

WATER AUTHORITY, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

May 8, 2023

Online Only via BlueJeans

CONVENE: 9:02 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Vice-Chair (Out 9:40 a.m.)
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 11:50 a.m.)
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member (In 9:49 a.m.)
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (Out 12:02 p.m.)
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (Out 12:09 p.m.)

STAFF:

James Krueger, Senior Committee Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Legislative Analyst
Jarret Pascual, Committee Legislative Analyst
Richelle Kawasaki, Legislative Attorney
Jocelyn Moniz, Committee Secretary
Stacey Vinoray, Committee Secretary
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
David Raatz, Deputy Director of Council Services
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst

Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci

Laura McDowell, Executive Assistant to Councilmember U'u-Hodgins
Susan Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember U'u-Hodgins

Jared Agtunong, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Cook
Stacy Takahashi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Cook

Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Davideane Kama-Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama

Noelani Ahia, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez
Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez

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Angela Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin
Christi Keliikoa, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin
Krystal Cabiles, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin

Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sugimura
Jordan Helle, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sugimura
Daryl Fujiwara, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sugimura
Jennifer Matsumoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sugimura

Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka'i Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna'i Residency Area Office
Mavis Oliveira, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pā'ia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Mariana Lowy-Gerstmar, Deputy Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Logan Lee
Lisa Darcy
Faith Chase
Kamalani Pahukoa
Lehua Simon
Bill Greenleaf
Pat Simmons, Jr.
Mary Ann Pahukoa (Is Kamalani Pahukoa)
Sam Akoi, IV
Francis Quitazol
John Blumer-Buell
Jennie Kaahui
Brendan Balthazar
Jonathan Scheuer
Moses Bergau, Jr.
Jesse Nakooka, Jr.
Christopher Shuler
Alicia Hū'eu
Jerome Kekiwi, Jr.
Additional attendees (4)

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

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha, and dumela kākou. Welcome to the Monday, May 8th morning meeting of the Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee. I'm Shane Sinenci, your Committee Chair. It is now 9:02, and just as a reminder for members of the public to silence your cell phones or any noisemaking devices.

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Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, if you're not in the Council Chambers, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. And minors do not need to be identified. Also, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Joining us today, we have Councilmember Vice-Chair...Committee Vice-Chair Gabe Johnson. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, Committee Members. Good morning from beautiful Lānaʻi City in my office. There's no one on my side of the room. There's no testifiers here as well. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for joining us. Next, we have Councilmember Tom Cook. Aloha, and dumela.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, and good morning, Chair, Councilmembers. Looking forward to today.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for being here. Next, we have Pro Tem Tasha Kama. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and dumela to you and everyone in the Chambers, and in *Akakū* land. Aloha.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, and good morning. And next, virtually, we have Council Chair Alice Lee. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha, dumela kākou, Chair and everyone. I'm here in my workspace. I'll be here for the beginning portion, for the morning meeting. Looking forward to your...your meeting and the rest of the week. No one here is in my workspace. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Next, we have Councilmember Tamara Paltin, but I believe...I don't see her on yet. She'll be joining us in a little bit. And then next, from Molokaʻi, we have Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. Aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, mai Molokaʻi nui a Hina. I'm at the Molokaʻi District Office with an unnamed minor in the office with me, and we have our Community Outreach Specialist, Zhantell Lindo, on the other side of the office.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Aloha and welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think no testifiers. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. And next, in the Chamber, we have Member Yuki Lei Sugimura. Aloha and dumela.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, everybody. Looking forward to a great meeting. Thanks.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. And then, finally, we have Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins. Aloha and dumela.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Nice to see you today. Dumela, everyone.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Members. From the Administration today, we have Ms. Mariana Lowy-Gerstmar, aloha and good morning. Our Committee Staff today, we have Ms. Jocelyn Moniz, good morning; Mr. James Krueger, aloha; Ms. Kasie Apo Takayama; Mr. Jarret Pascual; Ms. Richelle Kawasaki; Ms. Lei Dinneen; and Ms. Jean Pokipala. Aloha and welcome, everybody.

ITEM-2: RESOLUTION 22-260, APPOINTMENTS TO THE EAST MAUI REGIONAL COMMUNITY BOARD

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Members, on the agenda today we have one item, WASSP-2, Resolution 22-260, Appointments to the East Maui Regional Community Board. For this item, we’ll have testimony, and then each applicant will make an opening statement, and then we’ll have our opportunity to question the candidates, and then more testimony afterwards. Let’s begin with public testimony. Oral testimony via phone or video conference will be accepted. Please note that if you’re signed in, you’re on the list to testify, even if you did not request to testify. Please let Staff know in chat if you are signed on and do not intend to testify. In accordance with the Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting, but cannot be limited to the start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, and as the item is called up on the agenda. Then testifiers...when testifiers sign up to testify, they must let Staff know whether they wish to testify at the beginning of the meeting, or before an agenda item, otherwise Staff will assume the testifier will testify at the beginning of the meeting. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should have joined the online meeting via the BlueJeans link or phone number noted on today’s agenda. Written testimony is encouraged, and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. If you’re still testifying beyond that time, I’ll kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Please state your full name and organization, but if you prefer to testify anonymously, Staff will identify and refer to you as Testifier, and assign you a number. You may indicate in the chat if you do not wish to testify, however, chat should not be used for discussion or comments. Please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you’re done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. Thank you all for your cooperation in advance. We ask for decorum at all times. It will be considered a breach of decorum for members of the public to use the chat for anything other than testimony signup. Members, I will now proceed with oral testimony. Staff has been monitoring individuals joining today’s meeting by phone and by video, and we’ll do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion.

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. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, at this time, Staff, can you please call the first testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier on the list is Logan Lee, followed by Lisa Darcy.

MR. LEE: Yes, good morning. I am Logan Lee, testifying on behalf of the East Maui Water for Protection, for those rights, and having local Kānaka Maoli native tenants taking care and managing that water (*audio interference*) drier parts of our island, yeah. So, I'm just here to (*audio interference*) and testify, mostly for East Maui farms, that we need those water rights back, specifically Honomanū Stream. We need to let up the diversion there, and kindly ask Mahi Pono to please release that diversion, and all the others over on the East Side there, and come to a community agreement on how to disperse the most valuable source here, which is water, which is all life. Thank you for your time, Council, and everybody please have a great day. Aloha nui.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Lee. Members, any questions for Mr. Lee, the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Lisa Darcy, followed by Faith Chase.

MS. DARCY: Good morning, Council. It's nice to see everybody today. Mahalo, Chair. My name is Lisa Darcy, and I'm here to testify on 22-260, and I --

CHAIR SINENCI: Lisa, good morning. Good morning, Lisa. Can you maybe come a little bit closer to the mic?

MS. DARCY: Oh, is it doing that weird thing?

CHAIR SINENCI: No, we just can't hear you very well.

MS. DARCY: All right. How's this? Is that any better?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes.

MS. DARCY: I have a little scratchy throat today, sorry about that. Okay, hi, my name is Lisa Darcy, and I am here to testify on 22-260. Mahalo for everyone being here today, and congratulations on making it this far. Just for disclosure, I am a commissioner on Healing Solutions for Homelessness, and I come here today to testify as just an individual community member. I would like to speak to several of the individuals that I personally know who are being recommended, and the first one is Alicia Hū'eu, and she is also known as Nāpua. I've had the pleasure to work with her for many years in some very difficult times, and I've been able to witness her dedication to her ahupua'a, and the way that she is caring for this land, and understanding water, and nature, and everything that goes into the...the culture of the lifestyle that she's living, and authentically living. So, I would really like to see...and the...I think there's only two

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wāhines that are being recommended. I really believe that it's important for this commission and committee, this board, to have somebody who's...gets dirty all over. She'll get dirty, no matter what it takes, and clean up. She will...she touches the land, she touches people's hearts, she's very intelligent in the way that she approaches these issues. So, I really would like to recommend her to be considered. I would also like to recommend, having known Bill Greenleaf for many, many, many years, in his role in remediating land soil, being very interested in supporting the water rights for individuals who are farming. I see him also with a high level of integrity. And of course, then, obviously, Lucienne de Naie, who has been a tireless advocate and...and not just an advocate...all three of these individuals really study the needs of...of...of their communities, they listen to the...their...their community neighbors, and they're really about . . .(timer sounds). . . integrating. So I just want to thank you for getting this far, and good luck with all of your decisions. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Darcy, for your testimony. Members, questions for the testifier? And...seeing none. I don't see everyone online, so just go ahead and unmute if you have any questions for the testifiers. Staff, can you please call the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Faith Chase, followed by Kamalani Pahukoa.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes. Go ahead.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Committee Members. I'm still having some device issues, so I can't see you. Perhaps you can see me. I am so proud of this Council and how far we've gotten in this Water Authority, it's a really historic day. So good on everybody who got us this far. I know not everybody on the list, but I want to go down some of the people that I do know that are being nominated. First of all, the...Mr. Scheuer from the DHHL. I really...I really like him. I know we're not...you don't need to make that decision today, but I just needed to say that I think he is instrumental, and I'm glad that he has been put forward to be part of this Authority. The...the section...I don't have it in front of me, but the section with Bill Greenleaf, Brendan Balthazar, and the wāhine. I don't know the wāhine, she sounds...I read her application, she sounds beautiful. I do see that you don't have very many wāhine on the list, so I'd like to give her a chance. But also, I do feel like Bill Greenleaf is very...I think he's very community-oriented, and he is not as busy as he used to be with the Farmer's Union work. And I feel like, even though I know Brendan Balthazar, I do know that he is busy with the cattle...the Cattleman's Association, so I feel like perhaps Mr. Greenleaf, while I appreciate both of these kāne, I think that Mr. Greenleaf might be able to...be able to really commit to the work that needs to be done. In the East Maui Honomanū section, I know all three of these individuals. I am lending my support to...strong support to Nāpua Hū'eu. I appreciate the work of Junior Kekiwi. I do understand that he is the president of the organization, Nā...Nā Moku Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui, and if you guys remember...if you Councilmembers remember, a couple years ago I testified in...in returning the YMCA to the community. And so, consequently, they have...that group,

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that organization, has the YMCA in its purview. So that's a lot of work, so I actually think that perhaps Mr. Kekiwi might be really busy serving his community in different ways. I strongly support Nāpua Hū'eu. The Honomanū restoration is a landmark example. If we can just open up every valley across Hawai'i, use that as an example. I do know that Jesse Nakooka has been instrumental as well in restoring that ahupua'a...that Honomanū ahupua'a project. Let's see. Moving down the list, I...I'm...of course, strong support of Auntie Lucienne de Naie. I don't see anybody...any other nominations or candidates in that field. So again, to have wāhine representing, that would be great. Thank you for the time to share my thoughts.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Chase, for your testimony. Members, any --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I do have a question --

CHAIR SINENCI: -- questions...ah, we have a question for you, Faith.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, Faith. Thank you, always, for participating. So, Alicia Hū'eu is Nāpua Hū'eu, and that's your daughter?

MS. CHASE: Oh, yes. Alicia Hū'eu.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Alicia.

MS. CHASE: She's better known as Nāpua. Yes, she's my eldest daughter.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. CHASE: But it was both of...both my daughters were instrumental in starting the Honomanū Restoration Project, so I do need to lend credit to not just one child.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. CHASE: I do...I do know that she has been more in the field than in front of, perhaps, our Councilmembers, but I do need to add that she has an incredible ability to do administrative work, and I think that in the beginning of any sort of formation of board, or commission, or authority, there is that...that munition that is sort of hard to plow through for some people. So, I think that she'd be really, exceptionally good in that area. Thanks for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. And then the person you mentioned, Mr. Kekiwi, is with...can you...is he the one that they took over that YMCA property in Ke'anae?

MS. CHASE: Yeah, they...yes, they --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That's the group. Okay.

MS. CHASE: -- asked the DLNR for the lease, and they...they received it. And so, from what I

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understand, they're doing massive improvements, and they're opening it up to the community. I see it's a...it's taken a big bite out of crime, so to speak. So, I'm really happy to see that it's in their purview and their management. But I also --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. CHASE: -- like I said, see him being busy with it. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Any other questions for Ms. Chase? Seeing none. Mahalo for your testimony this morning. Staff, could you please call the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Kamalani Pahukoa, followed by Lehua Simon.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Pahukoa.

MS. PAHUKOA: Good morning. Aloha, Committee. I wasn't planning to testify, but I'm just grateful to...thank you guys for making it this far in regards to the Water Authority. And I don't know everybody applying for the positions, but I can speak (*audio interference*) excellent knowledge from Huelo [*sic*] (*audio interference*) so I really support her. When it comes to Nāhiku, I'd like to support Uncle Moses Bergau, as he's been there his...you know, his whole life, and he really understands that Makapipi area, all the way, stretching to Ko'olau. And then yeah, I hope you guys really dig deep today and go with your na'au, and support those descendants who have been waiting to sit at this table for a really long time. This is emotional for some, especially those who have been fighting for water restoration, and just to be able to have the conversation. Because, as you know, the issue was always corporate not listening to community. So, this is, you know, you guys paving the way for our local community to have a seat and if not, major say in the decisions of our most vital resource. And supporting everyone Upcountry when it comes to residential use of water and...and agriculture, because the stigma and narrative has always been that Ko'olau or East Maui residents need all the water back, which is simply not true, there's enough to share. So, I'm excited for you guys, and mahalo for the opportunity to...to speak. Have a good day.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Pahukoa. You did cut off a little bit before Moses Bergau, and we couldn't hear you during that part. Can you repeat --

MS. PAHUKOA: I was supporting Lucienne de Naie before I mentioned Uncle Moses Bergau.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

MS. PAHUKOA: But yeah, my apologies, East Maui service.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. Okay, thank you, and mahalo for your support throughout this process. Staff, can you please call the next testifier?

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MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier on the list is Lehua Simon, followed by Bill Greenleaf.

CHAIR SINENCI: Aloha, Ms. Simon.

MS. SIMON: Aloha, can you guys hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. SIMON: Okay, great. Hi, my name is Lehua Simon, and I come from Pukalani, Maui. I want to request that my representative and the County Council recommend applications of Native Hawaiian people, as well as elders, and women. These are the kinds of people in my community that I trust the most to make...to have authority over water systems, and because I am a recipient as a Pukalani/Upcountry resident of the waters...water from the East Maui, I...I personally don't want to be taking any water in the wrong way. And I...I trust Native Hawaiian people to look at the resources of East Maui and the needs of people in that area first, and then our whole island, and make these decisions more than any other background of people. And personally, I...I want to request from my representatives that they represent me by looking at the applications of Lucienne de Naie and Alicia...or Nāpua Hū'eu. I...I personally want to request that they have authority over the water for the next five years. Give them the long terms over there. And...and I'm requesting this because of a really important aspect, where these women, I've seen them in my community relate to a broad spectrum of cultural backgrounds and people of various backgrounds, and also be able to organize these people effectively in action on...on the land, in...in actual things. So, I...I really think that their authority, because of their history of education and experience, is going to be the most valuable asset to the County Council as we begin this Water Authority type of organization. So, I highly recommend Lucienne de Naie, and Alicia Nāpua Hū'eu to be one of the first authorities for the longest term; five years. I trust them with five years, and all the Native Hawaiian people that applied, and all the women first. That's my personal mana'o. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Simon, for your testimony. Members, any questions for Ms. Simon? Yes, we have a question for you from Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha, and good morning, and thank you for being here. I heard you say in your testimony that...that you would hope that your representatives...or you'd want us to make sure the representative for you...on your behalf be wāhine, Kānaka Maoli, and there was one more other --

MS. SIMON: And elders.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Elders. Okay. Thank you so very much.

MS. SIMON: Elders.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you for that. Any other questions for Ms. Simon? Seeing none. Thank you. Staff, was that Mr. Greenleaf?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. The next person testifying is Bill Greenleaf, followed by Pat Simmons, Jr.

MR. GREENLEAF: Good morning.

CHAIR SINENCI: Good morning.

MR. GREENLEAF: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. Now, I'm prepared to come down and talk about my candidacy; is this the wrong time?

CHAIR SINENCI: You'll have time for Q and A from the...from the Members, but if you just want to include some testimony at the beginning, you have that opportunity.

MR. GREENLEAF: Okay. Okay. Have I got this thing right? So, I read the questions, and I prepared some answers for the questions. My wife and I have had a two-acre urban farm in Kula. I basically began a second career at age 56, and I'm really glad I did, because it would have been a lot harder at 70. Water use is part of every discussion we have about agriculture. As I started a second career, the Farmer's Union was an option, so I got very involved in that, and I started the Farm Mentoring program. And it's just been wonderful learning about agriculture. What we've learned about water, and in our 18 years of farming, is that soil fertility requires water retention. And as you look across Maui and what's happened in the last 100 years, water retention has never been considered. We...we watch our soil blow away. Sometimes I see it as high as the West Maui mountains in the valley, and almost across a third of the valley, blowing out to Mā'alaea. I must be a little bit nervous. What we've learned is, and what we've used are swales. I can remember when we first started farming, we had a drought. We've had so many droughts. And the...the weeds actually completely turned to dust, and it was just dirt. And I noticed one little part of our farm was the last to turn brown, and that...from that moment, I could understand how water worked down the land, and where it was. So, we built our gardens over where the water was last, and we put our trees over in other places where the roots went deeper.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you already --

MR. GREENLEAF: Basically, your knowledge and experience of the East Maui water system relevant to watershed areas in the Upcountry water service area. Well, I'm a member of the Ag Working Group, Lucienne is my mentor. We talk about water, especially during drought, so that's almost every year, and what we hear, and what we hear from the people is so much confusion. But we'll...we'll hear the Water Department say you're going to have to cut back, and (*audio interference*) you're going to have to cut back, so your cows aren't going to get water and your fruit trees aren't going to get water. Well, they're both going to die, so it's not an option. And when we took it to...when the Ag Working Group went to then Director Taylor of the Water Department, he said we could

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not do infrastructure improvements unless we took it out of ordinary cash flow. So, Ag Working Group researched that, and we found out he was wrong. We can use general obligation bonds. We asked him to do it, and we...and I...and I called Sandy Baz and Mayor V a bunch of times when all those loans...when all those grants were out there, we never applied for any of them for infrastructure change. So, I...that's what I know about the system, and I'm pretty upset about it. . . .(timer sounds). . . Well, you know, my...in my other career, I've helped about 15 kids get college...college...free colleges on golf scholarships. I love the kids here, I love the people here. My wife and I never put up curtains in any house until we got here. This is our home, it's been our home for 22 years. I am absolutely committed 100 percent toward a future that's going to support Maui kids living on Maui and having a great life. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Greenleaf, for your testimony. Members, we're going to have him come up again, so if it's okay, we'll just keep our questions for when he comes back on.

MR. GREENLEAF: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thanks, Bill.

MR. GREENLEAF: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff, the next testifier?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next person wishing to testify is Pat Simmons, Jr., followed by Lola.

MR. SIMMONS: Hi there, aloha. My name is Pat Simmons, Jr. I'm a local farmer and musician. I've grown up in East Maui for over 25 years, and I'm here to urge the Maui County...my Maui County representatives to support the appointment of Lucienne de Naie of Huelo, Norman Martin and Jeremy Kekiwi of Wailua Nui, as well as Alicia Nāpua Hū'eu, and Jesse Nakooka of Honomanū, to the Water Authority Board. Four years ago, at the very beginning of the Honomanū Valley Restoration, I showed up to volunteer with a small group of friends. Our group has grown since...our group has since grown into a lifelong friendship of volunteers, gathering every weekend to mālama 'āina. I have witnessed firsthand the great leadership in the face of a daunting initiative to revitalize a once thriving food production system in Honomanū Valley. As the living descendants of the kūpuna of Honomanū, Alicia Nāpua Hū'eu and Jesse Nakooka have led our volunteer workdays in projects consisting of invasive species removal and the reconstruction of traditional lo'i kalo and auwai water systems. These pillars of aloha 'āina in our community have given of their time freely for the benefit of future generations, and they deserve positions on this Water Authority Board. Now is the time to place such qualified individuals in place to steward these resources for the betterment of...for the betterment of traditional farming...of the traditional farming community. And I just want to say I'm just honored to raise my kids around such leaders, and really, role models for the future. Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Simmons, for your testimony. Any questions for the testifier?

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Seeing none. Thank you. Staff, do we have any more testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. The next person wishing to testify is Lola, followed by Mary Ann Pahukoa.

CHAIR SINENCI: Lola, were you here to provide testimony this morning? Okay. We'll go to the next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier wishing to testify is Mary Ann Pahukoa, followed by Sam Akoi, IV.

CHAIR SINENCI: I think Mary Ann might...might have been Kamalani.

MS. PAHUKOA: Yeah, my apologies. I logged out and logged back in.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, we'll --

MS. PAHUKOA: But mahalo, to you guys.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. We'll go to Mr. Akoi.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, I believe he's at the Hāna District Office. There you go. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff, can you unmute Mr. Akoi?

MR. AKOI: Unmute.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I did.

MR. AKOI: Okay, aloha. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. AKOI: Oh, this was kind of last minute for me. I just got the email last night, of the Board of Water Authority. You know, for me, as a lineal descendant, and I...I'm really...you know, I'm...I'm for...I'm for the...the Water Authority, but you know, we...we live in a diversified community, you know? We've got the community, and we got the Native Hawaiian community. You know, under God's law, water, air, land, iwi, I'm getting kind of emotional here because, you know, us here, legislature here, you know, it was built by the people. It was built by the people to make the decision for water under God's law, not manmade laws. I'm a stakeholder. I own land in Wahinepe'e, where the water, two rivers run right next to my property, right through the property, and there's no water. I reside in Kīpahulu; water is an issue all over Maui. I'm an ahu moku rep for East Maui, Hāna, we...what I'm asking is...is...you know, I asked the question, oh, how come only...only two from here and two from there, and nothing from Hāna? I'm a lineal descendent, I'm an heir of Ko'olau. You know, it's...it's like, who are we to make decision

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on, especially our Native Hawaiians on this...on this Council. You know, the people make the decision, not you folks. I see five and one of a five and four. You know, today we walk away, you know, at the end of the day, you guys...you guys get everything on you guys' hands, no matter if we testify or not. This is a disgrace. This is not how God works. God works in unity. God works in love, joy, prosperous, abundance. God's law is number one. You know our Mayor? You guys' Mayor, you guys' boss? He's an heir of Ko'olau, of my 'ohana. What you...what you think, today...after today, you guys say no, you guys like dismantle this? A'ole. A'ole i ka pilikia. My heart is really sore, but I ask you, County Council, you know, to make the right decision. You're not...even...even though you guys . . .(timer sounds). . . vote more...I'm going keep on going on because, you know, my time is precious, and you guys giving me only three minutes. A'ole, three minutes. I hope you guys, you listen, because Akua is...is the one that we follow in our life, all our families, we live on that. The water is very precious, it's life. Get enough water for everybody. But, you know, back in the day, you know, the water for the people to be sustainable, to live in their own ahupua'a. You know, the ahū moku system is set up as the ahupua'a system. I was...I was really hurt when I heard, oh, Sam, you no can. You no can be on the Water Authority Board because there no more for Hāna. You know what? I telling you guys right now, go look you guys' facts, because up...up above Hamoa, I mean, Hamoa, there's a big, massive, massive reservoir, and that's where that East Maui watershed . . .(timer sounds). . . started from there, and then going out to Nāhiku. Above a (audio interference) there's flumes. Yeah, Red...redwood flumes. It's not there anymore.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Akoi.

MR. AKOI: I want to be inclusive.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. So, this --

MR. AKOI: (Audio interference) ahū moku Council to be a part of this too.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. This Water --

MR. AKOI: Whether you guys think --

CHAIR SINENCI: -- Authority includes the...just a...as a reminder, remember, the four lease areas and the service areas of Ha'ikū, Makawao, and Kula, that's who we're referring today. But we can have that larger discussion on the Hāna area, should the community choose to create a Water Authority for Kīpahulu side. So, mahalo for your...your mana'o nui, and your testimony this morning. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the last person signed up wishing to testify is Francis Quitazol.

CHAIR SINENCI: Is he one of the applicants? Mr. Quitazol, did you want to save your testimony for...we'll have the candidates...the applicants have three minutes opening. Did you want to --

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MR. QUITAZOL: Oh, yeah. Okay, I can...I (*audio interference*) for that. Sorry.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Staff?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that is currently all the testifiers that have signed up to testify. If there's anyone out there in the Chamber or in BlueJeans that is wishing to testify, please come up to the mic or unmute yourself, and begin your testimony. I will give a brief countdown. Three, two, one. Seeing none, Chair, no one else...no one else is wishing to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Do I need to close testimony at the beginning? No need? Okay. All right.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair. The body should leave testimony open right now, and then after opening remarks, the body can return to testimony, and then if no one...and then after all those testifiers have completed, the body can then close testimony.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you, Mr. Krueger. Okay, Members, since we don't have any more testimony, today we're taking up Resolution 22-260, Appointments to the East Maui Regional Community Board. And I just wanted to say, Members--and mahalo to Pro Tem Kama for bringing this up to our attention last night. Members, we...we want to let you know that there were two applications for the board that were inadvertently overlooked. And so, these applicant names were not included in the resolution today, and I believe some of you had received that email. And so, for today, we're just going to be...we'll be deferring discussion after today, so that we can include those other two applications...applicants, probably at our June 5th meeting. So, my plan is to go ahead today and interview all the applicants that are here, and then at our next meeting, again, we'll...we'll interview those remaining applicants, and then make those recommendations for those seats. And those two seats was for the Ke'anae seat and the Huelo seat. So, we had two applications that we overlooked to...and it was our mistake. Those...those applications came in early, and so, they were on the original application sheet, and not on...on the renewed one that we...so, we want to give those guys an opportunity. Okay. So just as a reminder, Members, the main function of the East Maui Community Board is watershed management. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources is currently in its 30-year long, long-term East Maui Watershed Management Plan. The plan is divided into three zones based on elevation. The first two areas have received substantial input from the owners of the higher elevation lands, but they need input for management of the lower areas, or Zone 3. The East Maui Regional Community Board will help provide the critical input on the management of these areas. And again, today we will just be interviewing who's here that's on the list, and we've got...Members, if you've already seen on Granicus the applicants, we've got a great list of applicants. So, mahalo for all of you for being here this morning. And then at our next meeting, again, we'll have the other two applicants come and join us, we will interview them, and make our recommendations then, okay? Okay. Just as a reminder, the East Maui Regional Board is comprised of 11 seats, four appointed by the Mayor, and seven by the...by this Council. Mayor Bissen has already forwarded his four appointments, and his letter with his appointments is included in Granicus as item

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number 16. And I believe he had forwarded the names of Mr. Kyle Nakanelua of Ke‘anae, Mr. Moses Kahiamoe, Jr. of Nāhiku, Mr. Hugh Star of Honomanū, and Mr. Lester Wong of Huelo. So, those were his...and that’s on Granicus, item number 16, okay. And just as a reminder, these appointments do not require Council approval, it’s the Mayor’s prerogative to choose his four candidates. Of the other seven appointed positions, one member, thanks to Pro Tem Kama, who during the process had...had urged to nominate a Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and their letter nominating Dr. Jonathan Scheuer, and his résumé is in Granicus, item number 15. Two board seats are reserved for water users with water resource management knowledge, who either live or engage in ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i‘a in the water service area. The water service area is Ha‘ikū, Pukalani, and Kula, and a map is included in...in that application. As for the four remaining seats, each represents one of the four East Maui surface water collection license areas. And to Mr. Akoi’s point, this is not in the...it’s in the Hāna Community Plan area, but not in the Kīpahulu-Hāna area, as he had requested. All of the applications are included in Granicus as items 2 to 13, and are listed by applicant’s names. In Granicus as item 14 is my amendment summary, and we’ll consider that at a...at a following meeting. Today, we’ll be...well, we won’t be voting today. We’ll begin with opening statements from each applicant, and then we will return to public testimony. I’ve asked each applicant to make a brief opening statement. They have three minutes of their opening comments, and so, Members, we also need to stagger the board’s term limits per the Charter, *(audio interference)* so, I would also like to inquire of the applicants how long they would be willing to serve; either two years, three years *(audio interference)*, four years, or five years. We’ll leave it up to them at this point.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR SINENCI: Staff, can you mute? Yeah. Okay. So, for Dr. Scheuer, I’ve asked Miss...Dr. Scheuer to give information on his background, including his work with DHHL, and to explain his role of DHHL as it relates to water, and why DHHL has a representative on the board. I’ve also asked all the other applicants to explain their knowledge and expertise with watershed areas, the water service area, and the water system. Also, if they could also respond to the mission of their board, and their personal looking forward and how they would like to see the system managed. So, just some general comments for them, and I know, Members, you’ll have additional time to ask your questions. Okay, so, if there are no objections...oh, go ahead, we have some questions.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I have a question.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. She had her hand up first, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. So, I have the name of Harry Hū‘eu, one of the applicants, which were...we need to add on. Who is the other person, please?

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CHAIR SINENCI: Lyn Scott from Honomanū. So, we'll bring both Mr. Hū'eu and Ms. Scott on at our June meeting, and then they can...we can go ahead and interview them at that time.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And I have another question. Could you also ask the Mayor if he could give us that...the applications that he received for these...his...oh, they're...they're not his nominees, they are who is representing him.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He chose this --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, I just want some background information, if that's possible.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Staff, do we get those questions for the Administration? Mr. Krueger.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we...we do not have those applications or anything. Our understanding is that the Mayor has made his picks, and the Council has no...no...nothing to weigh in on. They're on his picks...they're his picks. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, Chair, I...I understand that these are his appointments. I'm sorry if I used the wrong word, but I just wondered if we could get to know his applicants more for this important role that they'll play in the community?

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. We could reach out.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And...and of course, he could say no. You know, that's his prerogative.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, we can...but we can reach out and...and possibly have them...if you...at the next meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, if...if you want, but I just wanted to read about them.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Whatever...whatever it ends up to be. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, mahalo, Member Sugimura. Yes, Pro Tem Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And so, Chair, I just wanted to bring it to your attention, and to our Staff, that in the reso, in the first Whereas, it's...it says that the...where it says the East Maui Regional Community Board proposed by Resolution 22-199, actually it was Resolution 22-119, so, I'm...I...I think it's probably just a...an error. So, I just wanted to be that your attention, because on your substitute, it has the same mistake too. I just wanted to bring that up to you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Are we going to repost that at the next meeting, Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, for the next meeting, we can prepare an updated ASF with any corrections, as well as the addition of the two applicants whose names need to be added. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, mahalo for that, Pro Tem Kama. Chair would like to recognize Member Paltin for joining us. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka, kākou, sorry I was late.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had a doctor appointment.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thanks for joining us.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You know, it...it's just supposed to like --

CHAIR SINENCI: Do we have any other questions --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- *(audio interference)* you know, the...of all --

CHAIR SINENCI: -- oh, yeah, we have a question from --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair Sinenci?

CHAIR SINENCI: -- Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Okay, thank you. Since everybody was asking for various information, could we have, if there...you know, if there were any late applications? You talked about applications that made the deadline, were there any applications that didn't make the deadline? Could we have a look at those too, okay?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: We can look into it, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thanks.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Could we kind of get, like, a timeline for when applicants still could apply? Like I said, three weeks or...I just...some people contacted me, like, they didn't...they didn't hear about it, they didn't know about it. I'm just

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wondering how you want to proceed if anybody has...didn't apply yet, but they could promptly?

CHAIR SINENCI: Mr. Krueger, has...have...did we reach the deadline for...for applications?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. The application was released in mid-March, and the deadline was announced as April 28th.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. And oh, a follow-up question? Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, I was going to ask about that, because I, too, did get some inquiries, and I wondered what we did as a body to let the community know. Was it a press release that went out, and...and all the details? Because there are people who missed this important deadline. So just wondering what --

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, I believe --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And if it...it could be extended, so that people can still apply? I mean, I think by you having this meeting, it brought attention to this, and it might bring out more people who may want to sit on this important body.

CHAIR SINENCI: I...I...Mr. Krueger, I believe we had several press releases on this?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So, the body met on the East Maui Regional Community Board to initially discuss the matter at the meeting...at the Committee's meeting, I believe the first meeting in March. And then, when the application was released, Committee Chair Sinenci also released a press release, I believe that was on March 21st. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Thank you. Okay. Any other questions from the Members online? Okay, great. Let's go ahead. And so, if there are no objections, we'll start with Dr. Scheuer, and we'll just head down the list. Staff, can we take a quick five-minute recess at the call of the Chair for five minutes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure.

CHAIR SINENCI: It is --

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the...can you please state the time for the record?

CHAIR SINENCI: 9:58.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: We'll be back. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 9:53 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:00 a.m.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .(gavel). . . Aloha kakahiaka, and welcome back to the Water Authority, Social Studies and...Social Services, and Parks Committee. It's like school again. It is 10:00 even, and...okay, Members. So, we'll have all the applicants come in, come down in order. We'll give them three minutes for their opening statements, and then we'll go to...it looks like we have a couple more testimony. We'll take testimony again, and then we'll follow the list again for any Q and A questions for...for the candidates. I will give you two rounds. If we need more, then we can consider a third round. Okay. So first off, we have Dr. Jonathan Scheuer, and he is the DHHL representative, and his...I believe he's on Granicus number...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the correspondence from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is number 15 on Granicus.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Number 15 on Granicus. Aloha, Dr. Scheuer.

MR. SCHEUER: Aloha mai kākou, Chair Sinenci and Members. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. SCHEUER: Okay. Mahalo nui for your consideration this morning, and having me for the questions that were provided to me. I'll try and be as brief as possible, knowing that the long agenda you have in front of you will take some time. I was born and raised on the island of O'ahu, and I've had the distinct pleasure of working for almost 30 years now on water policy issues across the pai 'āina, particularly in working with rural and Hawaiian communities on restoration of mauka and makai streamflow and securing of water for their communities. I came into this work, both through exposures during childhood, as well as my academic training. I have a master's degree, where I actually worked on...with folks who were revitalizing kalo cultivation on Kaua'i, which is what led to my interest in water. My doctoral dissertation was focused on the Waiāhole water case, the first modern test of the State's water code, and particularly how the State Water Commission and the Hawai'i Supreme Court dealt with Native Hawaiian claims and scientific information in adjudicating water decisions. I worked for a number of years, for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and very closely in an area of concern to you, though outside of East Maui, in the Nā Wai 'Ehā area, working as the lead policy advocate in OHA's cooperation with Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā and others to restore mauka to makai streamflow in those streams. And for the last 12 years, I have been working with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. First, we spent two years working on beneficiary consultation around the islands, developed a water policy plan, which was the first water policy statement by the Hawaiian Homes Commission since the establishment of the Act in 1921. And since then, in implementing that water policy

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plan across the islands, we've been doing a number of things related to that, particularly securing water reservations or set asides, or kapu of water, surface and ground, for the future use by DHHL around the islands. This is something that was called for in State law in 1990, but little progress had been made, and so, we have now secured some, but not all, water needed for all 200,000 acres of the 'āina Ho'opulapula, and we're continuing to work on that. I also work on specific negotiation on water development issues with the Department, as well as on policy advocacy before the counties, as well as before the State legislature when called upon by the Commission. The second question was about the interest and importance of DHHL in these matters. I'm very, very grateful to the Council, to the Chair, and to the voters of Maui County for including DHHL as a necessary representative on this body. I believe, as you well know, support of the . . .(timer sounds). . . Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was--I apologize, I will wrap up--a condition of Statehood. DHHL is one of four public trust uses of water that is supposed to receive water prior to other private commercial uses of water. And so, inclusion of DHHL representatives in this important body is, I...I believe, a useful and necessary requirement. Thank you very much for your time. I apologize for going over the three minutes.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Dr. Scheuer, and we'll come back to you for...for questions. Next, Members, we have Mr. Francis Quitazol, the water service area resource management expert.

MR. QUITAZOL: Good morning.

CHAIR SINENCI: Morning.

MR. QUITAZOL: Yeah, sorry, I was just getting my camera up...set up. So, basically...so I applied for this, for the Water Authority Board, because I think the mission of it and, you know, the...just the lease and everything that's going on out there, it really affects everybody in the service area. I was born and raised in Ha'ikū. I...I've worked for, you know...with the Watershed Partnerships...I used to work with a nonprofit that manage...manages about 10,000 acres in the watershed, so...and I've been working in the watershed from Kaupō to...to, you know, Waikamoi to...and it goes all the way past to...and...and seen an exit to, you know, Waikamoi Reservoirs in Kahakapao. Yeah, so, over a decade of experience in there with The Nature Conservancy, Maui Watershed Partnership, Haleakalā National Park. A lot of it is very science based, and as a natural resource manager, I've written and developed, you know, many long-range management plans for this service area, for the lease area, in other words. And I've seen firsthand too, the...the aging infrastructure, I've seen it, you know, in sections where it's still, like, redwood and everything. And then they've replaced it, and seen the increased efficiency of the system. So, I have a unique perspective. Basically, you know, the mauka...very mauka areas of the watershed, and I feel I can contribute and support the group in a way that will provide, you know, a very science-based approach, strategic management plans that can, you know, support the ecosystem out there. My management style for the watershed has always been from the perspective of, you know, being a...a humble steward of the land, and just kind of supporting that, and ensuring that...the viability of these systems for...for, you know, future generations. I see...I think the next question

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was the mission of the East Maui Regional Community Board and the...and the Water Authority. Yeah, there's several duties of it listed, you know, and again, my...my role, as I see it as...is, you know, just providing that...that approach to...that I've gained over the years to...for, you know, watershed management and the practices and methodologies and everything to...for, you know, to...to support, you know, the water system and ensure that it's always providing good, sustainable surface water to feed the system. Looking forward to how I would like to see the water system managed. As it is now, I think...I think everybody's kind of concerned with the private entity, and I think the perspective... ..(timer sounds)... sorry, I just...I'll wrap up. You know, I just...basically, to answer that last question, it would be just, you know, more transparency, I guess. This authority would provide transparency and a direct, you know, line of communication to...to how it's being managed for the community. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Quitazol. Next, we have Mr. Shuler, followed by Mr. Balthazar.

MR. SHULER: Good morning, Chair Sinenci, Members of the Committee. My name's Christopher Shuler, I'm a hydrologist at the Water Resources Research Center at University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. I work remotely, I live in Ha'ikū, Maui, and I've prepared a statement based on the three questions that you had. So, regarding my background and familiarity with the East Maui system, so my background studying hydrogeology at the University of Hawai'i provided me with a strong introduction to the hydrology, geology, and water resources of the Pacific Islands, Hawai'i included. My research has given me a number of opportunities to conduct lots of fieldwork throughout the islands, East Maui included, and I have significant experience conducting monitoring campaigns...so weather stations, stream gauges, and water quality monitoring of surface and groundwater. I...I've gotten a lot of really good opportunities to explore the East Maui watersheds with CWRM staff, helping out Ayron Strauch on his streamgaging and whatnot. Also, as a resident of the Upcountry water system, I've done my own research on where my water comes from, as any homeowner with a Ph.D. in hydrology would, of course, and I greatly appreciate, you know, having the opportunity to work with Department of Water Supply Staff as well. I've done some work with them. We're doing a really big project right now, putting up climate monitoring systems all throughout Maui, and I've gotten a lot of really good opportunities to go into different parts of the landscape, and get to know a lot of agencies and stakeholders out there. So, regarding the board's mission, the Charter amendment, when reading it, it states that the mission of the board is to manage water collection and delivery systems acquired by the County. However, this simple statement, it carries a lot of other inherent responsibilities that are prerequisites for doing that job well. So, I think that includes making recommendations and decisions that are informed, forward-looking, and widely beneficial to the range of stakeholders and community members who rely on our most valued public trust resource. This includes using the best available evidence-based information to review plans, make unbiased recommendations and decisions that support sustainable management of the East Maui water supply for the benefit of all, including domestic users, small and large agricultural operations, and traditional and cultural water uses as well. So, looking forward, I'd like to see the East Maui water system managed sustainably, equitably, and intelligently, because honestly,

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it's...you know, compared to a lot of the other Pacific islands that I've done research on, you know, in Maui, we are...we're incredibly rich in water resources when you compare it to flat atolls, where it barely rains, and people are making a living. But we do have to overcome the challenges that we have to developing the physical, social, and political infrastructure to manage and distribute this water in a conscientious way. So, thanks.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Shuler. And just as...for the record, Mr. Shuler is applying as the...the Water Service Area Resource Manager, for that position. And next, we have Mr. Balthazar, and he is the agricultural representative for the water service area, followed by Mr. William Greenleaf.

MR. BALTHAZAR: Am I unmuted?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. BALTHAZAR: Okay, perfect. Terrific. My name is Brendan Balthazar. I've been ranching pretty much from 1968, and I work for the Fire Department, which, you know, needs water from...for 37 years. I lease land and have cattle...I lease land and have cattle from the Huelo area, all the way to Kaupō. I'm not Hawaiian, but I was born here over 73 years ago, and as one kid, spent a lot of times with Sam Akoi's grandpa in...in Ke'anae in the taro patches. I'm part of the Ag Working Group, the Farm Bureau, the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, Maui Cattlemen's Association, and all these ag issues, of course, run right back to water. In the areas that I ranch, 98 percent of them, I had to develop the water system. The Huelo area, when A&B had them, and I leased it from A&B, I could not utilize the water because they was collecting them. I had to go to one little spring, and develop my own reservoir there, so that I could have water for the cattle. Reason I filled out that application is because I was asked by numerous people to represent that sector of ag. Livestock, as was alluded by somebody else before, when you get the droughts and they say cut back on water, that's one living thing. You cannot tell them to cut back, so it's a matter of management. You know, yes, the...the people who grow taro need the water, the people who live Upcountry also need the water, the cattle need water, other livestock need water. And again, it's a matter of the right minds coming together to manage this water. I also own one piece of property up in Kaili Ili, which is right next to the Waikamoi flumes, and one of the few properties there when I bought it 50 years ago, came with water rights. And in the very beginning when I bought them, I was young, I got screwed around by the...some of the major landowners like Maui Pine, telling me that, yeah, you have water rights, but we'll tell you where you can take the water. And it specifically says in the thing where I can take the water. Of course, I didn't have the money to fight them, but it's...it's something that is really important, and...and that's why I agreed to fill out the application and represent some of the sectors. As I said, the land that I... . . .(timer sounds). . . the land that I'm involved with goes from Huelo all the way to Kaupō, which is all in that area.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Balthazar, and then we'll bring you back after for...for questions. Next, we have Mr. William Greenleaf, also for the agricultural seat.

MR. GREENLEAF: Is this for questions, or am I continuing to make my opening statement?

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CHAIR SINENCI: Opening statements, and if you can address some of the questions that were...did you receive the questions?

MR. GREENLEAF: That's what I was starting to do before. Yeah, I got them last night, I didn't see them before. What is the mission of the East Maui Community Board? Well, it's the watershed and the delivery systems. And the...watersheds are...are...they're a living entity by our system. Ours is...we've gained a lot of invasives. You know, Hawai'i...when Hawai'i was developing, it took, like, a million years for a new plant to find its way here and begin here. So, they didn't have any defensive strategies because they were never challenged. So, with the invasives, they...our native plants don't have a...a chance. And so, restoring the watershed, getting the water to percolate down into the streams, you know, as we...as...this is a great opportunity. Many places across the world, like Israel, they pump water using solar up a mountain. In the daytime, they fill a reservoir, and they run the water back down at night through pipes that have turbines in them, and they have power at night. So, they use the power from the sun in the daytime to run the water up, and then they use that gravity to bring it back down, and they have power at night. It's a way we can make money from our water system. And Portland runs turbines through their water system also. So, as Mr. Shuler was saying, some of the water--I think it was Mr. Shuler--some of the water systems are the old redwoods, and some of the newer developed, we see the water moving faster through there, but we still have evaporation. We have a lot of water loot...loss. So as time goes on, and grants are available, Maui can become a showcase for the rest of the world. And that's going to...that's going to help those next seven generations. It's going to give them a chance to live...to live in the cultural, traditional ways that are...that are so much far superior to...to what we've created in this dense world. You know, this is a rural place. We really have a chance to stay rural and to grow. So, let's see, what is the...so, I believe that the success of the committee is going to be based on transparency and including the stakeholders. And the stakeholders, they're...they're all across East Maui. And you know, what's done in East Maui is going to affect the other areas, so there'll be other agencies developing. And this is...this is a chance to...for the people...gosh, with my experience in farming, all I ever hear from people are questions that I asked ten years ago before I got education. And as I've become educated, and I talk to them about those things, they're thrilled to have the information. And so, this Committee has a chance to really put out solid information that can gather the whole community's energy together and feel positive about it. It's really...across the country, and Maui's no different, we...we're divided as people, and...and we need to learn to talk to each other. And...and...and this committee is...water's so important and covers everybody. So, that's why . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I signed up for this, because it's a really important subject, and I want to be involved.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Greenleaf.

MR. GREENLEAF: Is this when I get questions, or that'll be next round?

CHAIR SINENCI: That'll be the next round.

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MR. GREENLEAF: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, everyone.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. And next, we have Ms. Jennie Ka'ahui, and she's also applying for the Water Service Area Agricultural Representative, followed by --

MS. KA'AHUI: Aloha kakahiaka, can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you. Go ahead.

MS. KA'AHUI: Okay, excellent. Wonderful to be here today. My name is Jennie Leialoha Ka'ahui. I was born on Maui. My family goes back 1,100 years, mostly to the West Maui mountains, but we do have a farm in Ha'ikū. We have two acres off of...off of Hog Back Road. We mostly have orchard right now, but we're expanding to longan, rambutan, ulu, avocado. I've been farming, and I've had that business for about three and a half years now. But I did grow up watching my father, and my brother, and all my family, and also participating since I was a teenager, in lo'i kalo restoration up in Ukumehame. And I learned from a very young age that water is the essence of Hawaiian culture, and access to water is such a special part of our culture to continue the prosperity of our future generations. So, that really brings me here, to why I even want to participate in this water committee because, of course, being a farmer and being wāhine, I'm busy. But I also wanted women to be represented here, I wanted Kānaka to be represented, and to ensure that we're making appropriate choices with the water usage, so that our future generations, my keiki, my future ancestors' grandbabies, will have the same access to this precious resource that we need. Also, being a farmer, and being part of the Farmers Union, studying permaculture, which is all about resource management, I've just seen that there's ways of working together as a community and addressing what everybody's needs are, so the communities, the residents, the Kānaka, the farmers, the taro farmers...and I would make the distinction between taro farmers and regular farmers/ranchers, because there's certain needs that are going to be made, and it's also important to maintain our taro here, as its culturally significant, as we know. I have my kids going to school Upcountry. My knowledge of the area, my daughter, in 2008, was brought home to our one-acre farm up in Kula off Pulehuiki, and then we've also been up in Ha'ikū for the last three years. I was educated on the mainland, and I think that that has given me a perspective of going back and forth, and seeing developments and the changes that have happened here...what is happening with the agricultural land, and what that has done, from erosion, to flooding, to stream restoration to, you know, different things disappearing, like the hīhīwai out of the streams, the o'ōpū, you know, the streams are drying up, and so, we're losing some of those freshwater fish as well. So, I'd like, you know, the flow of the water, access to that resource, making sure there's an . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . abundance, and the allocation is really what makes me want to be part of the community board. And regarding terms, I'm really coming here from an area of service, and representing and sharing with the community what the issues are, and what we need to do moving forward. So I am up for any term that will best suit the community board because that's really what brought me here today. Okay. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, for...for making that comment at the end. Members [*sic*], if you can

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also share how long we would possibly want to serve on this board. Okay, Members, we're...as mentioned prior, we're not going to do the Ke'anae and the Huelo representatives. We do have...next, we have the Nāhiku representatives, and Moses Bergau, and John Blumer-Buell. And afterwards, we have three more. Members, want a break, or just power through with the last five? Okay. Why don't we take our break now, and then we'll come back at 10:35, and then that way, we can go right into testimony. Okay. Thank you, Members. The WASSP Committee is in recess until 10:35. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:25 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:39 a.m.

CHAIR SINENCI: . . .(gavel). . . Aloha kakahiaka, and welcome back to the WASSP Committee of Monday, May 8th. It is 10:39, and thank you for that break. And next, we have the Nāhiku representative, Mr. Moses Bergau.

MR. BERGAU: Good morning, Mr. Chair --

CHAIR SINENCI: *(Audio interference)* good morning.

MR. BERGAU: -- aloha, Councilmembers. I'm Moses Palakiko Bergau, Jr., as...is a long-time resident of Nāhiku, and lies within the Ko'olau of Nā Pali O Ko'olau. The rainforest and watershed, with a water network delivery system, begins on Kūhiwa Stream, through Makapipi Stream, continues 74 miles west. My grandfather, a former employee for EMI. At the age of ten, I was allowed inside the system's tunnel with grandpa and dad to help cleaning out water intakes...supplies water to Nāhiku homestead. And the summer, spring...and the summer and springs were spent exploring and learning with my 'ohana. And various useful plants and aqua life. In the summer of '75, the year '75, we have witnessed a massive die-off of 'ōpae. Makapipi stream turned red, stagnant pools, and it was a sad day. Water gates are shut. A personal...a perennial stream disappeared, and it was a very...it sets an impression on me, you know? And the delivery system itself is a very unique and very, very ingenuity used system. The water is there in the Ko'olau, a system is there in the Ko'olau, and it's been unmanaged for the last several decades, to where life has almost disappeared. Within the Kānaka Ma'olis on the East Side, the kalo lo'is disappeared, which is the sustaining life force. Being...growing up and being in Nāhiku, learning all these various dependencies of aquatic life, human, on water, has changed my outlook of that system. It is still an incredible system, but it's dangerous at the moment. The physical conditions, it needs repair, it needs upgrading. The only area . . .(timer sounds). . . that really needs attention is the management and the administrative part, and the lease.

CHAIR SINENCI: Can you --

MR. BERGAU: We --

CHAIR SINENCI: -- wrap up, Mister --

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MR. BERGAU: -- we ought to make it out of foreign entities' hands to our public hands. And mahalo for all you, what you have done, Mr. Sinenci, Councilmembers. And I really, really appreciate for the efforts today. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Bergau. We'll bring you back for questions, Q and A later.

MR. BERGAU: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, thank you. Next, in the Nāhiku area representative, we have Mr. John Blumer-Buell--I believe he's online--for his opening comments.

MR. BLUMER-BUELL: Aloha, Chair Sinenci, can you hear me?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. BLUMER-BUELL: Aloha? Okay, good. First of all, I did receive your and Mr. Krueger's excellent questions. I answered them all extensively in writing yesterday, so please take a look at those. I'll try to get through the first one. Aloha, and good morning, Chair Sinenci, and WASSP Committee Members. I'm John Blumer-Buell, a long-time resident of Mū'olea in the Hāna community area. I've applied for one of the two seats in the Nāhiku license area as described in Council Resolution Number 22-119. I have been knowledgeable with hands-on experience in relevant watershed areas for nearly half a century. In 1989 and '90, I was directly involved with the State Commission on Water Resource Management regarding the culturally, historically, geologically, and significant Kuhiwa Well contested case hearing. Kuhiwa Well is located in Upper Nāhiku, and related Nāhiku licensed area seat I've applied for on the new board. A legally contested case...legally conducted, contested case here and examined and cross-examined extensive evidence in every theory and aspect of the East Maui water system. The evidence included all relevant watershed areas, including the Upcountry water service area. As an appointed member of the Maui General Plan Advisory Committee, I studied related water issues island-wide. As an appointed member of the Hāna Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission, I studied water-related issues, particularly in the Nāhiku license area and related license areas. The results and...results and language is included in the 1994 Hāna Community Plan. Esteemed cultural practitioner Parley Kanaka'ole and I represented the Hāna Community Association and the Nāhiku community in the contested case hearing. Former head of the United States Geological Survey in Hawai'i, William Meyer, was our expert witness. The Sierra Club Legal defense, Arnold Lum, was our legal representative. Most importantly, to this appointment process are their invaluable information and knowledge from everyone involved in the hearing process, regardless of plaintiffs, or defendants, or neutral labels. As a result, the opposing parties (*audio interference*) lead to a findings of fact and conclusion of law which remains informative. Today . . .(*timer sounds*). . . Makapipi Stream, the unnamed stream between Makapipi Stream and Hanawī Stream, Big Springs, and Hanawī Stream require ongoing monitoring and oversight in order to protect one of the most unique and important watershed areas in this State. Chair, may I read one last thought here?

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CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Yeah. Can you close your --

MR. BLUMER-BUELL: These important issues --

CHAIR SINENCI: -- three minutes.

MR. BLUMER-BUELL: -- were discussed, but only partially resolved in the recent 27 Streams contested case hearings. I was an on-call witness for hearing officer Dr. Magy (*phonetic*) in the 27 Streams case. The East Maui Regional Board will need to revisit and consider important related issues in the future. And mahalo so much for your work, particularly you, Shane. And you asked to clarify, I'd be willing to serve in any term capacity that I would best be helped with. I'd be happy to serve for two or five, whatever works for you folks.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Blumer-Buell.

MR. BLUMER-BUELL: You're welcome.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Finally, Members, we have our last three candidates for the Honomanū area...lease area. We have Ms. Alicia Nāpua Hū'eu, followed Jerome Kekiwi, Jr., followed by Jesse Nakooka.

MS. HU'EU: Aloha to the Council and Chair Sinenci. Mahalo for having me. My name is Nāpua Hū'eu, and I'm here to give you an overview of my application for the Community Authority Board for Water. I was raised in Ke'anae, the ahupua'a of Ke'anae. My great grandfather is James Keolaokalani Hū'eu, who was a long-time employee of East Maui irrigation, so I feel that I have grown up amongst this issue. My grandfather, my father, and my family are still active generational taro farmers in East Maui. I have continued the practice of taro farming in a neighboring ahupua'a of Honomanū. And I've done this because there was a shortage of land in Ke'anae ahupua'a to be able to embark upon my journey of wanting to farm kalo. I am a graduate of Pūnana Leo and Kula Kaiapuni on Maui, and my fluency in 'ōlelo Hawai'i has enabled my ability to cross-reference the land title documents of Honomanū ahupua'a, to be able to help with reconstructing the 'auwai system and the placement of lo'i there. The land title documents have intricate details about, you know, where the 'auwai used to be, and how many taro patches used to be on this parcel and whatnot. So that was part of...a large part of going back and putting back the original aboriginal agricultural infrastructure that existed in Honomanū. And growing up in the issue of, you know, corporate water diversions, and how to troubleshoot and remedy this situation, I've spent time as a board member of Nā Moku Hāna Community Association. I've participated in many of the initiatives, endeavors, testimony efforts through Sierra Club, Maui Tomorrow, to try to pursue all of the different routes on how to restore water for East Maui, or at least balance the equation, to make sure that taro farmers have adequate resources to be able to do what everybody wants to do here, you know, ensure food security, you know, work against, you know, the issue of climate change. And after all of these different avenues of trying to pursue water restoration, I decided that it was time to do it in a tangible fashion, and

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to just go out and put the infrastructure back ourselves. So, I think that the goal of this Water Authority Board is to ensure that the watershed is managed in an ethically, evidence-based . . .(timer sounds). . . generational knowledge, you know, way. And I think that my work at Honomanū has proven a model that works. We've done this all with no formal grant funding, all on kuleana initiative, and I think that we have a lot to bring to the table...I have a lot to bring to the table, as far as consulting on watershed management and how to do it in the best way possible. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Thank you. Next, we have Mr. Jerome Kekiwī, Jr., followed by Mr. Jesse Nakooka.

MR. KEKIWI: Aloha kakahiaka. My name is Jerome Kekiwī, Jr., Maui boy, born and raised. I grew up in Ke'anae, Wailua Nui, Honomanū ahupua'a all my life. Lifelong taro farmer, 'auwai restoration all my life. Right now, I the president of our nonprofit organization, Nā Moku Aupuni O Ko'olau Hui. We doing water monitoring throughout the Ko'olau. In 2020, we got the chance to do the whole system from Makapipi all the way to Huelo. We got to see where the leaks and damages in the systems are. And from a little boy, you know, I learned the rivers from walking with my mom as she used to gather to feed our families. And I one team player, so, if this authority...I mean, when this thing goes through, you know, I...I one good listener and, you know. What else? Yeah, I don't know, I just one Maui boy that like get on this thing and be transparent. I like see the transparency between this water issue. And you guys, I just like say that Nā Moku is the reason why you guys see water in the rivers today, and that was because of our kūpunas. You know, if they never step up to the plate and fight the organizations that was taking 100 percent of East Maui water, we wouldn't see water in the river. So that's why I here, I here for our kūpunas, I here for our keikis, I here for our Kānakas, and I here for Ke Akua. Thank you, guys. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Kekiwī. Next, we have Mr. Nakooka.

MR. NAKOOKA: Hey, howzit? Aloha. My name, Jesse Nakooka. I...I...I live in the Ko'olau, I live Waikamoi, been living over there since I was eight years old. I stay 47 now. I eat and drink water, and I visit all these places that everybody talk about, and this is all basically based on the new people coming to the islands and the new housing building is what it's all based on. And...and I've been putting together one...in my homework and my science work, I've been doing from when I was one kid. My knowledge of, and experience of, East Maui come from way deep...deep in my...my...my tūtū, and I don't know if you guys...you guys get paperwork like I get, I...my...my 'ohana, we get...we get the mineral rights to the land, and you cannot get any better than that. The thing come from inside my genes, and I...I'd die for water and the 'āina. And my mission is to create...create one...one project that is real simple. And restoration is...got to come from in...in your soul and your spirit. Me, I...just before I came here, I was just playing with water...every day I play with water, and...and...and throughout the years, the thing been telling me to be a part of something greater than...than the island can possess. And I been working with Bruddah Shane, and every time he come visit me, he tell the good things that the water do for him, and (audio interference) that's why I...I need for be a part of this, and you guys going get hard time getting off of this board. And I just ready

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for make one new plan. And the...the old plan is all contaminated. The sugar cane...the sugar cane, they contaminated all everybody, everybody sick right now. So, we got to...we got to create one whole new...one whole new thing, one whole new board, for water, put East Maui Irrigation on the side. We got to do...we got to do one whole new thing, a whole new plan, and focus on the...on the...the real thing is water, love for the water. If you no more love for the water, then you don't know what you doing. But aloha. Have a nice day.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Nakooka. We'll bring you back for questions afterwards. Okay, so Members, now we're going to open it up for testimony. Do we have any testifiers? It looks like...if you already testified at the beginning of the meeting, you...you cannot testify again.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair. There is currently no one wishing to testify. If there's anyone out there in the Chamber or in BlueJeans that is wishing to testify, please come up to the mic or unmute yourself and begin your testimony. This is the last call for testimony.

CHAIR SINENCI: Looks like we have one testifier. Go ahead and just state your name for the record.

MS. COSTA: Aloha. My name is Jocelyn Costa. I'm an Ahu Moku representative for Hāmākualoa, but our 'ohana comes from Nāhiku, lower Nāhiku to...to be exact. And our family is, I consider, the end user of water. We...we weren't focused on kalo, per se, more lawai'a, fishermen. And so, we've also seen the devastation of de-watering of the...the coastline for sustainable living. And I heard on the...on the floor, extension for applications for this particular endeavor. I would say that if there was a deadline, then whoever has met the deadline should be who...who becomes considered, and perhaps if there were anyone else who had maybe applied to the earlier application that was not privy to, or did not finish their...the secondary application that you folks revised, maybe they would be considered, you know, but as far as brand new people coming in, I think the window of opportunity has been closed. I think that would be fair. I look forward to seeing change. And I was sitting here and talking to this gentleman here who's a scientist, and I turned to him, and I asked him, if our people, Kānaka Maoli, our Hawaiian people are not scientists. And he said, absolutely, because I find that a lot of the theories came from what we already have been doing, but we just don't have that type of acknowledgment or voice. So, when you see people like maybe Jesse, you know, or other taro farmers like Mr. Kekiwi that may not articulate like a scientist, do not be fooled by their knowledge. Because I think sometimes the scientists will come to glean their information from them in order for their paper to then make this public appearance. And I appreciate the scientists as well, because it only brings more character and...and uplift to what we need to accomplish. But I'm...I'm hoping that the lens of...of the applicants that you see does not hinder the understanding and the depth to what they can bring to this Authority. Because I tell you, if it wasn't for them and their understanding and their life...and make no mistake, that our lives were meant for sharing, to take care of everybody. So, when you hear we going take care of the Hawaiians, everyone who lives on this island has that responsibility. And too much years have gone by where the cry came out, and no one came to the aid of the . . .(timer

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sounds). . . the original people. So, I hope that you close your eyes...you know, there's this...there's this contest, yeah, called The Voice, so they don't get to see the contestant, they only hear what they're singing. Maybe what you need to do is go and look in the lo'i and see what they're doing, see the lawai'a, and see what...what his concerns is, or what he's catching, now that the water coming back, and then you would know that you got the winners, yeah? Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Costa. Any questions for the testifier, Members? Seeing none. Thank you. Staff, is there any more testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, no one else has wished...has indicated that they wish to testify. This is the last call. I will give a brief countdown; three, two, one. Seeing none, Chair, no one else is wishing to testify.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members, if no objections, we'll close testimony...public testimony at this time.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . END PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, great. Thank you. All right. So let's get into it. And again, Members, we're just...you get to question the applicants. And so, we'll just go down the line again, and then we'll be back early in June to...to make our final decisions. Okay. So first off, we have Mr. Jonathan Scheuer. We have three minutes, if you need it, to go ahead and ask Mr. Scheuer any questions. We have a question from Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Aloha again. So --

MR. SCHEUER: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- my...I only have two questions for you. One of them is, have you considered how many years of service that you'd want to...or be able to serve on this board? And the other question is, you were appointed by the Chair Designee of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and so, at that time, was there any agreement between you and he in terms of how the information between you sitting on the board and the Department was going to take place, and how that information would flow back and forth?

MR. SCHEUER: Thank you very much for both of those questions, Councilmember. This is my personal view. You know, the...the community members on the Water Authority are really what should be driving decision making. The representative of DHHL is a necessary member, but I think is sort of in supportive of mode, a little bit more of what's coming up from the community. So, in my mind, what works out best is the term that you want to slot the DHHL representative into, while considering all the other considerations you have would make more most sense to me. So, in other words, where

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it fits with the staggering best for your other weighted decisions that you have to make. In my discussions with the DHHL administration, the reports that I give to...I work primarily with the Planning Office, and then with the Chairman's office within the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, so I would regularly interact, even in real time, with staff and the chairman, if necessary, on what's happening with the Authority, including regular briefings that I provide to the Hawaiian Homes. I hope that was responsive to your questions.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Absolutely. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Next, we have Member Sugimura, followed by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Thank you very much for your experience and for...for being willing to participate. So, I am the representative for Upcountry Maui, and the actions of this board directly reflect, and will impact, my residents. So, do you have any opinion you could share with the time given about that? This...it's very important.

CHAIR SINENCI: Members...Members online, can you guys hear the questions and the answers? Okay. If we can just speak into the mic and a little bit louder, Dr. Scheuer, that would be great. Thank you.

MR. SCHEUER: I apologize if I was not clear earlier. Thank you very much, Councilmember Sugimura. Some of your residents and voters Upcountry are, I believe, within Hawaiian Homesteads at Kēōkea and Waiohuli, and actually, DHHL...so DHHL's interests in these waters actually extend...we have lines in Kēōkea...excuse me, in Ke'anae and Wailua Nui. So, we have lands that were historically de-watered by the system, and could not be homesteaded, due to the actions of the East Maui Irrigation Company. They are now restored as part of the Water Commission's restoration of streams. We have lands at Kēōkea and Waiohuli to which these waters will...these lands will only really be productive if we can take some of these waters and deliver them to those lands...additional waters, and deliver them to those lands. And we also have lands that were historically watered by the system at Pūlehu Nui. And so, I want to echo that like DHHL's interest in these waters actually encompasses both the needs of waters in watershed, as well as the needs, as your constituents do, for having water Upcountry. And we're going to participate in a way, obviously, with our beneficiary's interests, but that would seek those outcomes. Okay, I hope that was responsive.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, appreciate that very much. What about Kahiki Nui also?

MR. SCHEUER: So, the system, the existing and any planned water systems, have not extended to Kahiki Nui. Absolutely, the Kahiki Nui community has...is a very water-short area, and has very significant water needs. In the discussions that I have been involved with in the Hawaiian Homes Commission and in front of beneficiaries, there has not been a discussion of trying to extend water delivery from East Maui

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streams into...all the way to Kahiki Nui, but rather to look at other solutions for that...that community.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I would like to see how we can help them, if...if possible. Thank you. Thank you.

MR. SCHEUER: That is very much appreciated. Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Next, we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Jonathan. Thank you for applying for this position. You know, one of the things that I look for in any applicant is impartiality, and I think it's really important that people be objective and don't bring any preconceived agendas to the table, which...which then would probably neutralize any objectivity. But have you...have you been involved in any lawsuits against the County, by any chance?

MR. SCHEUER: So, I'm just...I'm pausing to think. So, I...I...generally speaking, like it depends how you define lawsuits. I've been involved in proceedings in front of the Commission on Water Resource Management, for instance, when I worked for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, but we were actually cooperative with the County in all those respects. There's nothing that is immediately occurring to me that I have ever been involved in a lawsuit in front of the County, either directly...certainly directly individually, or as part of an employer that I've been involved in, or a board that I've been involved in.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, my understanding is that for any board, that where you're sworn in, you become an officer of the County. So therefore, you'll be wearing two hats, I suppose; one representing DHHL, and one representing the County. So, under the circumstances, do you still feel that you can be neutral and objective in your decision making?

MR. SCHEUER: Thank you, Councilmember. So, I would say that that requirement will not be unique to me as an individual, but would be unique to the position of somebody representing DHHL. It's your interpretation, that you are both representing DHHL and representing the County on the board. As for me, part of my experience, individually, not related to my DHHL work, has been three years on the O'ahu Island Burial Council as a the Kona moku representative, and eight years on the State Land Use Commission, where I had to legally maintain objectivity and neutrality in all the decision making that was before us. So, I would bring the same stance and orientation to service on this board that I did to my previous 11 years of service on boards and commissions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Next, we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Dr. Schuler [sic], your...your resume is very, very impressive and broad. Having a scientific perspective as well as a grassroots, you

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know, either the farmer on the ground in this board would be...is advantageous. What's your perspective from the system...the...the delivery...the delivery mechanism that is now, as far as the ditch system? Is it...like, what kind of shape's it in, from like A to...A to F?

MR. SCHEUER: From A to F? It depends on which section of the system. Some certainly are at, I think, Grade E or F, and some are at Grade A, where more recent repairs. I personally toured portions of the system, I'm also familiar with the findings from the Water Commission during the extensive contested case over the system, as well as more recent proceedings before the Water Commission. I can't tell you, flume by flume, ditch by ditch, reservoir by reservoir. There's certainly some significant capital needs where water efficiency, delivery, and also impact in streams could be greatly improved with investment. But it's somewhat site specific to each portion of the ditch system.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Actually, your answer is quite accurate. That's good. You basically have a very broad perspective, and not looking in any particular narrow scope. But part...in closing, my question is, for Maui County's water needs and the foreseeable future, I mean, for generations, both agriculturally and for the various, you know, commercial farming, Upcountry, everywhere, as well as the residential needs, do you...is your perspective...does Maui have an abundance of water, and we need to simply manage it appropriately and make sure that it is being ethically and...managed with integrity for the benefit of everybody?

MR. SCHEUER: I would agree with that statement. I would...given my background and sort of in accordance with sort of State constitutional and statutory provision. But absolutely. I've not been involved with a water dispute or situation on Maui or across Hawai'i where a fundamental lack of water was the problem that we faced.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Cook. And Members, just as a reminder, we're just going to be asking questions about...we're not talking about the Water Authority or anything, we're just talking about their expertise and their application...for their applications for today. We kind of want to keep it tight, yeah? Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair, and correct me if I'm not keeping it tight. I just was wondering, you know, plenty times, water issues are super controversial. Liquor is for drinking, and water is for fighting. And I just was wondering if you could speak to your ability to thread the needle through those controversies.

MR. SCHEUER: Mahalo, Councilmember Paltin. Indeed, water, my previous experience in land use and burial issues, all of those issues tend to arise high levels of emotions, have very significant stakes for the parties involved. I feel I've been taught a great deal in various communities around the State, and I...about how to thread that needle. Practices that you guys embody and live in your duties as Councilmembers, such as like, you know, listening to the message, rather than paying attention to the messenger, noting that emotion has content, as well as other kinds of information. Your comment

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prompts me to want to say that having had now the pleasure and honor to listen to all the applicants, I see that I would...if confirmed by this body, am excited to work and learn from the many other members who have applied for this, with really depth of experience, and character, and knowledge that they bring to this. And so really, that ability to navigate through these very charged issues economically, politically, emotionally, culturally, will come from the wisdom of that body as a collective.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Member Paltin. Any other questions for Dr. Scheuer? We have one from Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Dr. Scheuer. Mahalo for applying, and for your continued advocacy in our community. And...and to be clear, when the Council worked together on writing the Charter amendment that was then ratified by the electorate, we were explicit in the interest that would be represented on this Water Authority, and the interest that you would be representing is the homesteaders. And so, I wouldn't expect you to be absolutely neutral, in which that's pretty impossible, since we all come with implicit bias, and we were asking for that interest to be represented on this Water Authority. So, I just wanted to make that clear before asking my first question, which is, do you expect your attendance to be a challenge?

MR. SCHEUER: No, I do not.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then my second question is regarding the powers, and duties, and functions of the board, first of which is to appoint the director. Are you prepared in vetting and recruiting someone who would be qualified to fill this role?

MR. SCHEUER: I think this is going to be one of the most important duties of this board, to appoint a director working with the appropriate County Staff. I would really look forward to doing it. That individual will bear a great sort of kuleana of day-to-day activity related to this effort. I've had the pleasure of--when serving for four years as the Land Commission Chair--of being in charge of the hiring of our executive director. I served 11 years on the Hawai'i Island Land Trust Board, including multiple times hiring their executive director, so I bring some level of experience to that. So, of course, it would be in the particular context of County hiring practices. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. And then regarding the review of assessment studies, environmental reports for the Water Authorities, as well as long-range watershed management plans, are you prepared for that kuleana?

MR. SCHEUER: Yes, I am. And I look forward to it if being confirmed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And then Chair, I'm sorry, how long did you say that we had?

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CHAIR SINENCI: Three minutes. Are we timing, Staff?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair, and mahalo, Staff. And, oh, did the timer go? Okay. Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Dr. Scheuer.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, apologies. Councilmember Rawlins Fernandez, you had 30 seconds left.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Krueger. Okay, with my last question. Okay, and then are...are you prepared to conduct (*audio interference*) to community areas, hold at least two public community meetings a year in the region? Sorry, in the region.

MR. SCHEUER: (*Audio interference*).

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Dr. Scheuer. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Any other questions for those Members for the first round? Seeing none, is there a need for a second round of questions for Dr. Scheuer? Okay, his answers were that concise. Okay. Thank you, Dr. Scheuer.

MR. SCHEUER: Aloha nui.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, we have one more...oh, oh, thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I...I just had a question for you. Could you clarify the seven...so, we're...we're filling seven seats, right? And my understanding was two from Nāhiku --

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, just...just one. The...the Mayor had chosen the other one from each of those areas.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Oh, I see.

CHAIR SINENCI: So, we have --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you...can you run down the list of what the...the...what we're looking for?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yep. So, we're looking...of the...of the 11, the four has...the Mayor has chosen four, and then we choose seven. Dr. Scheuer's recommendation came from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, so he's one of them. And then we have the four from each of the lease areas, and we're going to wait for Ke'anae and Hono...Huelo for June 5th.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we're choosing one from Ke'anae, one from Nāhiku, one from Honomanū, one from Huelo, and one from DHHL?

CHAIR SINENCI: Correct. And then the other two is in the service areas of Ha'ikū, Makawao, and Kula, and they need to have either...one of them has farm experience, and the other one has water resource experience.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. Okay, any other questions? Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: This is a process question. So, it looks like if we just go through questioning of the nominees, we're going to run out of time today. So, I wondered what your plans may be to continue this opportunity.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, okay, up to the board. I mean, right, I know we have lots of...I'm okay with vetting all of the different applicants today. I think it gives you guys a kind of good sense of where they're coming from, and like Ms. Costa said, kind of get a feel of where they're from --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I...I agree, but I could tell we're going to run out of time. Is three minutes per --

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, I'm okay with us adjourning, and then --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Continuing questions.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- continuing with the --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: June 5th at the next--

CHAIR SINENCI: How long would you guys be able to go to? I know Mr. Cook has a 1:30 and he has one item, a 7(B). Would you guys want to come back afterwards? No?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I...I have a...I have a commitment waiting for me right now, but that's not what I'm saying. I just want to know what your plans are.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, we can go ahead --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Should we talk to everybody --

CHAIR SINENCI: -- we can go ahead and adjourn at 12:00 or 12:30, if you guys are...are...and then we'll take as many as we can, and then maybe the ones in Honomanū, we can maybe invite you guys back on June 5th. And if you guys...if you guys need to leave, we can...we can excuse you guys now, but we'll probably take up the next...at least the agriculture...up to agriculture. So, we could technically release the Nāhiku and the Honomanū guys, if that's okay with you guys? And then --

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: -- and then we can bring you guys back on June 5th. Is that okay? No objections, Members? You guys okay with that? And that we can continue with Mr. Quitazol, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Balthazar, Mr. Greenleaf, and Ms. Ka'ahui. How's that? Yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair Lee, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, I just wanted to let you know I have to leave the call at 11:50, but I would have been able to return in the afternoon. But doesn't seem like you have enough people to return.

CHAIR SINENCI: Correct. And then if you guys have additional questions for the other candidates, just please send it to Staff, and then maybe we can...we can also forward that to the lease area applicants, and then they could write in their question...their answers to you, and we can post it on Granicus. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, so, I guess, based upon the process and the way that the structure is, so Dr. Scheuer, Norman Bush, Martin Junior, and Lucienne de Naie are single, there's nobody else, so they automatically are accepted?

CHAIR SINENCI: No, and we...we're going to bring on Mr. Hū'eu from Ke'anae, and Miss...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR SINENCI: Who?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Lyn Scott.

CHAIR SINENCI: Lyn Scott, yep, and...on June 5th.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And she's from what area?

CHAIR SINENCI: Honomanū?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: No, excuse me. Huelo *(audio interference)* Honopou, I believe her application was from.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, two things. So, I...I'm assuming you're not going to vote on anybody until June 5th, right?

CHAIR SINENCI: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, in the meantime, are you also going to extend the deadline for those who didn't have a chance to submit your...their applications? Are you planning to take that issue up?

CHAIR SINENCI: No, we weren't. The only two that we're considering sent theirs in early on during the process, and they have an older application. And we've since sent all the applicants a newer one without their personal information. So...but to be fair to everyone that sent in their applications before the deadline, we will consider those two that sent theirs in in January and February.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Did you say earlier that your Committee put out one press release in March?

CHAIR SINENCI: And I put out two press releases, one in March...Mr. Krueger, was that two press releases?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we can double check and see.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is there any problem with accepting more applications?

CHAIR SINENCI: Just to be...we wanted to be fair to those that sent in their applications on time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, well, we've...we've done it for other things, like a County Clerk, for example...closed the deadline, and then extended it after that. Well, anybody interested in extending that deadline? If not, I'm not going to bring...keep talking about it. Anybody in this meeting interested in extending the deadline, can you let us know? Because --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I am.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, it looks like there's at least four of us...five of us.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, and the reason why we didn't want to extend it is because, one, the Mayor had sent down his nominees, and currently, the State is looking to...for management of these areas, so we kind of wanted to get them going quicker, than trying to open it up again and getting another round of applicants, Chair. So, we do have a couple, two- and three-year terms, so we're hoping that maybe these other candidates that want to go ahead and apply, can go ahead and send in theirs for the two and three

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terms that that will be coming up. I think we've got some great candidates so far, and we wanted to...to make sure that they're being vetted today.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Is...is the time sensitivity primarily based on you wanting to...this Council to nominate the board, and not an independent nomination board? Is...is that the driving reason here for, you know --

CHAIR SINENCI: No, I...I --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- moving this as quickly as possible?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah, I didn't consider that, Chair. So, no.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Then, why would we be rushing then?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. We're just...I mean, I think our candidates have been waiting the last couple of months, who sent in their...their applications. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. You know, there were press releases, you previously had a meeting about this, and I think for this initial board that's going to be concerned with hiring the executive director and setting the tone, it's important that the people on the...on the initial one, are able to follow the rules, are able to follow community events, and are able to get their application in on time. Already, with the list that we have, I...I can tell you that I'm going to have a difficult time choosing within the constraints, and I don't want to make it any more hard by adding more people. This isn't a lifetime sentence, so I would encourage...I mean, I would love to have more good applicants as these people term out, so I...I don't think it's necessary to extend the application. It's going to come around again in two, three, five years. So, I think my vote would be to just keep it fair, pick the people, and move on. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Staff has...did say that we did have a press release on December 2nd, and then again on March 21st. And then, just as a reminder, Members, we did extend the...the funding for the director to begin at the beginning of the year. We added additional funds for that, in anticipation of getting the board up and running. Okay, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I support your decision to hold the deadline as was. We're already moving forward, we have a great pool of candidates. This didn't come as any surprise to anyone. The whole community knew that we were working on the Water Authority, putting together the board. The electorate overwhelmingly voted in support of doing this, so I...it was all over the news. Everyone...everyone knows about this. This is not like the Clerk position, where that was open for like about a month, and then closed. So, this has been...you know, I think you did a great job at broadcasting it and holding it open from December to now. Everyone had more than adequate time to, you know, submit an application for their interest. I don't support delaying this, and the urgency of this was expressed from last year. So, I support holding the line, holding the deadline as is, and moving forward with

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vetting the applicants that did get their applications in on time. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I'm also reminded that we did have several community meetings in Ke'anae, in the Huelo area, and also at Wailuku at Īao Valley, on top of, I believe, three Committee meetings. We also had three community meetings within the communities. Member --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair Sinenci?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yes --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sinenci?

CHAIR SINENCI: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How did you notify these people? Īao Valley and other places?

CHAIR SINENCI: We did reach out to the communities. In Huelo, we spoke at the Community Association, we used social media to get the word out to the...for those community meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, okay. It...it doesn't seem like other people who were...received the notice. People in Pā'ia, Makawao, Pukalani, and those areas, which would be affected as well. So, again, you know, it's some...it's something to consider. There's no urgency, really, about passing this by a certain time that I can see. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Chair Lee. Okay, Members, if anything else? Mr. Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I don't want to delay this. I would like to get a little better depth in a couple of the areas. It's...basically it is...it is a two-year term, three-year term, and it's not that, but it is also the very beginning of something that we want to be successful, that we want to be cohesive in the community. So, if it could just...a couple of weeks or something, not...not one big delay, but basically folding it in. So, it's like you have a two-week period that if the appropriate person...if people apply and they're not appropriate, they're not going to meet the criteria. If somebody applies and they meet the criteria, it shouldn't be difficult. I'm impressed with the people. Some of the resumes are pretty thin. Like the doctor was very progressive. My résumé would be thin, so I'm not, like, being critical, but I'm just...a little bit of time would be appreciated.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Cook. And yeah, once we go ahead and get the board up and running, then we can come back in this Committee and then kind of share some of their duties moving forward. So, we'll definitely have a regular, just for it...with you guys, we'll have the board come on and kind of share what their progress is. Okay. Thank you. Can we go ahead and release the...I know the Nāhiku guys, but if next time they cannot come, we'll...we'll offer virtual options too, if you cannot make it on...on June 5th. So, we can go ahead and release you guys. And if we can get as many as we can

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in. Mahalo for coming. Thank you, guys. We'll continue with Mr. Quitazol, followed by Mr. Shuler. Is Mr. Quitazol on? Okay, go ahead. Oh. Any questions for Mr. Quitazol? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha, Mr. Quitazol. I was wondering first, what does SWCA stand for?

MR. QUITAZOL: That's the environmental consulting company that I work for. It stands for Steven W. Carruthers and Associates.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you. And to clarify, are you applying for the Water Service Area Resource Rep, or the Water Service Area Ag rep?

MR. QUITAZOL: The water service resource rep, yeah. Just because what kind of, you know, from that position and...and this...you know, this advisory group, what you know resonates with me, is just the watershed and ensuring that, you know, we do the right thing by the...by the resources.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And also, you would just be representing yourself and your community, not your employer?

MR. QUITAZOL: Yeah, that's correct. No, no, no, completely separate, you know. But, you know, because of that and, you know, my...my background as a project manager, and as a natural resource manager, you know, conservation, all of that thing. And my experience in...in particular in...in the watershed itself, East Maui watershed, is extensive. And yeah, I just want to provide that support.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and to clarify, you also have knowledge about drought, and wildfire, and...and that as well?

MR. QUITAZOL: Yeah, I know the three minutes are not long enough to explain my experiences. And, you know, local people, we don't like to brag or anything like that, you just like to, you know, let your performance and your reputation speak for itself. So, yeah, I do. My background, my academic background, is in agriculture itself, and actually, that has...that has made...or given me the advantage as far as being a natural resource manager. I used to say that prior to my arrival on conservation, a lot of it was in the hands of biologists and, you know, the challenges and the threats were more...there was more experience with that in agriculture, you know, a lot of the threats are ungulates. And that's kind of like my...my area of expertise, and kind of the damage and impacts that they present to the watershed and our native ecosystems. But I do have extensive experience in invasive species, you know, fire ants, you know, all the...all the usual suspects...Miconia and kahili ginger, and that, so...and in writing the long-range management plans for these water watersheds. That's what I bring to the table.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Seems like we get double, then, if...if we get you, we get ag and resource.

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MR. QUITAZOL: Yeah, I mean, a lot of them don't think so, but agriculture and conservation should...should kind of complement each other and go hand in hand, right? You can't have agriculture without supporting your resource, and...yeah. And...and a lot of it comes . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . comes *(audio interference)* resource comes from agriculture. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. QUITAZOL: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's my time. Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Mr. Quitazol.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

MR. QUITAZOL: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: A question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Quitazol. I'm glad you have great credentials. I am the area representative for Upcountry, and the actions of this board will have direct impact to my residents. Do you have any experience of working with Upcountry residents or the water system as it will relate to them, and will protect them and the resource that's available today?

MR. QUITAZOL: Yes, absolutely. I...like I said, I was born and raised in Ha'ikū. I currently...I live in Kula, I have a house in Kula. You know, I guess...I guess I'm a product of the plantation era too, right? I mean, you know, Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Filipino. So...so, you know, as far as part of the community and, you know, the...the effects it'll have, I mean, I'm directly affected, I'm part of that. So...and I've seen the water system in general. I think...I think the previous applicant mentioned, you know, the status of the system and yeah, absolutely correct. We've seen the most recent...I've seen firsthand, and taken tours of, and...tours of, and actually worked in the areas and...and that this water system, the EMI water system, is, you know, there's a bunch, miles and miles of ditches, flumes kind stuff, all of those things combined.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. One last question. Have you any experience of working with the County Department of Water Supply?

MR. QUITAZOL: We've worked with the DWS for, you know, pre...in my previous life in conservation, you know, working with grants, and supporting those grants and, you know, meeting the deliverables of those grant opportunities for Waikamoi Preserve.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Any other questions for Mr. Quitazol? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Quitazol. Mahalo for applying. I wanted...in light of the discussion that we had before you came up for our questions, how did you find out about applying?

MR. QUITAZOL: *Maui News* and...well, actually, the first I...I encountered, it was on the ballot, right? And I was like, oh, what is this? You know, this seems interesting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Exactly.

MR. QUITAZOL: Because was mail-in ballots. You can research it and everything like that. So, you know, definitely supported it. And then I found out about the application through the...through, you know, local media. I mean, I'm not on social media or anything, but I do read the newspaper and, you know, our local. That's how I found out about it. So, I was interested, you know, felt like I could contribute...contribute positively, and you know, with a forward mindset, and...yeah, just like I said, I just want to support the community.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Mahalo. And then do you foresee any challenges with attendance?

MR. QUITAZOL: Oh, no. I mean, I think I put in the application, I'm...I'm all in. And either...if I can't be there, I'll be there virtually, you know, whatever way I can. You know, this Monday meeting, I pushed off a lot of stuff that I have to do and...and, you know, making this a priority in my life. Yeah. So definitely. And then as far as term too, I think I didn't answer that, because the three-minute time frame. But yeah, I mean, two years, definitely. I mean, if I commit two years, I'm all in for that, and I'm very, you know, data and science driven, and performance based. So, if my performance is not good for two years, then yeah, I probably won't, you know, then you guys will move on. But, you know, I'm going to dedicate myself for the two years, and you know, let my performance speaks for itself, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Mahalo. And then regarding powers, duties, functions of the board, are...are you prepared to recruit and vet the director for the Water Authority?

MR. QUITAZOL: Yeah, sure. I mean if...if that's part of the duties and everything, yeah, definitely. You know, I've been part of panels before, you know, as far as, like, interviewing and...and hiring people. So, yeah, definitely prepared to do that if need --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, and then...yes, that...that's the first powers, duties, functions on the Charter amendment. So, the...oh, shoot. Would you speak to how you would balance agriculture in...outside of the ahupua'a of the water source, and the ecosystem of the...of the area water source? So, the streams, where the streams are, and then redirecting water? Like, how do you balance the interests of both?

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MR. QUITAZOL: Well . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . sorry. Yeah. Could I answer --

CHAIR SINENCI: Go ahead and answer.

MR. QUITAZOL: -- that? Oh, okay, sorry. Try to keep it brief. I guess the balance, like...like I said, you know, for me, the approach is, you know, based on the research and the numbers, and things like that. So, you know, if we can...if we...if the numbers or the yield from the watershed can support both, then yeah, we would do that. But...but I think I mentioned earlier, my...my passion, my loyalty, lies with the...the resource, the watershed. I mean, that's where I spent a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. So, we do right by that first, and it should be able to sustain both, you know, agriculture in East Maui and, you know, the communities of the...of the service area.

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Members, any other questions for...oh, Mr. Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair, my questions have been answered by the previous. I just want to thank you for volunteering, and your passion for this. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Cook. Members, any need for a second round of questions for Mr. Quitazol? Seeing none, mahalo for answering the questions, Mr. Quitazol. Okay.

MR. QUITAZOL: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Next, we have Mr. Shuler. He's in the...the Chamber. Any questions for Mr. Schuler? I can begin for your...my first round. Mr. Shuler, have you ever worked with the Commission on Water Resource Management before?

MR. SHULER: Yes, I have, for a number of projects. The most notable one right now that I'm working on, I mentioned, the Hawai'i Mesonet Project. We're installing a number of climate stations throughout Maui County and the State of Hawai'i, and the Commission on Water Resource Management is an essential partner for us. So, we're going all over the backcountry with them, looking for weather station sites.

CHAIR SINENCI: And then can you speak briefly on your familiarity with the watershed area?

MR. SHULER: The East Maui Watershed area?

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. SHULER: Yeah, I guess my familiarity...so, you know, I've spent some time looking for weather station sites and hiking, and...and I also have family in Ke'anae, and have been visiting there since I was a kid. But yeah, and I also, you know, have familiarity with the monitoring data, and reports, and groundwater recharge maps, and climate

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projections that cover that area as well. So, not only do I have the physical familiarity, but I am also fairly up on the literature regarding the water resources of Maui and Maui County.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, mahalo. Members, any other questions for Mr. Shuler? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Shuler, for your willingness to serve. I'm not super science-y [sic], and I was wondering if you could explain, when you say hydrogeology, what that is?

MR. SHULER: Basically groundwater. So, there's hydrologists, a lot of hydrologists are surface water hydrologists that look at rivers and streams because that's a big part of hydrology in continental settings. In island settings, our water, a lot of our water comes from groundwater, a lot of islands' water, O'ahu especially. And hydrogeology is the study of water that's underground, and so to understand that, you really have to understand the geology. So, my...my degree is actually from the geology department in...at University of Hawai'i.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...okay. Then I was wondering like, I mean, I'm not super ma'a to all of this, but this community board is discussing the distribution of more of the surface water. And I just was wondering how you connect the hydrogeology aspect to this board as...as to you being a resource to this board?

MR. SHULER: Yes. Yeah, so, I've got experience with both groundwater and surface water hydrology. So, I...my back...I started my background with groundwater modeling. I also do surface water flood modeling as well. And then, you know, additionally, one of the...one of the big...one of the primary parts of our resource that, you know, I think this board was formed to manage, is the base flow constraints. And so, that has to do with how groundwater and surface water interact. So, my expertise certainly covers the resource, I guess, if that was your question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Yeah. Thank you. And then, you know, when you had your opening comments, you said manage the water without the influence of, like, physical, social, and political. I was wondering if you could clarify what you meant by social. Like, and...and in...inclusive of that, if you can talk a little bit about your ties to the community, or like, your passions within the community, things that you do on your spare time?

MR. SHULER: Sure. So, I guess in reference to your first part of the question, I think I said something along the lines that we need to consider the physical, social, and like, the infrastructure of how we distribute the...the water. So, I...I, you know, I think that statement essentially alluded to the idea that it's not just the amount of water that is at question, but it's really a lot of factors . . . (timer sounds) . . . for the community that the board, I think, needs to take into consideration. Should...should I cut off, or should I continue?

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CHAIR SINENCI: You can go ahead and finish, Mr. Shuler.

MR. SHULER: Okay. And then, so, in terms of my connection, I think just living in the Ha'ikū area, you know, as somebody who lives here and, you know, once I continued developing my roots, I am...you know, I'm very interested in managing or...or understanding the...the hydrology here. So, you know, put up a weather station in my backyard, and I actually just recently deployed a stream gauge in the stream. I'm on West Kuiaha, so on Kuiaha Stream, to...to understand what's going on with the water in my backyard. And that connects to a study that I'm doing with the Ha'ikū Community Association. So, I've got a...we've got a graduate student funded by donations with the Association, and we are working to better understand the water in the Ha'ikū area. So, yeah, I...you know, that's...that's my...my professional passions. I have my own personal passions that I won't get into because we're out of time. But yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Shuler. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Next, a question from Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. The weather stations, I have a friend who I think helped launch the...a grant, so I hope you're working with NRCS and the efforts of, you know, those people.

MR. SHULER: Yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I was excited to hear that. I...I represent Upcountry, you might have heard my questions to the other nominees, and I am concerned about make...ensuring that we have water Upcountry because the actions of this board will have direct impact. So, do you have a statement about that? And then, have you had an opportunity to work with our Department of Water Supply?

MR. SHULER: Yes, like I...regarding Department of Water Supply, I've primarily worked with them on the weather station project. So, we just installed the weather station out in Hāna on one of their sites, and we're working with them to find other sites. That's been my primary interaction with them. I have worked with other water utilities, so similar, with the Board of Water Supply on O'ahu. I've worked actually a lot in American Samoa with their water utility as well. So, I like working with water utilities, they're very down to earth folks. And then regarding Upcountry, I think...you know, honestly, the statements like that Dr. Scheuer said, you know, I think I'd echo that. Whereas, I think, yeah, certainly, you know, this...this board is going to be important for our water resources as a community. And yeah, I think we all know that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Cook, and then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Mr. Shuler. How is the...now that the streams are

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flowing for the last period of time, that's going to affect the recharge for the groundwater, and that kind of resonates exactly what we're talking about, so I see the interconnectivity. Do you have experience with identifying or monitoring any of the wells in the East...Windward Side?

MR. SHULER: So, I haven't directly done any monitoring in the wells on the Windward Side. I've done a lot of well monitoring in other places, mainly in American Samoa, and O'ahu, and other islands. There's not really many wells on the East Side, for one thing. I've read some reports, and I'm aware of what's there, and I've looked through the CWRM Well Database. Yeah, so I haven't directly monitored any wells in East Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: In...in your experience from groundwater recharge, whatnot, would you think that the Ha'ikū area would be...have a sustainable...potential sustainable aquifer?

MR. SHULER: That's...that is...yeah, I'm a scientist, it's a complicated question, and that's why we have a master's student studying that. So, can I get back to you, once...once his thesis is written? Because that's what that will be about.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much for signing up and for answering questions. Mahalo.

MR. SHULER: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Cook. Next, we'll have a question from Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Shuler. Mahalo for your application. How did you hear about the application, if you wouldn't mind sharing with us?

MR. SHULER: Yeah, I heard about the application through members of the Ha'ikū Community Association Board, through the study that I just mentioned that we're conducting together.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, awesome. Are you part of the Ha'ikū Community Association?

MR. SHULER: Yes. Yeah, yeah. So, yeah, I'm working with them.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, okay.

MR. SHULER: With...I guess we're all working...it's...there's a subset of the board who are primarily interested in water resources, and so, I'm working with that subset of the board mainly. But I also, you know, am a member.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you foresee any challenges with your

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attendance?

MR. SHULER: Nope. I've got a couple little kids at home, so --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. SHULER: -- you know, and I don't see any issues with attendance.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then in your opening comments, you talked about distribution of water intelligently. In that context, what do you mean by intelligently?

MR. SHULER: I think intelligently, meaning we're using and knowledgeable about the best available information science, and...yeah, I mean, just kind of, you know, when we're talking about East Maui, like the engineering that is on the ground out there, because yeah, the...the human engineering, the built environment out there, is...is complicated, and from my understanding, we...we could learn more about it, and probably should.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Okay. Okay. So, like, to minimize the water loss in distribution, like the...the built environment?

MR. SHULER: Yeah. The...the --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it.

MR. SHULER: -- water systems, the aqueducts. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for clarifying that. Okay. And then you...in response to Member Paltin's question, you said that there is a lot of, like, factors to consider. And it was regarding the question on social and political, and, you know, when we speak to political, you know, policy is about balancing interests. And so, would you kind of speak more to what factors the board would...you think the board should consider when making decisions?

MR. SHULER: Yeah, I think, you know, as a scientist, my...my inherent bias is to look at, you know, the water as a...as kind of an isolated...well, not isolated, but you know, a physical resource. So, the amount of rainfall, the amount of recharge, the amount of streamflow, that kind of thing. So, that's primarily what I think about. However, you know, I think that we, as a culture, and science . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . in general is also understanding the importance of equity and justice. And, you know, I think that, you know, the question of water distribution is much more than just how much water is there, but yeah, it's balancing the needs of all the users and then, you know, balancing the budget, and making decisions that are as beneficial to the most amount of people in the community as possible. Because that's...yeah, that...that's kind of our civic duty, I suppose.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that, Mr. Schuler. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Any other questions for Mr. Shuler?
Pro Tem Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Mr. Shuler, I don't know if I may have missed it, but did you say, or mention at any time, how many years you'd be able to serve on the board?

MR. SHULER: My apologies, I did not mention that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay, thank you.

MR. SHULER: Yeah, I think, you know, as Dr. Scheuer said, I think, you know, the...the Committee certainly, you know, I'm sure wants to build a balance of members and whatnot. So, I'm open to any...any term that makes the most sense.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Pro Tem Kama. Any other questions for Mr. Shuler? Any need for a second round of questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a last question. Well, I had a few more questions, but I'll...I'll just...I'll stop here after this question. Mr. Shuler, have...have you ever testified before CWRM or another, you know, Government agency in Hawai'i as a...an expert witness, or a testifier, or expert on policy?

MR. SHULER: You know, I haven't personally testified before CWRM. I've contributed to a testimony on one of my research groups to CWRM about the Lāhainā hearing. And I've testified to the State legislature before, primarily focused on...I...I do a lot of work on water quality in the cesspool issue as well, and so primarily related to that. Yeah, I've provided testimony in...in a handful of settings.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, to clarify, you're...you're familiar with the case law, contested case hearings of East...the East Maui water systems?

MR. SHULER: I would say I'm familiar. I am by no means an expert. And there are... there are...there are experts on this call right now who I would certainly have to defer to. But yeah, I'm...I'm familiar, having worked in the field for a decade. But, yes, I'm not an expert.

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Question from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering, you know, we have so many great candidates. Are you going to be living here for...until you die, and if you don't get selected this round, would you reapply, or would you still participate in the

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process through giving testimony or whatever?

MR. SHULER: Yeah, I would...I would certainly consider reapplying, if not selected. And I do...I mean, I...yeah, I have...I have no plans of moving anywhere any time soon, or at all. But --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's nice, thank you.

MR. SHULER: -- you never know. Like I said, I have two young kids at home and yeah, their lives rule my life, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, great. I...I just...and to clarify on the Lāhainā one, you work for a designation?

MR. SHULER: I believe we...we provided input. So, I also work with a group called Pacific RISA, and we're focused on developing science that supports climate change adaptation. And so, we provided, I think, informational testimony about the climate change effects of the designation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Not on...for or against.

MR. SHULER: I don't think we...yeah, I'm not...I don't think that we took a...I think that we had the...we provided a comment, I think it's what it's called, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Um-hum. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Member Paltin. Okay. Any other questions for Mr. Shuler? Seeing none. Mahalo for your...for answering our questions. And Members, I know we're kind of losing quorum, and if you need to exit, we just have three more of our farm experts, so if you need to leave, that's fine. And if you have questions for them, you can send to the Staff. Yeah. Okay.

MR. SHULER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you. Okay. We have...we just have three more, Members, if you will indulge...indulge me. You need a...okay. We have Mr. Brendan Balthazar. Aloha, Mr. Balthazar, are you still with us?

MR. BALTHAZAR: Yeah, I'm here.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo for putting aside --

MR. BALTHAZAR: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- your...your ranching duties today just to be with us. We have a couple...we have a couple questions for you.

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MR. BALTHAZAR: Go ahead.

CHAIR SINENCI: I can start. What community groups have you been, or are you currently involved with? I know you mentioned a few --

MR. BALTHAZAR: I'm on the board of the...I'm on the board of the Maui Cattlemen's Association, Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, the Farm Bureau, the Ag Working Group. I'm a board member of all of those boards.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo for that. Thank you. Members, any questions for Mr. Balthazar? We have a question from Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Balthazar. Mahalo for applying. Same question. How...how did you learn about the application?

MR. BALTHAZAR: Believe it or not, I learned about the application from some members...Councilmembers. I learned about the application from some of the boards that I'm on, and all of them were encouraging me to sign up. At first, I was reluctant, and then realizing that I supply 12,000 to 14,000 gallons of water a day that I got to supply to my animals, and that's a lot of water. And the bulk of it, Keani, is coming from sources other than the County. As you know, I was on Moloka'i for a while, I leased Moloka'i Ranch, and that was one of the major challenges, getting them to take care of the water system, and not let it run down the rivers, you know. And the fight got too big, so I left. So, that's really how I found...I found out, by encouragement from outside board people.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, great. I'm...I'm so happy other Councilmembers had encouraged Members of the public, because it wasn't just Member Sinenci's kuleana to make sure that the community knew about the application. Awesome.

MR. BALTHAZAR: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second question. Do you anticipate any challenges with attendance?

MR. BALTHAZAR: Well, unless the police call me and say I get cattle on the road, like they did at 2:00 in the morning, and they told me you get one bull on the road, I said, I don't have bulls there. And he said, but it has horns. I said, that's not what determine a bull. You got to look between the legs, not the head. So, it ended up with some neighbors called, it got out, you know, out in Kihei. But yeah, I...I will try my damndest because, you know, I...I think my goal is, you know, you have all of...everybody have their own agenda. I don't. I feel fairness because, you know, water, if we only get...if...when it rains, you know, we get one hell of a lot of water. And when it doesn't, we don't. And I feel that each entity that really wants water has to be assigned a percentage. So, when you get less water, everybody get less water. Not one person takes

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more, because I control the system. And that was really my concern and my goal for getting on this...this deal. And as far as --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for sharing that.

MR. BALTHAZAR: -- water experience...as far as water experience, I work for the Fire Department 37 . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . years, and I did that with Mike Victorino before they had the red light, and I cover them with my hat. My experience is right here. You know, unlike a lot of professionals, my professionalism is on the ground, fixing the pipes, checking the streams, diverting the...fixing the...the...the plugs. You know, that is where my experience come, for the last 55 years.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo Mr. Balthazar. Mahalo again for applying. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Balthazar, for your willingness to serve. I just was wondering...oh, I had a few questions, but the first one. What--I might have missed it--what year duration were you interested in? I think they said there's two, three, four, five or something.

MR. BALTHAZAR: You know, God willing, if I'm alive in five years, and I might be there. If things get rough with my health or anything else, then it'll be shorter, you know? I think the performance is what determines how long a guy serves on the board. I intended to go on the Farm Bureau Board for one term, and I can't get out. So, it's a...it's a matter...it's like people on the Council. You know, those that do one good job, we want to keep them. So, as far as the term, I'm going test the water and see how that goes. But I mean, hopefully we can make a difference...a difference that the...that the owners, and the County, and everybody else never made in the past. You know, we get one good group of people coming from all, you know, deal. Just...I'm just hoping that everybody be optimistic about, you know, water Upcountry, water in Ke'anae, water in Huelo. As I said, I have land in Huelo, and land all the way in Kaupō, in Kula, in Makawao, Ha'ikū, and I have to deliver water to all those animals, totaling most of 15,000 acres...I mean, gallons.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The other question I had was, you know, regarding...I heard your statement about distributing the water fairly. And if people cut back, everybody cut back. But I wanted to clarify the statement about wasting the water down the stream. I think in East Maui, a lot of the taro farmers take the water out of the stream, and then they put it back. And then that end use of the water in the muliwai helps the fishermens in West Maui. When we seen some of the stream flow restored, we've seen a lot of the fisheries restored, and I just was wondering, in the equitable distribution of water, does that include, in your opinion, the stream flow for the kalo farmers and the fishermens?

MR. BALTHAZAR: Everybody got to be considered. But if you ask me, are you going to say the kalo farmers are more important than the onion farmers? No, we're all trying to

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grow food, and having the water in the ocean grows fish. But how much is necessary? I'm not one scientist, but I know that if you get 1,000 gallons, and you . . .(timer sounds). . . get 1,000 people, each guy get one gallon; you cannot have one person taking ten. And that's the background, that's my premise. I want to be fair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Balthazar. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Members, any other questions for Mr. Balthazar? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I don't have any questions. I just want to thank you, Mr. Balthazar, for volunteering for the position.

MR. BALTHAZAR: Thank you, Tom.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Members, any need for a second round of questioning for Mr. Balthazar? Seeing none. And mahalo for staying on with us, Mr. Balthazar. Thank you.

MR. BALTHAZAR: Thank you so much. I got to go pick up some cattle, because I donated to Kula church, and the slaughterhouse is on my tail to get going. So, I appreciate you guys, and thanks for the time.

CHAIR SINENCI: Yeah. For putting aside your duties for us, thank you. Okay, Members, next we have Mr. Greenleaf. He's still with us here. We just have a couple more, if you'll indulge us. Any questions for Mr. Greenleaf? Did he answer all of your questions at the beginning? Did you mention about your...the term you'd be willing to serve, should you be appointed?

MR. GREENLEAF: No, I've been thinking about that. I like that Dutch statement, well begun is half done. So, I'm in for the two or three years, and then I would stay longer if it was needed. But I really wanted to get it off to a good start.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo.

MR. GREENLEAF: I'm willing to help with that. And Brendan is the kind of guy I get to work with on the Ag Working Group, you can see how much fun that is. I just want to say if there are any questions, I just want to say a little bit more about agriculture. The IAA STD study, and they study agriculture across the globe, 60 percent of the food grown across the world is grown on two- to five-acre projects, and most of it by women. And they have a lot of other information about that. And I think that works perfectly with our...with the small holdings that are what...what happens here in Hawai'i. It's...it's...we have one large landowner, we don't understand what exactly is going on there. But with the small landowners and the food hub now, we're getting metrics on how much food we're providing. That's the kind of things that I would like to make sure are included in the considerations as we go forward. And the other thing is, is communication. I don't think EMI ever had a vested interest in communicating with

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the County, the community. And I think that that's going to be a big difference for all the Councilmembers that have concerns. I think it's going to become...I think we can all learn to work together, because like Brendan said, everybody needs to have water, I think we have plenty. If we take care of the watershed, we'll have water Upcountry, we'll have water for the farmers, and water for the fishermen. So, thanks for letting me have a chance to speak on this. It's about all I ever think about.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Bill. We appreciate all your --

MR. GREENLEAF: Thanks.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- your years of experience. Okay, seeing no more questions for Mr. Greenleaf...okay. Oh, we have one more for you, Bill, from Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. She's not going to let you get away so easily.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry.

MR. GREENLEAF: Jeez, I was...I was worried about nothing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Greenleaf. Mahalo for your application. Really quick, will you share with us how you learned about the application?

MR. GREENLEAF: *Maui News*, and the Ag Working Group, we talked about it. And then, in speaking with Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo for sharing that. Do you anticipate attendance being a challenge?

MR. GREENLEAF: No, I don't. It will be my focus.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful.

MR. GREENLEAF: I...I helped start the Farmers Union and a bunch of other projects. I...I know how to be there. I know how to be there with full concentration. I'm...I'm still here now. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for always showing up. Appreciate your contributions to the community. Oh, and then two...two more questions, sorry. Okay. Did you want to speak any more to balancing all the different interests of water distribution?

MR. GREENLEAF: Sure. Sure. We don't really know what would have happened if there had been an equitable system all these years. We're very far behind. When we rebuild the watershed, and we...we're going to find out that either we have enough water for everybody to have an abundance, more than they could ever use, we're going to find out where we have enough for some growth, but not a lot of growth, or we're going to find out we don't have enough for everybody to have as much as they want. And when we

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find that out, then we'll take the next step. There's plenty of countries and islands that don't have nearly the resources we do, and they manage beautifully. I think our problem has been that we have not had the communication, we haven't had the facts, the numbers, to work together. And so, I...I...I think those are the three scenarios. I hope we have the one where we have the most abundance, but whatever we end up with, as long as we're...we're...have the numbers, and we know what we have to do to make it work for everybody, then we can do that. And we can...we can share that...we can have joy around that. That's, to me, what I've learned from aloha. There's joy in sharing. Sharing is caring.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. My last question is, are you prepared to recruit and vet a director...a Water Authority Director?

MR. GREENLEAF: I...I'm really good at recruiting. That's probably my...one of my strongest suits. My years in business in New York, every...everybody I ever hired, my goal was for them to become their own...have their own operation, and it happened. Whether it was men or women, I...I had the first women golf professionals in New York to run major country clubs that...that I mentored. So, yeah, recruiting is...I'm always looking for good people to do good things for everybody else.

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

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Mahalo, Bill, for staying on with us.

MR. GREENLEAF: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you.

MR. GREENLEAF: And thank you, Council. Thank you for being here in these chairs. I know it's...it's...it's difficult, and I appreciate all your smiles and...and the goodwill that we're sharing. Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo. Thank you. Okay, Members, we have one more. I don't know if...Staff, is Mister...Ms. Ka'ahui still on the line with us for a few questions? Aloha, Miss --

MS. KA'AHUI: Yes, I...hi. I am still here. Yep.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh. Oh, yes. And thank you for staying on with us through our lunch hour. A question for you. Can you briefly tell us about your educational background?

MS. KA'AHUI: Absolutely. My undergrad was in business and history, and I graduated from UC Berkeley in California. I have a MBA in international business from Thunderbird School of Global Management. And let's see, I also have a permaculture certificate. I studied with Penny Livingston, who was a student of Bill Mollison, who kind of coined the term permaculture, which is strongly based on the ahupua'a system.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then have you had any training, or participated in any water management type of programs?

MS. KA'AHUI: So, through a lot of my permaculture studies in keeping within the community, a lot of it has to do with ethnobotany and essentially, like, cultures interacting with plants. I did do a dry land restoration, a ten-day dryland restoration on...with the Okanagan tribe in Washington, Eastern Washington, which was strictly about resource management on the reservation, and types of things that you can do to continue to cultivate culturally-significant things, and provide food for your communities within that setting, especially when there's not as much water. Because as we know, there's dry sides and wet sides to islands, and there's also droughts and floods. So, kind of moving water across the landscape, retaining it for those times of droughts, yeah, I've studied with Andrew Millison from the University of Oregon. He does a lot with moving water across landscapes to recharge the aquifer. So, that's the extent that I had with that.

CHAIR SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Ka'ahui. I'll leave the other questions for the Members. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Ka'ahui. I was wondering, same kind of question that I asked for Mr. Scheuer, if you have been in those types of super controversial, highly-charged situations, how you found yourself threading the needle through the various perspectives?

MS. KA'AHUI: Can you clarify the highly-charged that you're referring to, please?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. Sure. You know, (*audio interference*) water is...is kind of an issue that there's fighting over a lot of times like, you know, East Maui, I think, has been deprived of stream flow for generations and --

MS. KA'AHUI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you know, just having to balance it with the needs of Upcountry and being fair. I think, you know, some people have generational emotions tied to the issue of water, and sometimes the discussions can get heated. And, you know, it's...it's not always about being right, as much as it is finding a way forward for everybody to --

MS. KA'AHUI: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- be able to live with. And it may not always be perfect on the first try, but that doesn't mean that we stop trying. And I was wondering if you have been in those types of situations, whether it's with water, or land, or iwi kūpuna, or whatever it is, how you found yourself navigating through, and being a part of the solution?

MS. KA'AHUI: Yeah, absolutely. Thank you so much for the clarification, that really helps me with responding in the appropriate way. I'm so sorry, firstly, that I wasn't able to be

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there in person. I'm actually in O'ahu, as we're planning a family reunion for my great grandparents who are from Ukumehame. And leading up to this meeting today, I, you know, was talking with my father. I briefly touched on it in my introduction, but in the 1930s, my grandfather, Jusaburo Fujishiro (*phonetic*), was kicked out of Ukumehame. They shut off the water there. And the restoration that my dad did back in the '90s was really a way to help show my younger siblings and also myself, I was a teenager at the time, what it takes to cultivate, like, the lo'i kalo, and what the significance is to that. And what it led up to was really restoring the stream. You know, you start off on a project, and you have an idea in mind, and then it gets bigger than you think it will be. So, that instilling of the importance of water was really ingrained in me from a young age. And it did involve, you know, getting my hands dirty and, you know, just being mud, and hauling stuff up to Ukumehame, there's not a good...you know, there's no good roads up there, and you know . . .(*timer sounds*). . . even as a farmer now in--I'm sorry, I'll wrap up quickly--in Ha'ikū, you know, it's a great area to cultivate things. You know, we still have family in Olowalu, and that's a much harder area to cultivate things. But I will say I've dealt with this my whole life, and it is being hapa, and also being in the mainland for so long, and coming back home, but being so rooted and connected to my family that I think it's been a constant...I don't want to say a compromise, but as you mentioned, finding a way forward that will benefit people, and that they can live with, and get their needs met, and also the way forward, again, for the future generations. Because any decisions that are being made, I think we need to think about that on a longer term, like how long do droughts last, and have that information at hand, rather than even looking 10 years, what about, you know, 20, 30 years? And having a better holistic approach to what those...with climate change as well, what are those, you know, peaks and valleys, and, you know, when is there more flood and, you know, what's the water retention in the area? And also, cleanliness is a big thing, what's the quality of our water that we have for everybody in Maui, especially in East Maui. Did that answer your question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes, thank you. My time is up, and I'll --

MS. KA'AHUI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- come back next round, if we're allowed.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

MS. KA'AHUI: Okay.

CHAIR SINENCI: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Ka'ahui. Mahalo, for your application, and your interest in serving on the board.

MS. KA'AHUI: Glad to be here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Would you please share with us (*audio*

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interference) you learned (*audio interference*) application?

MS. KA'AHUI: Yes, I heard you ask this to a few of the applicants, and mine is a slightly different route. I, actually, was looking for the Youth Council membership application for my daughter, because my brother is currently serving on the Youth Council. And so, I went onto the site, and I was like, what is this? And I was reading and looking at the designations, and I was actually trying to understand, you know, like, are you in these areas? And then I got down to the last line, and it talked about farmers, you know, and I was like, well, that's me. And my family knows I've got them very committed to sustainability and watching what inputs we put into the land. And that water is...as I mentioned, it was kind of just one of those things at the time I was introduced to like water's so important and you know, Native Americans, water is life, but it is that resource that needs to be preserved apart from thinking about it as, like, a commodity. And that's really how I see it, as it's a resource and preserving it for, you know, many generations moving forward. But also as a farmer, I think about like that's where my income comes from. So, the viability of me having access to it, as well as a business owner and, you know, growing food for me, for my community, is I want to ensure that there's a constant supply of water so I can continue growing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ka'ahui, for speaking to the interest, the current interest, but also the interests of future generations, which is also important. That hasn't really been touched upon, so mahalo for bringing that up. Do you anticipate any challenge with attendance?

MS. KA'AHUI: Not at all. Not at all. I'm a single mother, I got my MBA with two kids, running a hotel. So, if I commit to something, I'm 100 percent full in, and I'll show up, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Mahalo. Do you...are...are you prepared to recruit and vet a future director of the Water Authority?

MS. KA'AHUI: Yes, absolutely. In my corporate career, I was director of operations and in training to become a general manager of a hotel. So, I've interviewed quite a few people throughout the time, and I always try to listen more to what they're saying, and to see where they're coming from. I usually have, like, water on board, so I don't talk too much. So, I'll kind of ask a question, and then drink water and hear them. I served on a community board before for grants and different things, and we did have to appoint an executive director . . .(*timer sounds*). . . and I also served with West Maui Taxpayers when I was right out of college as the membership secretary. So, I've been on a few (*audio interference*).

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Ka'ahui. Mahalo, Chair.

MS. KA'AHUI: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. We have a second round of questions from Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Same kind of question that I asked Mr. Shuler at the end. Are you living and dying here, and if you were not going to get on this time, would you still participate through, like, testimony, or reapply once the two, three, five-year terms get timed out?

MS. KA'AHUI: Yeah, sure. Great question. I heard Uncle Balthazar talking about, you know, possibly not living through this term, when I realized that, like, I might be one of the younger people applying for this. So, I made a very intentional decision to move home. I do have an MBA in international business, yet through my travels, through living in different areas, I've decided that the most impact and the greatest work that I can do is going to be at home in whatever form, you know, that will be. So, a big part of that is, you know, connecting to the land, connecting my kids to the land and their 'ohana, and farming is part of that...that really speaks to my heart. So, planting the roots and being home, I'm never moving again, and I can say that wholeheartedly. And part of being a farmer too, is something to pass down to my kids, especially my 11-year-old seems very interested in it. I have a huge 'ohana. And so, we...the...the only thing that we think about is, how are we going to continue to retain the youth here, and have the resources available to them, you know, in regards to water, but also in regards to lands and businesses. That's something that we talk about quite a bit. So, I am very committed to helping Maui in whatever way I can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you. I'm leaning towards supporting you, but I just don't know how the votes go, so that's...I would...I would like it if you come back, if you don't get in.

MS. KA'AHUI: You know, I...I completely understand. Yeah, that it's the start of a board. I have been on a board that was newly started up, and we are figuring it out on the terms and how many people to have. So I have been at the start of a board. But . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . absolutely, if this round isn't the right timing for any reason, you'll...you'll be seeing this face again, okay?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

MS. KA'AHUI: Mahalo.

CHAIR SINENCI: Oh, we have one more question from Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Quick question, Ms. Ka'ahui. And...and I've been saying they're all quick. Are you familiar with the...the different case laws, contested case hearings, and have you ever testified or attended any Commission on Water Resource Management meetings?

MS. KA'AHUI: I have not testified. My brother actually gave...my teenage brother gave a testimony on the West Maui Water, and...but I, myself, have not testified on any of the boards. Even hearing a lot of the scientists and the uncles, who have like a lot of, you

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know, all of these time bios, that was like, oh, my gosh. But...but when I think about it, I'm 44 years old, and from the time...a lot of my experience has been through my 'ohana and through the Kānaka, and trying to be stewards, or konohiki of the land, and I think that is still important today, you know, whatever words that we want to call it; conservation, stewardship. I always think that, you know, the Hawaiians really showed us that we can contribute to the environment, not always take away from it. We can actually be the ones contributing to it, and helping it flourish. And I think that value can be, you know, kind of melded with the technology, the data that we have available now to find the right way forward, so that's what I'd really like to see.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds like you're speaking to the value of 'āina momona, in which that Kānaka worldview is to promote and cultivate abundance, rather than fighting over the little resources that currently exist; we create more. And so, regardless --

MS. KA'AHUI: I was --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- *(audio interference)* question, are you familiar with the...the...the different case law and contested case hearings involving East Maui...East Maui water?

MS. KA'AHUI: I know some of the controversy regarding East Maui water . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . certainly. That's what I've most been privy to the information about. And I really think that there is that combination where I come from a corporate background. I've studied business in different parts of the world, and moved to areas where they didn't necessarily...necessarily want to see additional commerce happening. And so, when you're working with large companies, and you're going into an area where people are very tied to that land in the area, I think it, again, comes to opening up that conversation and having, like, an invitation to have a discourse about it. Like, what are you comfortable with? Where can we negotiate? What are your needs? And how can we try to meet in the middle somewhere? And that may take some time. I mean, that's what it is sometimes, is you have to have patience. And people may not be open to it the first round, but they might the second. So, persistence helps, I think, and kindness, openness, sharing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your responses, Ms. Ka'ahui.

MS. KA'AHUI: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

MS. KA'AHUI: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SINENCI: Mahalo, Ms. Ka'ahui, and thank you for staying on with us.

MS. KA'AHUI: Thank you.

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CHAIR SINENCI: Members, seeing any other questions for Ms. Ka'ahui? Seeing none, again, thank you for joining us today. Mahalo for --

MS. KA'AHUI: Thank you.

CHAIR SINENCI: -- answering our questions.

MS. KA'AHUI: Mahalo. Have a wonderful day.

CHAIR SINENCI: You, too. Okay, Members. Again, mahalo for staying on late with us into your lunch hour. Staff, we're going to go ahead and defer this item, if there are no objections.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. And then...so, just to let you know, we've...we will be canceling our May 22nd meeting so that we can...do we need to go ahead and refer the additional two applicants through Council?

MR. KRUEGER: No, Chair. Once...once we obtain those, we can upload those to Granicus, and then we can proceed with working on your revised ASF.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay, great. So, in the meantime, is there anything else?

MR. KRUEGER: No, Chair.

CHAIR SINENCI: Okay. Again, thank you guys for indulging us and staying on late. And this WASSP meeting of Monday, May 8th, is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 12:38 p.m.

APPROVED:



SHANE SINENCI, Chair
Wailuku Authority, Social Services, and
Parks Committee

wassp:min:230508min:jcm

Transcribed by: Kaliko Reed

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CERTIFICATION

I, Kaliko Reed, hereby certify that pages 1 through 62 of the foregoing represent, 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 13th day of June 2023, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Kaliko Reed