Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst Stacey Vinoray, Committee Secretary Maria Leon, Committee Secretary

Online Via BlueJeans:

David Raatz, Deputy Director

Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst

Lesley Milner, Senior Committee Analyst

Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Analyst

Eric Abe, IT Support

Additional staff

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Kate Griffiths

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:

Noelani Ahia Sarah Sexton Braedon Wilkerson

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office

Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lanai Residency Area Office

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka'i Residency Area Office

OTHERS: Kira Kai Yamazaki-Gray

David Kangas
Aniohi Abille
Kuʻulei Arce
John Poe
Joseph Howe
Patty Ann Ellis
Hamau Howe
Macy Hiro
Brent Nakihei
Donna Gamiao
Leila Anasazi
Jamie Winfrey
Alice Kaʻahanui
Daniel Juario Jr.
'Iolani Kuʻoha

Kelma Lee Namakaeha

John Pele

Kanoelani Davis Edwin Mendija Jenny Senas Suliana Aki Fred Aki III Jais Iruka Ka'ree

Zhantell Lindo Mahina Poepoe Hanale Lindo

ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI

Note: Audio difficulty experienced throughout the meeting)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . (gavel) . . . Lucky to be here on Molokai and thank you very much for coming to be with us. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I am the Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee, and these are the Councilmembers. I'm going to have Keani introduce everybody and welcome. Oh – . . . (inaudible) . . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair. Chair.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't know, yeah. . . . (inaudible) . . . And can Councilmember U'u Hodgins and Chair Lee also hear us? Thumbs up? Okay. As you know, I'm Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and I will, I guess, start with...with our online. From the representative from . . (inaudible) . . . Wailuku and . . . (inaudible) . . . Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You're breaking up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: We can't really hear you but Aloha everybody.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can you see us?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Yeah, a little, we can see you but it was kind of spotty the –

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The voice.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: -the voice, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello, everybody, I'm here, in my workspace alone with my little puppy outside. And sending a lot of love and aloha to all the people of Molokai.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay, and then to my far right, we have Councilmember Tom Cook from South Maui, representing all of you. And then from the Lanai residency area, Councilmember Gabe Johnson . . . (inaudible) . . . and then from Kahului residency area, our Committee Chair [sic], Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then our Budget Committee Chair, Yuki Lei Sugimura, from Upcountry Residency Area.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then from the West Maui Residency Area, Councilmember Tamara Paltin. And finally, from Maui hikina, East Maui, Councilmember Shane Sinenci. We're all excited to be here again, tonight. And we all . . . (inaudible) . . . And so, all of us together represent all of you. So, we're so happy to be here tonight.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Anything else?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Perfect. Thank you very much. Very good, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Your island we are on here so we look . . . (inaudible) . . . This meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. As a reminder that Councilmembers when your name is called, if you are attending virtually, which they did, please identify yourself and who's in your room. And, Keani has introduced everybody. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you that whenever we appear there's a lot of people who do a lot of work to make it happen, and besides, I want to thank Keani's staff because they helped put up flyers at Friendly Market. Zhantell, here she is, see she's working. Zhantell, wave to everybody. . . . (applause) . . . And, and (inaudible) . . . Please wave. Thank you, she's Committee Secretary. Maria Leon, Committee Secretary, also, thank you both of them. And Jarret Pascual also the Legislative Analyst. Sitting at the table I'm hear -- . . . (audio technical difficulties) . . . And there's Darin, I don't know your last name Darin, thank you very much. He made sure . . . (inaudible) . . . So, appreciate it.. . . (inaudible) . . . First in person meeting after Covid and we wanted to bring that back and hear from you with a listening session for us so we can actually hear what is happening on Molokai and things that you think are important for the County Budget for Fiscal Year '24. We will sit here and listen. You'll have three minutes to testify with a 30 second wrapup. A buzzer will go off and then you'll have 30 seconds to complete your thoughts. So, at this time I'm going to ask Jarret to call out the testify - oh, that's right, he's here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Paige.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Paige. . . . (inaudible). . .

MS. GRECO: Chair -

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Paige, please.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay, we did it once already or twice. I think it's working again.

MS. YAMAZAKI-GRAY: Hello?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Hi.

MS. YAMAZAKI-GRAY: Sorry, I lost my voice. Aloha, my name is Kira Kai Naeha Yamazaki-Gray and I'm testifying in support of the Maui Economics Development Board Economics [sic] Development Grant under the Maui County office. In 2021, I was given the opportunity to work in the STEM internship in ag. I was placed at Pu'u Hoku Ranch where I worked in different departments including biodynamic farming, native plants, and conservation. That was, it opened the door to current employment. It also gave me a stipend that I will be using for college. It also allowed me to make a lot of connections and figure . . . (audio interference) . . . I'll be studying at University of Hilo, University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I'll be using my stipend for my tuition and it . . . (audio interference) . . . pushed me to take it although I was really busy student, but, it was really worth it. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cool. How exciting. Anybody have questions for her? Seeing none, okay thank you. . . . (applause) . . . Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is David Kangas to be followed by Aniohi Abille and Ku'ulei Arce.

MR. KANGAS: Welcome to all of you after all of these months away. I represent myself and all of my friends. Much gratitude and Mahalo for giving me this opportunity to tell - okay, thank you. Much gratitude, please, and Mahalo for giving me this opportunity to tell you very respectfully that your services in Kuliona are greatly needed, wanted, and useful on Molokai. . . . (audio interference) . . . food distribution and everything. Every year your Staff service in Kuliona are always improving especially during the holidays. Your crew here are always very kind, obliging, patient, and understanding. Especially responding and answering our requests for calm and special help. Over 12 years ago, I moved from Seattle to Molokai and began using your benefits, particularly with bus and food help, of which my friends, their families, and I deeply appreciate. Believe me, my friends of all ages and backgrounds would wholeheartedly agree with me and that the daycare center, I understand, is very wonderful. Please continue funding for Molokai. My friends, their families, and I, totally feel the need is great and not to be reduced and should honestly be greatly increased. Obviously, the cost of living here is really going up like never before with groceries, gas, personal services, rent, and obviously buying homes. We really hope and pray our fiduciary and personal challenges will be beautifully resolved with your kind help. Much

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

Mahalo, again. We realize your help in good conscience patience and understanding with our sincere and important needs and challenges will help us succeed. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Could you state your name, again David?

MR. KANGAS: David Kangas. And you said, Kangas, that's the way to say it, better than I do. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Anybody have questions for him? Councilmember U'u Hodgins, Chair Lee, anybody have questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: Aniohi Abille, to be followed by Ku'ulei Arce and John Poe.

MS. ABILLE: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. ABILLE: I, so this is my first time testifying in any way. But, since I moved back about five years ago with my daughter, as a single mom, it's been a pleasure having the services because I go dialysis, and it helps me with transportation to and from. It's a -- takes me shopping and other places if I have to visit family. Sometimes a pulehu where I can't, you know, it, it helps. And I really appreciate the . . . (audio interference) . . . on my daughter and my behalf cause she does use it for school also. And, yes, this is a, this a very good program for my personal self that I can kind of, would've struggled more to make it if it wasn't for the pro, for MEO, and transportation and all that so, I'd like to thank you guys for continuing the funding. This is a blessing and just for the near future and the future beyond I like to just be grateful for every moment and every time that we have together and hope to see you guys in the near future and yeah, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well said. Thank you very much. Anybody have questions for her? . . . (applause). . . Seeing none. . . (inaudible) . .

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Ku'ulei Arce to be followed by John Poe and Joseph Howe.

MS. ARCE: Hi. Aloha, everybody.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. ARCE: Welcome to Molokai. So, wait now, little bit too high, I think. Okay, so my name is Ku'ulei Arce. Oh, these glasses. My name is Ku'ulei Arce and I am the

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

project, the . . . (inaudible) . . . and I believe you have a printout there from our program. So, it's an honor for me to serve my kupuna in the many ways my team and I have served them since July, 2021. Most of the kupuna have been or are still a part of my village that raised me. So, for me it's not just the . . . (inaudible) . . . gratifying. So, a little history on this program. In July 2021, I was approached to run this program post-Covid for kupunas and to kind of . . . (inaudible). . . thought to myself while I'm unemployed but I like to collect unemployment. So, I figure well, what is six months? Cause they told me it's six months, okay, so as we're going through this thing we're trying to think how are we going to bring the kupuna out of their isolation? They've been there for 2 . . . (inaudible) . . . it started with at that time, hair salons were closing down. So, right . . . (inaudible) . . . and, so we . . . (inaudible) . . . So, I had a friend visiting from Vegas and she wanted to do the haircuts. So, . . . (technical difficulties) . . .

MS. GRECO: So, it's coming out -

MS. ARCE: -- long silver ponytails and went out with . . . (inaudible) . . . it was how they . . . (inaudible) . . . we tried to do different services. The next one we did was the lomi lomi. So, we started . . . (inaudible) . . . everybody that had her loved the program. So, . . . (inaudible) . . . one practitioner now. . . . (inaudible) . . . we just need more practitioners to practice, you know, to do the lomi, do the work. So, from there we kind of added podiatry because as the kupunas came in they were . . . (inaudible) . . . They had a hard time bending over so we brought the (inaudible) . . . for the day and he does 42 sets of feet every time he comes over. And our. . . (inaudible) . . . number of seats that we can fill. So, lomi (inaudible) . . . so, . . . (inaudible) . . . The Mayor came to our facility the other, last, two weeks ago -- . . . (alarm sounds) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MS. ARCE: Okay and I think he was impressed with the . . . (inaudible) . . . and the kupunas love the program. The real big thing that is my takeaway from this program is the . . . (inaudible) . . . we ask kupunas to come in. We sold it to the for fifty dollars, but we bought them . . . (inaudible) . . . What we did was the fifty dollars and a . . . (alarm sounds) . . . handshake saying that they would come to all the classes. So, they did. So, when we first started we emailed 100 kupunas. Every time I sent out a newsletter it's emailing 100 kupunas and we make . . . (inaudible) . . . Now,--

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got to wrap up.

MS. ARCE: -sorry. Okay, now, . . . (inaudible) . . . So, that number is switched. It shows that how, how good our kupuna are getting with technology. Thanks to (inaudible) . . .

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have questions? Stay, stay right there Kuʻulei. Here, Member Kama.

MS. ARCE: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm scared to pass you the mic.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, in working with the kupuna regarding computer . . . (inaudible) . . . be able to have telehealth . . . (inaudible) . . . to that direction?

MS. ARCE: And actually, we have. So, because we got the computers, you know, kupunas still. . . . (inaudible) . . . is really good so. . . . (inaudible) . . . the kupunas (inaudible) . . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: ... (inaudible) ... the capacity in their homes for WIFI, broadband, etcetera.

MS. ARCE: ... (inaudible) ... for all this internet, right. And then ... (inaudible) ...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, thank you.

MS. ARCE: You're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Chair Lee, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just to let you know that the sound is not coming clear. It's not clear.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Shall we take a short recess?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We'll hear a few words and then it goes silent, and then another few words and then it goes silent. Just to let you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. Did you have a question for Ku'ulei Arce?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Tamara has a question for you. Councilmember Paltin has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for your testimony. I just was wondering how much funds were you requesting and do you know if you are already in the Mayor's Budget?

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

MS. ARCE: I'm not really sure if we're, oh, we already in? Okay, and it was 600,000. That's what we did with last year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. ARCE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is John Poe, to be followed by Joseph Howe.

MR. POE: Hi. Welcome. Thank you for coming to Molokai visiting The Friendly Isle. It's a beautiful place and anyway...thank you for being here. Thank you for listening to us and I'd like to lift up and say much mahalos for supporting the kupuna program and I'm following the leader of the program and she just spoke and don't get rid of it. Please don't because it's a lifesaver to a lot of people here. Just like MEO is a lifesaver to a lot of people here. Without those two services we're like in a third world country. And, I have been helped by attending the lomi lomi sessions and the Dr. Pitt foot doctor up in Ranch Camp and it's been a, been a blessing. It's really helped me a lot and I'd like to just ask just please don't cut it out of your budget cause it's really needed in this island. And the meal program they offered, you know, they don't do it all the time but when they do, do it it's needed. And so, I'd just like to say thank you and I'd like to ask that you keep supporting the much-needed programs from MEO and the kupuna program. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Does anybody have questions for him, Mr. Poe? Seeing none, thank you very much. . . . (applause) . . . Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Joseph Howe, to be followed by Patty Ann Ellis.

MR. HOWE: Aloha, Council, and special aloha to Keani, our Councilmember. My name is Joseph Howe. This Andrea Yuen, her daughter, Natalie Yuen, and Kaimi Dudoit. We represent Kaunakakai Robotics. And I'm proud to say that we are the only Maui County team to make it to the World's Robotics Competition this year. . . . (applause) (inaudible) . . . Our robotics kids can fix it. Nah, nah. . . (laughter) . . . Our . . . (inaudible) . . . this year was very, very productive for us. It is the first year that a Molokai team won the Excellence Award at the state competition which is the absolute highest award that you can win in robotics. First year that Molokai brought it home and so, this year we are representing Kaunakakai with three teams going to Dallas, Texas for the Worlds. Okay, so let me get to the meat and potatoes, here. I just want to thank you guys for the funds. I understand, I don't understand specifics but I understand that Victorino

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

before, earmarked \$75,000, for Molokai travel, specifically for travel, and we just want to thank you so much for that and hope that it continues. Getting our kids to the world stage is a huge thing. That's huge for them it's, it's huge for Molokai. It puts us on the map. Our kids are going to be meeting and interacting with kids from all around the world: China, Korea, England, Ireland, all over the United States and they're going to compete at the very highest level. So, in the robotics world they are going to the Super Bowl. Okay, so that's what we're doing right now, we made it to the Super Bowl. So, one thing that's going to happen this year that's unique is that Hawai'i is going to be considered an indigenous, separate entity in the Parade of Nations. Now, the Parade of Nations, they go around, everybody carries their flag, and they walk around. There's Ireland, China, South Korea, all these guys, and Hawaii was lumped in with United States before. This year, we're going to be separate, and our kids are going to be part of that representation. The . . . (inaudible) . . . So, so, we've been to Worlds once before back was given to every year where it takes a lot of funding to get our kids off this island, get to Iowa or to Dallas before it was Kentucky. But it takes a lot of funding. We have the eight-person team . . . (alarm sounds) . . . three coaches. Oh! I wala'au too long.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

- MR. HOWE: Sorry. So, . . . (inaudible) . . . Ka Alahele Grant. I think that's the grant that supports us. But, I just want to thank you for that and I want to beg you to continue it. Thank you.
- CHAIR SUGIMURA: Congratulations! . . . (applause) (inaudible) . . . Robotics Team, family, thank you very much. Next testifier.
- MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Patty Ann Ellis to be followed by Hamau Howe.
- MS. ELLIS: Aloha, my name is Patty Ann Ellis and I am here to speak on behalf of MEO Head Start Program. First off, I would like to say Mahalo for continuing to fund that program. My family and I are grateful and appreciate the MEO Head Start Program because it gives my child the opportunity to attend preschool and be around children, their peers...around children their own age, and is able to learn and play. I am grateful as a parent because I am able to go to work while my child attends preschool. She learned so much from MEO that she is able to write her own name and know her numbers from 1 through 10. Please consider funding MEO Head Start Program for the fiscal year. Thank you, Mahalo, and have a great evening.
- CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions? . . . (inaudible) . . . Seeing none, next testifier.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

- MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Hamau Howe, to be followed by Macy Hiro and Brent Nakihei.
- MS. HOWE: Aloha, everyone, I am Hamau Howe. I'm the PCNC at Kaunakakai Elementary School. But I'm here tonight as a Mom and as a community member. And I am asking for you folks to consider funding for a Boys and Girls Club here on Molokai. We're not here to take away from any other program which we don't have because the youth center had closed down. I'm not sure where, you know, as the PCNC I been...a lot of parents have asked me if we're, if I know that the void is going to be filled with another program and I really don't know. But I met with a group of us community members met with the Boys and Girls Club yesterday and I think their program is such a great program. It's a positive program and the program provides a safe place, positive role models, and it empowers our children to be confident in who they are to connect and build positive relationships and to empower them to reach their full potential. And I think that's what our keiki...well, not think. I know that's what our keikis [sic] here needs. It, it serves from our young keikis all the way up to our teenagers, and right now...right now they don't have an outlet or somewhere to go. A lot of our children, you know, they need the...the help with homework, they need some kind of outlet, you know, and I think the Boys and Girls Club would be a great opportunity for us here on Molokai. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. ... (inaudible) ...

- MS. HOWE: Yeah, we did have and then now, it's not...we don't have it any more so, I'm not sure if it's ever going to open again. But, yes, we don't have anything here for, beside sports. But we also, you know, we have children that are not in sports, and they need somewhere to go.
- CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you. Members, any questions? Oh, Member Paltin has a question for you.

MS. HOWE: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Howe. I just was wondering what is PCNC?

- MS. HOWE: Oh, okay. I'm the Parent Community Networking Coordinator and so, I'm in the community a lot trying, try to...I find partnership with the schools in meeting the needs of our children and our families.
- COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, if the youth center was closed, is the space that it was in still available to be used?

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

- MS. HOWE: Right now we...there is a club that is using the facility. We're not asking to take over the facility. I'm not sure if there's other options but I'm sure we can figure this out as a community.
- COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the staff from before from the youth center, they could work or you get people?
- MS. HOWE: They would have to apply and the CEO, her name is Kelly, I can't remember her last name.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Pearson.

MS. HOWE: They provide all the training and we go, of course we go through background check and everything, but, there is training provided. And, they have a training, ongoing training, and meetings every week for the safety of our keikis.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. HOWE: Mahalo. . . . (applause) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? ... (inaudible) ... Seeing none, next testifier.

- MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Macy Hiro, to be followed by Brent Nakihei and Donna Gamiao.
- MS. HIRO: Hi, Aloha, I'm Macy Hiro. I'm a parent of MEO Head Start. I was here in front of you folks nine years ago to ask for your funding so that shows what this program does for our community and the keiki in our community. The funding, you know, this program doesn't only help our children grow it helps us grow as parents as well. It provides us the opportunity to work. They helped give me information on starting my own business. Me and my husband as now are business owners, and we ask for your continued funding for the next year. Thank you.
- CHAIR SUGIMURA: ... (applause) ... Thank you very much. Any questions? Seeing none. Next testifier.
- MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Brent Nakihei, to be followed by Donna Gamiao and Leila Anasazi.

MR. NAKIHEI: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

MR. NAKIHEI: My name is Brent Nakihei. I was born and raised on Molokai. I live on Hawaiian homestead land in Kalama Ula. I'm here as a concerned parent and homesteader. And Molokai's lack of services for ages 7 years old to 17 years old. So, we have this age population of keikis that are falling through the cracks from two o'clock in the afternoon to seven o'clock at night. I'm employed by the State of Hawaii Judiciary and Molokai's only Juvenile Probation Officer, and I see firsthand the challenges that our youth face. I'm asking to increase funding for the Boys and Girls Club to expand to Molokai. Prevention, when we talk about prevention, some kind of program like the Boys and Girls Club on Molokai is a piece and a important component as far as preventing the kids from getting into trouble doing criminal activities. So, the more our kids are, are participating in positive activities that's less chance of them participating in negative activities and I see that firsthand. So, I'm just here to ask that you increase funding for the Boys and Girls Club of Maui to expand to Molokai. Thank you. . . . (applause) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any question? Thank you very much. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Nakihei. I was just curious, does the State Judicial have funding of programs that could also partner with the Boys and Girls Club?

MR. NAKIHEI: Umm...that is a higher level pay than I get so that would be one question for them.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, we can look.

MR. NAKIHEI: I really don't know. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We can look, yeah. Thank you.

MR. NAKIHEI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Donna Gamiao, to be followed by Leila Anasazi and Jamie Winfrey.

MS. GAMIAO: Aloha, Councilmembers. ... (inaudible) ... Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear.

MS. GAMIAO: For those on Molokai and also on Maui, I'm here to testify on health care on Molokai and what has become...I don't why they call [sic] we're becoming the

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

sickest island in the state. We no longer have enough . . . (inaudible) . . . in that last year we lost two primary care doctors who had the largest patient population base. First was Doctor Bill Thomas who passed away in September. He had 1,583 patients. Followed by my kauka, Noah Emmett Aluli. I was his Office Manager. He had the largest practice. We had over 1,753 patients. We are losing ... (inaudible) ... maybe they don't like Molokai. ... (inaudible) ... I have been in medicine for over 25 years. No, gone . . . (inaudible) . . . records. Gone are the days of reimbursements. There is no equality to the equity of care. There is no equal pay. Our counterparts on, in urban Oahu will make more than here. We are now facing, we have a retired APRN, we are losing . . . (inaudible) . . . So, in the transition we have 4,391 patients in and out of the current providers who cannot manage all these patients in one day. Monday through Friday. So, 64% of the population of Molokai is going through this and who does it affect the most? Our kupuna and our keiki. Presently, on an average our ER system, Molokai General Hospital, 29 admissions on the weekend. Not...that's kinda, wanna say surprising because that's the weekend, doctor's offices are closed. Weekdays, 18 to 20, when I asked they said because . . . (inaudible) . . . When they ask, "I need a prescription," sorry you got to wait. You got to wait. No more time. .(inaudible)... Or I don't want to wait five hours. So, this is our solution, there's myself, Kaohi Manu -- . . . (inaudible) . . . those who has urgent care who has approached me from December to give me condolences when our kauka passed. And then in January she said I had the solution -- . . . (inaudible) . . . on Molokai it's the State, it's nationwide, we have a shortage of primary care doctors -- . . .(alarm sounds) . . . oh, sorry, which is the line...so my ask is start-up funds for 51,000. We have, and I gave the handout, we do have...we worked really hard in getting a proposal for a private funders [sic] but it's been delayed. We are two months out. We want to start the service now and not wait.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Does anybody have questions? Thank you very much.

MS. GAMIAO: Umm, Tom.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, who has a question? Oh, sorry. Member Cook, then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: ...(inaudible) ... I mean do you have the facilities? Is it a matter of having the health care professionals? Where and how do you accommodate patients?

MS. GAMIAO: We have the facilities. We have the Staff. We just need start-up funding because our proposal to the private funders are now two months out and the need is now, not later. We just need, we're just asking for start-up funds.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, this would be for medication and just all the medical stuff or it be for salaries?

MS. GAMIAO: It would, it would be for everything.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Everything?

MS. GAMIAO: Yeah, like how the budget shows to get them here. They are going to stay on Molokai and work throughout the week.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you so much.

MS. GAMIAO: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One more question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, no, thank you. My question was asked. Thank you -

MS. GAMIAO: Oh, you're welcome. Hi, Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -my question was answered. Sorry, I was going to ask the same . . . (inaudible) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo for your testimony. I was just curious, does your clinic operate under Queen's Hospital?

MS. GAMIAO: No, it's a private practice.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Private practice.

MS. GAMIAO: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you.

MS. GAMIAO: Okay, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um, Donna? Mahalo for your testimony this evening. Okay, so my question is, so, for this...the budget session for the fiscal year that we're convening for starts on July 1st. This budget that you proposed for us, when would it start? And then, when would it end?

MS. GAMIAO: We're actually asking for, if any way we could get monies now? Cause we, yeah, the funders are putting us two months out, so, we're looking at July. Yeah, we just needed start-up funds.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, so now, and then for like maybe two months? So, this proposal is for now until?

MS. GAMIAO: Just two months. Yeah, that's all we need. That's all we're asking for. Just to get them here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, we'll, we'll -

MS. GAMIAO: And open the doors.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll talk story more after because for this budget session it starts July. So, if you're looking for now and then two months, then this budget session would be too late or this, for this fiscal year that we're working on. But we can talk story more after.

MS. GAMIAO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

MS. GAMIAO: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ... (applause) ... Anybody else? Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Leila Anasazi, to be followed by Jamie Winfrey and Alice Ka'ahanui.

MS. ANASAZI: Good evening. I'm Leila Anasazi and I just want to speak on behalf, or in favor of the MEO Transportation program. I think it's bit of an invisible program, but as I ride that bus, I see a wide range of people traveling around to get a variety of benefits for their life from healthcare to groceries, to just a socializing. People coming in to swim or Zumba, or that kind of thing. I think it's probably difficult to measure the human benefit that you derive from the money that goes to that program, but when I see each of us getting on and off that bus it becomes much more real. And I know that it enables us to do a lot of things that otherwise we would just be isolated and too far away from the things that we need or want or being part of the community. So, thank you for the money for that and please, please, keep on with it. Thank you.

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

MS. ANASAZI: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. . . . (applause) . . . Next testifier.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

- MS. WINFREY: Aloha. I'm Jamie Winfrey, Acting Captain with the Maui Police Department here on Molokai. I would like to speak in support of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui and ask that they be given more County funding with the hopes of them expanding their reach to Molokai. Last year on Molokai, police made 70 juvenile arrests ranging from violations to felonies. Over 70 percent of those juveniles arrested come from broken homes or they have parents who have gone through the legal system themselves. We need to find an alternative for our youth so they don't end up becoming adult offenders. The Boys and Girls Club focuses on four core values: academic success, healthy lifestyles, character, and leadership development, and social, emotional healths [sic]. One of the major stresses for a parent is getting their child to complete their homework and helping them with it. This program offers that assistance. They have a proven track record locally and nationally. Statistics prove kids can flourish when they feel safe and when they have a strong support system. Molokai has a lot of youth sports programs but offers no alternative for those who aren't interested in sports. I believe the Boys and Girls Club can fill that gap. People always say that the children are the future. But let's not forget they are also our present. Thank you for your time. ... (applause) ...
- CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. . . . (inaudible) . . . Seeing none, thank you very much. Next testifier.
- MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Alice Kaʻahanui, to be followed by Daniel Juario, Jr. and 'Iolani Kuʻoha.
- MS. KA'AHANUI: Aloha and mabuhay. I'm Alice Ka'ahanui. I'm the manager of our 13-year-old Molokai Arts Center, or MAC, our island's only 501(c)3 non-profit arts education program. I'm also, organization. I'm also the President of the Kaunakakai Filipino Association, Molokai-Lanai Outreach Coordinator for Fil-Com Cares, and a member of the Molokai Middle School Community Council, and Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association. On the State level, I'm the secretary of the Hawaii Museums Association, Partner for State Foundation on Culture and Arts, Arts First Team, and member of Ola Hawaii Community Engagement Core Advisory's Board. I mention all of this because I am appealing to you, the County Council, to ensure those of us in the non-profit sector promoting culture and the arts, education, and health . . . (inaudible) . . . servicing our rural oftentimes neglected Molokai community . . . (inaudible) . . . access, . . . (inaudible) . . . Kealoha program which enabled us to bring Molokai to the arts and arts to Molokai. We . . . (inaudible) . . . many on Molokai don't have access to museums or concert venues. If you don't have the resources you don't have access. The Maui OED sponsored program allowed residents of all ages to create and explore their artistic spirit at low or no cost. At a time when the pandemic squeezed out our social, emotional learning through art, cause we know the arts aren't really

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

a priority in the schools or they're not prioritized, Maui OED recognized the need for a third . . . (inaudible) . . . who are kept silenced for two years due to funding to earn a living again. It helped pay for instructors and subsidize costs to operate the classes. We're grateful for funds that allow us to partner with agencies such as the Molokai Rural Community Health Association. There's a distinct joy in the eyes of the kupuna when they create their own ceramic plate or bowls alongside their peers. They thoroughly enjoy the classes as a kupuna . . . (inaudible) . . . The kupuna themselves have even asked us to help expand their access to our arts program. Contrary to . . . (inaudible) . . . and pottery. Recently we hosted Chamber Music Hawai'i who performed the Hawaiian language dramatization. We had artists and musicians from our neighbors, Oahu, and Maui to throughout continental U.S., Spain, and even Bali, just last year. . . . (alarm sounds) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MS. KA'AHANUI: We are. . . (inaudible) . . . Halawa and a screenwriting class by an award-winning TV screenwriter. We're the fiscal sponsors for Molokai Instrumental Music Education Program, Malama Molokai Wellness whose Saturday market was also subsidized by OED and help artists sell their work, Hokulani Children's Theater of Molokai, and Teoraroa Tahitian dance company. We're a small island, oftentimes we get, we don't get the grants or funding because we don't have the numbers, or maybe . . . (alarm sounds) it seems that we are duplicating services by other Maui agencies. We have great partnerships between our schools, agencies, and organizations on Molokai. I hope that when you consider the . . . (inaudible)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is the name of your nonprofit? Sorry.

MS. KA'AHANUI: Molokai Arts Center.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Molokai Arts Center.

MS. KA'AHANUI: But we also support and work with others like the MEO bus transportation, Kupuna Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. KA'AHANUI: Thank you. Oh...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have questions? Member Johnson.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for your testimony. Just a quick question. I appreciate all the work you do for nonprofits. Have you met with the Mayor before this budget to speak on your needs?

MS. KA'AHANUI: Not thoroughly. I did, we did mention it to him.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay. Just like when he came -

MS. KA'AHANUI: Yeah, it was basically . . . (inaudible) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: --that's, I, I mean I, I'd want to make sure that he was, you know, like I...I want to make sure that's everyone's voice is being heard and if, if, I'm happy that you had at least had him, a chance to speak with him.

MS. KA'AHANUI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much.

MS. KA'AHANUI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anymore questions? Seeing none, thank you. . . . (applause) . . .

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Daniel Juario, Jr., to be followed by 'Iolani Ku'oha and Kelma Lee Namakaeha.

MR. JUARIO: Howzit Councilmembers, thank you for your time. My name is Daniel Juario, Jr. I'm born and raised here on Molokai. I have a little, I have little to no business knowledge and schooling-wise background in business. I have taken through MEO, through MEO I have taken the Core Four Class at least four or five different times and each time I took it I got wiser and wiser. The business planning and development through MEO Business Development Center office has helped me to elevate my current branding Deer30 from a startup business and into something that has potential to be viable and sustainable. The business plan helped from the Molokai BDC office has been helpful and encouraging for me as a local boy who only knows how to hunt, fish and dive. Due to the inconvenience of my current health condition which is ESRD and the inability to work normal hours, I needed something that would increase my income to cover the cost of living here in the islands. Being a single parent and a small business owner, I want to be able to pass on my passion and my knowledge of hunting and gathering to my daughter. The MEO Business Development Service is helping me to make this a reality for myself and my teenage daughter. I ask that you continue to support and fund the, actually all aspects of MEO, and especially the MEO Business Development Services. Thank you.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry. Thank you so much. I also took the Four Core Class [sic] by MEO and I, I learned a lot as well. I guess this is more of a point of information rather than a question, but, there's a grant out there called the Mumford Grant that used to only be for the Lanai Community but the opened it up to Molokai as well. And as a graduate of that program, I think they, they look highly on that so if you're looking for more funds for your business you can speak to MEO on the Mumford Grant. That might help you. Thank you.

MR. JUARIO: Thank you.

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

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is 'Iolani Ku'oha, to be followed by Kelma Lee Namakaeha, to be followed by the individual joining the call...joining the call from the number with the last four digits 5-1-1-4.

MS. KU'OHA: Aloha mai kākou. My name is 'Iolani Hamakua Ku'oha and I am going to speak on behalf of three different organizations that actually touch my life. First of all, I am born and raised on Molokai, graduated from Molokai High and Intermediate School. I am currently the Vice-Principal at Molokai Middle. . . (inaudible) . . I have been at Molokai Middle for 18 years, and currently I am the President of the Molokai Arts Center. So, I am here to kind of put it in a nutshell how all of your support has affected not only me as a teacher but me as the President of Molokai Arts Center, and I just want to share how Molokai Arts Center has affected my students at the immersion. Like Alice, our Executive Director, shared that arts is not a priority but it is. . . . (inaudible) . . . wanted to share that my students were so excited, they're so excited to attend every Wednesday. We would go over to the arts center. And, so, that has affected them. They've competed in art programs. They've actually done our yearly event which is called the *Soup or Bowls*, where the kids do performances at . . . (inaudible) . . . UPLINKs and REACH. And, so, with UPLINKs they have connected to Molokai Arts Center and students were able to participate in that as well. And, along with that, we also have with our UPLINKs . . . (inaudible) . . . Economic Development Center, development center. And so, we have STEMworks. And so, I, as a teacher, was very, like I am a huge fan of the MEDB program and so I just strongly ask for your continued support for these program [sic] Molokai Arts Center, yeah, our Upreach [sic], UPLINK and our REACH program which is an athletic program, and UPLINK does everything else as well as our Molokai Arts Center, UPLINK and REACH, and MEDB. Mahalo.

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

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

MS. KU'OHA: Thank you. ... (applause) ...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Kelma Lee Namakaeha, to be followed by the individual joining from the phone number with the last four digits 5-1-1-4, to be followed by Kanoelani Davis.

MS. NAMAKAEHA: Aloha, my name is Kelma Lee Namakaeha. If I knew you guys was the ones who was going to listen to me I would have talked to you guys on the plane. (inaudible) . . . I'm here to testify on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club. I...I'm born and raised on Molokai, grew up on homestead up at Ho'olehua, have been living in Kaunakakai most of my life. But, five years ago child welfare hired me as a social worker. Got my Master's like maybe seven years ago. The State hired me and the other day I called Brent Nakihei and I was like, hey, you know, these kids who's falling through the cracks, we cannot help them because the parents is not abusing them. The kids is abusing the parents. And, Brent, is like I going have them maybe in a couple weeks but, you know, there's a gap that the kids . . . (inaudible) . . . Molokai, for the kids. So, I am wanting to ditto off everybody. . . . (inaudible) . . . Like they said, we had a meeting. I went on social media and I said who wants a Boys and Girls Club? We need a committee. And like 20 solid people said sign me up. We met yesterday via virtual and was amazing. Their program is amazing for kids. I just recently found out that the youth center is not running and on my social media post, you know, the youth center is closed. And then I got a message from Karen. . . . (inaudible) . . . but, apparently they are not a facility for . . . (inaudible) . . . or . . . (inaudible) . . . the kids need something on Molokai because, yeah, they need help.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I have a question, are you done?

MS. NAMAKAEHA: Yes. . . . (inaudible) . . . I think a mid -- . . . (inaudible) . . . I don't know, but, . . . (inaudible) I don't know but -- . . . (inaudible) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Are you guys . . . (inaudible) . . .

MS. NAMAKAEHA: -- first,

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there.

MS. NAMAKAEHA: - so, I, in halfway through (inaudible) ... one step (inaudible) ...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Are they in the works? They're open to it?

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

MS. NAMAKAEHA: Yes. ... (inaudible) ...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Namakaeha. That's 250,000 that they don't have inside there right now?

MS. NAMAKAEHA: Yes. . . . (inaudible) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seeing none. Oh, now my mic working. Okay, thank you very much. . . . (applause) . . .

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is joining by phone. The last four digits are 5-1-1-4. You're unmuted on our end. If you would like to testify please press start four and begin your 3-minute testimony.

MR. PELE: Aloha, can you guys hear me? Sorry, you guys are cutting out pretty bad, so, can you hear me?

MS. GRECO: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. PELE: Aloha. Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for attending this workshop on Molokai. My name is John Pele. I would love to have been there in person but unfortunately, I am traveling during, for work. But, anyways, I'd like to cover a few subjects if I may? First, I'd like to start off with some of the CIP projects I would like you guys to consider for Molokai. . . . (inaudible) . . . Our Kaunakakai wastewater management plan I think is something that we need to key on to, it's, it's been noted over the years that it's at capacity and with the recent storms that we've been having it's a real concern to me. I think when I was on the Planning Commission there was a study done that when they ran some of the pipes in Kaunakakai there was almost a million gallons of water a day that flowed into the system which kind of, kind of brings that to a capacity. So, that's one of the projects if you guys could consider. Some of our water infrastructure has been deteriorating lately, too. As a business owner, you know, at Hotel Molokai we've lost service a few times over the year, and when we lose service like that, we lose business. We have to shut down and . . . (inaudible) . . So, it's effect, it's kind of affecting to us. Another thing I'd like to mention, you've heard from all the 501(c)3 entities and I would please encourage you to keep funding the 501(c)3s, and how, you've heard how important they are to our community. They are, you know, the backbone. We have MEO, Molokai Community Health Center. You heard from the Arts Center. They're all very vital to our survival on such a rural island. You also heard from Donna and the health care services

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

and I think that's important, although I know she might be a little bit late, or early, for funding now. Me and my wife have both been affected by the health care shortage on Molokai. We've had to move our health services to Maui. We, we're having our first appointment actually on Monday with our new doctor. So, really a cumbersome, cumbersome event.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Pele are you still there?

MR. PELE: Sometimes – yes? Yeah, can you hear me? I'm still here. Are you guys still there? Hello? Hello? Hello?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is he, are you still on the call? We lost...oh, there you are. We lost you for a while, Mr. Pele.

MR. PELE: I'm still here. Can you hear me? Da-da-da.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We can.

MR. PELE: Hello? Hello?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: John, we're, the people listening can hear you.

MR. PELE: All right, okay, cool. So, where did I leave off at? I'm sorry, where did I leave off at? . . . (audio interference) . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Your first appointment is Monday.

MR. PELE: Yeah, okay, so that, just wanted to stress how important funding for medical services on Molokai as me and my wife have now have a new doctor on Maui and so we have to travel for our appointments. Lastly, I mean not lastly, actually, what I should touch about...can you hear me? Nobody can hear me?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We can hear you. ... (audio interference) ...

MR. PELE: Okay, can Yuki hear me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you.

MR. PELE: Okay, Molokai Police Department. I'm sure Chief Pelletier might be putting in some CIP projects to locate that station that we have Molokai to a new spot which I think is vital for our first responders, they're key and I think

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

they need a new facility to conduct their business. They're sitting in the flood zone right now with a very deteriorated police station that should be upgraded or at least relocated. And lastly, I'll go out of the box here, you guys have probably heard about our air transportation to Molokai. And I know there's no County purview to it. But what I'm asking you is to consider this January, Senator Schatz put through the appropriations bill awarded Hawaii 63 million dollars for public transportation. Which funneled down to the bus service here on Molokai. So, what I'm asking this Council and this government to look at is . . . (alarm sounds) . . . I'll wrap it up I hear the bell. Is to look at the possibility of considering a ferry system as Molokai's public transportation and accessing some of those appropriation funds. In the now or in the future, but try to work on a system where we can at least try to get a ferry system to Molokai so at least we have some service to get off island because we're not going to get into the airline situation. I know it's not under County purview and I'm sure you guys have all heard it before but if we can look at using some of those, getting creative with some of those monies maybe we could service our needs . . . (alarm sounds) . . . on Molokai because we're desperate. And that's, thank you for listening.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Does anybody have questions for him? Member Sinenci?

MR. PELE: Can't hear.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Pele, for your comments. Just to let you know, I'm working on federal funding to get the Lanai County Ferry approved by . . . (inaudible) . . .

MR. PELE: All right. That, I can't really hear. But I think you're, you said you're working on the Lanai Ferry, so, I hope you mean it that maybe could move that to the Molokai side, too.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. . . . (inaudible) . . . The firm that Lanai-Maui Ferry had was saying that . . . (inaudible) . . our . . . (inaudible) . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. . . . (inaudible) . . . Seeing none. All right. Thank you very much.

MS. MILNER: Chair, Sorry. This is Lesley. Can we request a brief recess, please? The sound, we're having some serious issues right now.

MR. PELE: Yeah, serious issues, but thanks guys. Have a good night.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thanks, John.

MR. PELE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Recess 10 minutes. . . . (gavel) . . .

RECESS: 7:10 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:24 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ... (gavel) ... Testing, testing. Shall we start? Yeah, okay. Member -- ... (inaudible) ... We going to start. Members, we have seven more testifiers. Here's Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Thank you, everybody. I think we got our sound fixed, hopefully. Okay, I'm going to gavel back in. ... (inaudible) ... connectivity problems, I think we've got it resolved. We only have seven more testifiers so I appreciate your patience and we will begin. So, the next testifier, please.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Kanoelani Davis, to be followed by Edwin Mendija, to be followed by Jenny Senas.

MS. DAVIS: Aloha mai kākou.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MS. DAVIS: Mahalo for being here and taking time to listen to testimonies. I come on behalf of several hats. As many of us have been coming up here I'm gonna talk on behalf of Ho'akā Mana Native Hawaiian organization. I'm the Executive Director for this organization and we have a Pualauhala Small Business Accelerator program. We, basically it's expanding small business intelligence and we service the indigenous strengthening communities bv native Hawaiians and ... (inaudible) ... on Molokai. We service retail and service businesses, as well as, agricultural and farming. We focus on introducing the following to the fellows, financial assistance, access to the capital, contracting, procurement, marketing, operations, business development and exporting, industry specific training and more on mentorships. currently work with...we are funded with MEDB and the SBA who have created a pilot program in regards to a community hub and spoke model. And so, this is the first year that we're servicing Molokai. We have about 17 small businesses...sorry, I'm just scrolling through this. And some of the workshops are around...not necessarily starting a small business but

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

more on expanding their businesses, scale, ensuring they're in compliance through the County, through the State, through DCCA. The nice thing is that we have out of the 17 small businesses, we service 92% native Hawaiians, 92% are women owned, a 100% are minority owned, 8% disability owned, 8% veteran owned, and 100% of our small businesses from the rural communities of Molokai. We have 92% that are not Hispanic, Native Hawaiian, Part-Hawaiian, dominates the ethnicity space with 92%, followed by 33% Asian, and 17% African American. So, this program is a pilot program, so we are hoping that MEDB gets more funding and we are able to continue this program and the success of the program. Part of the cohort requires the fellows to come to all the workshops. They're also going to Merrie Monarch so they're going to get their taste in what it takes to make inventory, market, all the things that you need and also, you know, take a little bit of the fear of being from a small island and going to that what we consider the big ocean of small businesses. And I, as my other hat, is I'm also a small business owner for Pomaihina Designs so I get to walk with them and I wish I had that when I first started a small business of . . . (alarm sounds) . . . having that mentorship is important so that we can provide behind the scenes information. I also want to -

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, 30 seconds.

- MS. DAVIS: Okay, we got this. Okay, I'm also a fellow for Ka Ipu Kukui which is a Maui-based fellowship program which we need more Molokai folks to go in there because of funding we cannot afford the flights. We cannot afford going there overnight even from work. So, I hope that Molokai would be considered. I'm also here advocating for the Maui Girls and Boys Club because we definitely need that. I work within the community. I do free classes around hula. I teach hula . . . (alarm sounds) . . . part of that is helping our people find their culture, and their voice, and to remember who they are as a way to heal and to find their foundation. So, Mahalo.
- CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I have a question if I could? So, Ka Ipu Kukui. We do fund them and I think they do reach out Lāna'i, Molokai, as well as, Maui. So, are you saying that you've applied and they don't accept Molokai. Oh, you're a fellow?
- MS. DAVIS: I'm a fellow, yeah. I'm a fellow. Apparently, I'm the first fellow that's fully from Molokai that's part of this. I have to pay half of my tuition which I don't see as feasible partially because the cost. I have to leave early to get there to have a full day and then I have to stay overnight so that I can, you know. So, it's very inconvenient in that way. The benefits are great although everything is Maui-centric. Everything. Which is difficult because there's no voice for Molokai in there so if we can find more

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

Molokai-centric or Molokai...conversations, that would be even better. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Davis. When you were saying, funding for MEDB, is that in addition to what is already in the budget, more?

MS. DAVIS? Yeah. Right now, we...the budget that was allotted to us was only to serve 10 small businesses. As I mentioned before we have about 18 but I had to find additional funding to support those. It is hard for us to get that many small businesses active and wanting to participate. I honestly didn't think we would have 10. So, to have 18 is a...there's no words so we would need to, you know, foster them as best as possible. We need more funding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the percentages that you were saying that's based on those 18 businesses?

MS. DAVIS: Correct. We did do a survey throughout the community to see their needs and wants and who would be interested if we decide to continue the cohort and the fellowship into the next year regardless [sic] if we get the funding from SBA. There is an importance we're going to find a way to make it happen and make it work cause there's a call and demand for it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So. the money that MEDB did allot to you is enough for 10 businesses, but you have 18. I seen one other thing in the budget for small business promotion would you be able to apply for that for the other 8?

MS. DAVIS: Yes. Yeah, anything we can do to -

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know how much is that amount for the additional 8?

MS. DAVIS: The 8 we would need; we're looking at another 40,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PATLIN: 40,000.

MS. DAVIS: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Davis.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

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

MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Edwin Mendija, to be followed by Jenny Senas and Suliana Aki.

MR. MENDIJA: Aloha, Council, my name is Edwin Mendija. I'm the Cisco Robotics teacher at Molokai High School. Something I've been doing for what, 10 years now. . . . (inaudible) . . . just say thank you for continuing to fund us through MEDB. It's a...it's a...that's what the, honestly one of the things that's sustained us, that has sustained us throughout the years. At Molokai, you know, at...with the high school robotics program we're not just a competition program but we all . . . (inaudible) . . . this year was Robotics...Molokai Robotics Leagues where we not only ran competitions for all of the elementary schools on the island but we actually also, our students also took part in a student on student learning. They did, we mentored all the teams and, you know, three of our teams went onto their state championship and, you know, it's just something...where we're . . . (inaudible) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much and thank you for your good work. . . . (inaudible) . . .

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Jenny Senas, to be followed by Suliana Aki, and Fred Aki, III.

MS. SENAS: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MS. SENAS: I'm here on behalf of my husband and myself. We are here to support Molokai Rural Health Community Association. We're new to this program and I just wanted to say Mahalo to the Committee here and on Maui. I just thank you so much. This program has done a lot for me, myself. I get to go lomi once and I lucky, twice a month which is good for this 66-year-old body. I get food box. Today I picked up a food box for my husband and myself. That helps because we don't qualify for welfare. We don't qualify for food stamps. So, whatever we get we appreciate, you

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

know. Thank you, Jesus, for all the help. I've gotten to see our foot doctor, Dr. Pitt. He does a really good job. I've had a haircut. I've attended through Zoom and online different programs, you know, where I've learned...I've just learned what the different programs available to kupuna. Learning about dementia. I forget a lot sometimes. So, that's a good thing cause I not just learning for me but I'm learning for family members who are older than I am. So, it's really...it's really a blessing to have. And I've been doing arts and crafts. I mean, shucks, I should have brought my bag of tricks, you know. lauhala class, lauhala weaving is something I never thought I would do but I appreciate it, you know. I just wanted to say Mahalo to all of you for funding this program and ask you to continue in the next years to come because I mean at 66, now we get plenty kupuna out there more old than me and they're enjoying it, you know. So, Mahalo so much in all you folks do in funding. And also...on behalf of MEO they give us space when we want to do arts and crafts. We get to go to MEO office, and they give us space to learn. To meet up with other kupuna who love to do or love to learn. So, I just wanted to say on behalf of my husband and myself, my husband is Donald. He's in the kupuna program also but he also works part-time. But he brings his thanks here, too. But, Mahalo, good night and have a safe trip back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You too.

MS. SENAS: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Oh, Member Sinenci has a question for you.

MS. SENAS: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I was just wondering if did you get one of the

Chromebooks?

MS. SENAS: No.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You never get the Chromebook.

MS. SENAS: No. ... (laughs)... No, I didn't. Should I?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Well, I was just wondering yeah.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

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

MS. SENAS: Okay, I'll look into that. . . . (laughter) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, thank you.

MS. SENAS: I'm full-fledged kupuna now so I'll look into that. . . . (laughter) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Suliana Aki, to be followed by Fred Aki, III, and then Jais Iruka Car'ee.

MS. AKI: Aloha, my name is Suliana Aki. Pretty much born and raised here on Molokai. Graduated here and now back serving with our Molokai Middle UPLINK afterschool program. I am originally here because I wanted to ask that you guys continue funding MEO. Their bus transportation that provides our student athletes transportation to and from their activities, practices, but especially back home. So, Amy asked for us to come and I appreciate that because then I've learned so much with everybody's testimonies here today and not even knowing what is happening which we do have a lot of great stuff. So, I just wanted to say I'm here on behalf of MEO and I thank you guys for that. But with everything else that was being said I wanted to also ditto and piggyback off of one...why did forget, Ed? Yeah, Edwin Mendija, from Molokai High School robotics. We actually partnered with them and attended their meet out at U.H., Stan Sherriff, just last weekend so we had at least two of our middle school students that were able to join them and that was through our UPLINK Program. So, please whatever funds he's getting if you guys can increase it, great. If you guys can continue it, awesome. I, for that, and then hearing about the Boys and Girls Club, I think it's awesome. I used to live on Kaua'i. I know they all have Boys and Girls Club. I use dto be a volleyball for Boys and Girls Club and if that's something that you guys can fund I totally support that. Mahalo. I am an athlete still coaching, still playing, or trying to play. But, totally support that but I definitely support the student part as well. And, I just waned to say I support the healthcare. So, yeah, we've definitely Molokai has gotten a huge hit and so whatever funds that can help whatever they're asking for I totally hope that can happen. And then, the last thing was like Mr. Pele mentioned about transportation whether it's by boat or air, we definitely need some kind of assistance and I know you guys definitely working on that. So, thank you. Continue funding the services, and hopefully you guys do have funds that can fund other services that are asking for funds. Mahalo.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

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

MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Fred Aki, III, to be followed by Jais Iruka Car'ee, to be followed by Zhantell Lindo.

MR. AKI: Okay. Aloha, you guys. I'm actually born and raised on the island of Kauai but me and my wife been home for the past 10 years. Yeah, one thing she forgets to mention is that she runs a volleyball club. Yeah, and that come out of our budget. I don't know what budget? But come out of our "budget." Okay. I also run a . . . (laughter) . . . paintball club but I'm an advocate for the high school and the middle school and also the UPLINK Program which I'm "voluntold." Yeah like she said earlier, we get many hats, yeah, and I breathing hard cause I in pain right now, but, going stand it. That work you guys see in front of you guys is actually from our high school department. I work with a teacher over there I'm an EA. Yeah, so, I help with the kids who get, have challenging learnings so we motivate them. This is work from four students that we take them around on our free time and they go around and take pictures and they're model was to describe Molokai in one word or a picture, in this case. Yeah, I actually take the time and I go out and I sell 'em and it goes back to the department. They created their first shirt which we print here on Molokai at the school. We have students who do hats, yeah, because we change into academies now and I don't know. Does everybody else ask for funding? I no usually ask for funding but we will be submitting fundings for both our clubs, the school with the UPLINK Program, and the high school with the art department. So, I got to advocate for all of them. One thing that I do appreciate though is the MEO program, yeah. With their transferring the kids, yeah, we take the time and we bring kids around, too. Especially for our paintball club and her volleyball club. I going push for funding for transportation for those clubs and also for gear and equipment for the kids. We've...our paintball club we participate at the Hawaiian Legends on Maui at Olowalu, and we came back all 3 years in a row with the win. And it went from having 200 players to now up to 400 players. And our next big tournament is next year which Molokai will be representing the blue team and we've given the general spot and two XOs. So we hope to take more kids on that. And it all started with our fostering kids, yeah. And the kids that we fostered found their passion and I was able to use that passion and playing paintball to help them with their educational part, yeah, because we use Pono, ... (alarm sounds)... everything centered around one person, yeah. And then one person can drive off the next person to the next person.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

- MR. AKI: Yeah. So, the UPLINK program, I really appreciate the funding you guys give them, yeah. It is an avenue for the kids. Boys and Girls Club, like my wife said, Kaua'i, we strong with the Boys and Girls Club over there. So would be nice for have something over here. Thank you.
- CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none, thank you very much. . . . (inaudible) . . .
- MS. AKI: . . . (inaudible) . . . to say, Thank you Keani, cause I was a recipient of the chrome book. . . . (applause) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

- MS. GRECO: The next testifier is Jais Iruka Car'ee, to be followed by Zhantell Lindo and Mahina Poepoe.
- MR. CAR'EE: . . . (inaudible) . . . I'm a simple ... (inaudible) ... man. ... (inaudible) ... purpose. That kindly purpose ... (inaudible) ... Girls and Boys Club. They're all . . . (inaudible) . . . in collaboration of knowing what kupunas . . . (inaudible) . . . their experience, their ike, their wisdon what Molokai needs. And, my first question to the Council of Maui County is Molokai needing . . . (inaudible) . . . Is Molokai needing the participation ... (inaudible) ... of helping children be ma'a and pa'a, therefore they're courteous and ... (inaudible) ... taking care of the kupuna. ... (inaudible) ... acknowledge the mountain to the sea. We have a saying on Molokai. Life flocks to the mountain, life flocks to the sea. So, their ahupua'a system is relevant in Kanaloa, the ancient name of Molokai. The ahupua'a system probably originated here of Hawaii nei and the people . . . (inaudible) . . . created now as I speak . . . (inaudible) We are only a deviation . . . (inaudible) . . . In that triangle. So, give you a little konwledge, if we . . . (inaudible) . . . we'd have a voyaging program. We would have the . . . (inaudible) . . . not the . . . (inaudible) . . . music that's Molokai would be very special where ... (inaudible) ... So, I ask if we could seek out and share. Look into our hearts what Hawaii . . . (inaudible) . . . There's this thing called free infant energy, and I encourage you, I challenge you to do your own homework. ... (alarm sounds) ... (inaudible) ...

(Technical difficulty and sound is not available on the recording.)

MS. LINDO: My name is Zhantell Lindo. And first of all, I just want to thank all of you. I get to sit on the inside of this whole process, so I know how hard you guys' work, and I want you to know that I appreciate every one of you, and our Staff cause they're awesome, our OCS Staff. But, first, I would

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

like to support every single program that came up. The MEO HeadStart and Transportation, I benefit from that, too. But there's a couple important things, Boys and Girls Club. We in no way are trying to take away anything from existing organizations that are doing things for youths. We just feel that Boys and Girls Club already established can hit the ground running and would be one great asset to Molokai, one great benefit. The \$200,000 that we talked about increasing the budge from what they currently have so that they can function on Molokai --... (inaudible) ... our youth center with a previous. So, that's where that amount came from. We are in talks with Kelly and everybody is all excited about it. But if this year cannot 200,000, then maybe a pilot project that would help to get us started and bring them here, and we'll, I want you to know we also seeking out OHA funds and other funding to help match so that we not totally dependent on the County. I would also like to support the Firefighter I position. The Council last year did put it in. We all agreed it's necessary out in Manae where we have huge area. We only two emergency personnel, that's it. So, that third position was necessary for long time. Administration put it in but when they were directed by the Mayor to cut their budget by 10% every department needed to do something so we not blaming anybody, we just saying that we really need that if that was possible to put that in in some way. I would like to advocate for Darin's office assistant to go from part-time to full-time. And, on all seriousness, Darin get the biggest district in the County, and he get the smallest staff, and that's ridiculous. He directs all the way from Halawa Valley to Maunaloa, to Papohaku Park, and he has one office assistant for 30 hours a week. So, I would just like to advocate for putting that into full-time. It is in the, currently in the Budget and I ask the Council to support that. . . . (inaudible) . . . for Environmental Management, when it comes to Kaunakakai Wastewater Treatment Plant. It's not enough to put money there and band aid the hose. They get some serious infractions, 100% capacity. Part of the discussion needs to be what is the Department, if the Mayor is in support of protecting our watershed and wanting things environmental quality, then we need to ask him what is the long range plan? ... (alarm sounds) ... that is not being. And then, I would just like to support ... (inaudible) ... the idea that ... (inaudible) ... they right now speeding past Kaunakakai School. So, I know that's one of the primary places and I would just like to advocate for relocation to some place that is ... (inaudible) ... oh shucks, wait..... (inaudible) . . . IT staff everywhere they go so, we never have to worry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And Mahalo Sustainable Molokai.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

... (inaudible) ...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Okay, all right. Thank you very much. Anymore questions for Zhantell? None, okay thank you. Is that the last testifier?

MS. GRECO: Chair, we have on more testifier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One more, okay.

MS. GRECO: Mahina Poepoe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, nice to see.

MS. POEPOE: Nice to see you folks, too. Thank you so much for coming and listening to our community. And, thank you in advance for all the funds give all the wonderful that you're going to to programs. Mahina Poepoe, I am now our State House . . . (laughter) . . . Representative, but I'm also a community advocate, haven't given that up yet. I, and, also hello to the Councilmembers online tonight. So I wanted to talk a little more about the issue with the Firefighter I position at Puko'o. I testified last year as well to you folks, so maybe...and to the Mayor as well, to the Fire Commission as well so maybe the second time's the charm. So last year in the budget, the Firefighter I position was reallocated to a Captain's position out in Puko'o, but it still only leaves two people and so the manpower issue which I think is the bigger issue wasn't resolved. That leaves the two current staff absorbing the work of three to five people. I think it's a liability for the County to knowingly continue operating with a deficient, insufficient staffing. So, I think just in this budget if you could consider reinstating that position to improve the safety not only for our community but for the personnel themselves.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Representative. Any questions for her? Seeing none. . . . (applause) . . . Anymore testifiers?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hanale.

MS. GRECO: Chair, there are no other individuals that have indicated they wish to testify. If anybody else would like to testify, please come to the podium.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: None? Okay. So, Molokai, you are a wonderful community and thank you very much for making the time to be with us. We are the Budget and Finance, [sic] Economic Development Community and we take your comments very seriously. Just so you know, our wonderful Staff will be compiling all this information and sharing it with all the

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

Councilmembers. And we have Keani Rawlins-Fernandez sitting next to me who will digest all of this and we'll hear more as we go through our deliberations. So --

MS. GRECO: Excuse me, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have more testifiers?

MS. GRECO: One more testifier.

MS. LINDO: ... (inaudible) ...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's her husband. ... (laughs)... Assistant Chief

Hanale Lindo.

MR. LINDO: Howzit, everybody?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Howzit.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Maika'i noa.

MR. LINDO: Thank you guys so much for coming. My wife when force me for come up here and testify.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You have to.

MR. LINDO: Nah, you know what? Everything that she said...first of all, thank you guys. You guys are absolutely are a wonderful support for our entire community. Not only here on Molokai but Lāna'i, and Maui. These guys just when testify but I only going testify about the about the fire station out in Puko'o. Yeah, or, we're actually building in 'Ualapue and it's always weighing whether it's fiscally responsible, you know, because if you look at the amount of call we have. But when you're looking at the safety of the personnel, that's one of the reasons why the community advocated. They . . . (inaudible) . . . seat for personnel. You get one captain and one driver and the Captain who should be leading the crew actually be the guy to work the fire . . . (inaudible) . . . Firefighter there would allow us to make sure that op -- . . . (inaudible) . . . Absolutely. But you know what? If we can get that other position and I hope my Chief not watching. ... (laughter) ... Nah, I just kidding. Budget constraints meet us have to adjust our priorities, yeah. But, that doesn't mean that safety and our personnel and our people shouldn't be one priority. So, if you guys can go ahead and place that back in we would really appreciate it. And, just thank you guys for everything you guys do. Thank you for showing up

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

today and showing up every single time, yeah. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much for being here testifying and . . . (applause) . . . Do you have a question?

MS. LINDO: ... (inaudible) ...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Question for you.

MR. LINDO: Oh, my Chief right here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, your Chief watching right here. Okay, so for the CIP 6-year plan. The relocation from Puko'o to 'Ualapue, there's a 500,000 for a proposed FY24, but there isn't any further funding for the next 5 years after that. Is that because you not going need any more?

MR. LINDO: Absolutely. We going build 'em with \$100,000. ... (laughter)... No, ... (inaudible)... for the environmental assessment and all those kinds of things. We have funding available. We're going to design and drafting right now. So, ... (inaudible)... do our due diligence and be fiscally responsible then we can ask for the right amount of funds. I mean –

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. LINDO: Yeah, yeah, cause there's a lot that we have to do. So, we are going to need it but we just like make sure that, that we dealing with things the right way, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, so to clarify, it's zero right now not because you don't anticipate needing more funding, but just because the studies are not completed yet by the time we receive the proposed budget. And so, it...we will need more funding we just don't know how much and we don't want to put some arbitrary amount.

MR. LINDO: Yeah, absolutely. The environmental assessment initially from G70 was set to be done the ending part of last year. So, look at the time frame and we didn't get the final on that yet but we're still moving forward. Design and drafting is going on as we speak but, based on costs, all the way around we . . . (inaudible) . . . to, to complete a lot. But if not, then we absolutely will have to ask.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Assistant Chief, Lindo.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

MR. LINDO: Thank you.

MS. LINDO: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, before you leave --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLIN-FERNANDEZ: Calling Chief Lindo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: - will you say what the project name is again? The CIP.

MR. LINDO: ... (inaudible) ... Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'll look up your CBS number. Okay.

MR. LINDO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. LINDO: Thanks ah, you guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice seeing you.

MR. LINDO: Same here.

MS. GRECO: Chair, there are no other testifiers.

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so we are done with this meeting. We really appreciate you allowing us to be here and sharing your thoughts. We take this all very seriously and this meeting will now be adjourned in a little while. I want to tell you that next week Monday we are going to Pā'ia, and we are going to Nohelani U'u-Hodgins' community. So, the next community center...and the next after that is Hana. So, we'll be visiting Mr. Sinenci's.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thursday.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thursday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Thursday. Yeah. Okay, anyway, this meeting is now adjourned. Thank you everybody for being here and have a very blessed evening.

March 31, 2023 Molokai Residency Area

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

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

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