

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

MINUTES

April 11, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:07 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (In 9:39 a.m.)
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (Out 3:01 p.m.)
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 3:16 p.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: James Krueger, Senior Committee Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Analyst
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional staff

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tom Cook:

Jared Agtunong
Stacy Takahashi

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Kate Griffiths
Autumn Ness

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tasha Kama:

Nayleen Kamai
Evan Dust

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Alice L. Lee:

Michele McLean

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

April 11, 2024

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:
Angela Lucero

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:
Sarah Sexton
Haunani Madela

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:
Dawn Lono
Gina Young

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:
Jordan Helle
Jennifer Matsumoto

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins:
Laura McDowell
Susan Clements

Residency Area Office (RAO):
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haiku-Paia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management
Keanu Lau Hee, Deputy Managing Director, Department of Management
Lori Ann Y. Tsuhako, Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Saumalu Mataafa, Deputy Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Ka'ina Bonacorsi, Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Dawn Pfendler, Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation
Danielle Bergan, Community Coordinator, Mental Health America of Hawaii
Lisa Labrecque, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Humane Society
Nikki Russell, Chief of Operations, Maui Humane Society
Laurie Gaines, Chief Veterinarian, Maui Humane Society
Tanya Hosoda, Interim Director of Humane Enforcement, Maui Humane Society

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

April 11, 2024

Dr. Judith Aikawa, Board Member, Maui Humane Society
Priscilla Erece Veilleux, Maui Mediation Services
Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Shannon I'i
Courtney Ikawa, Maui Regional Director, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Maui
Sanoë Ka'aihue, Executive Director, Women Helping Women
Mana Shaw-Rodriguez, Director of Prevention and Education, Maui AIDS Foundation
Riley Bond
Junya Nakoa
Linda Puppolo, Executive Director, Maui AIDS Foundation
Mike Moran
Others (20)

Resource Personnel

Douglas Bigley, Director and President, Ikaika 'Ohana

PRESS: Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee [*sic*]. It is now 9:07 a.m. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee. It's so nice to see many people in the Chamber, so welcome and good morning. Thank you for spending your morning with us. At this time I wanted to just let you know that we're conducting this meeting in accordance with the Sunshine Law. As a reminder, for the Councilmembers, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chambers, please identify by name who, if anyone, in the room, vehicle, workspace is...is with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. So, at this time I'd like to welcome our voting Members. Member Kama will come a little bit...in a few minutes. Member Alice Lee, you have a greeting for us?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I do, Chair. The morning greeting yesterday was Japanese, today is Chinese. It's ni hao.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ni hao.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Ni hao.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ni hao to you. Next, we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaaka and ni hao, kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ni hao to you. Member Johnson, ni hao.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Ni hao, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office. I'm here and ready to rock and roll. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, kākou. Mai Molokai Nui a Hina. I'm at the Molokai District Office with a minor who will be unnamed on my side of the office. And there are currently no testifiers here at the Molokai District Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, good morning and ni hao, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning to you. And Member Uʻu-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Aloha, everyone. Ni hao.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ni hao. Member Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Chair, and ni hao. No testifiers in Hāna, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you. From the Office of the Mayor we have Acting Budget Director, Lesley Milner; Department of Management, Keanu Lau Hee, Deputy Director; Department of Housing and Human Concerns, Lori Tshako, Director, Saumalu Mataafa, Deputy Director; and Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo. Our amazing Staff, thank you very much for all your hard work to get us where we are today. Yvette Bouthillier, good morning, Yvette; James Krueger and Kacie Apo Takayama, our Senior Committee Analyst. Thank you very much. Thank you for talking to me last night to get ready for our meeting. Jarret Pascual and Clarissa McDonald, Legislative Analyst; Carla Nakata and Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney; as well as Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Please, see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's meeting.

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE
 COUNTY OF MAUI** ((BILL 60 (2024), BILL 61 (2024), BILL 62
(2024), BILL 63 (2024), BILL 64 (2024), BILL 65 (2024), RESOLUTION
24-66, RESOLUTION 24-67, and RESOLUTION 24-68))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have one item on the agenda, which is BFED-1 Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget For The County Of Maui. And as you all know that because we have one agenda, you're welcome to testify on anything in the...in...in the budget. And, therefore, it will be three minutes for whatever you want to, you

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

April 11, 2024

know, share with us. And 30 minutes [sic] to wrap up. So, we're going to continue our deliberations on Fiscal Year 2025 Budget beginning with presentations relating to the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, then the Department of Housing, and the Department of Human Concerns. We'll then take public testimony, and afterwards I'd like to have some time to revisit our priority amendments procedures. Then, we'll proceed with questions and answers for the Departments in this order: 'Ōiwi Resource, Housing, then Human Concerns. We'll adjourn at four today because we're all traveling to South Maui for a 6:00 meeting. And thank you very much, Member Cook, for opening your community to us; we look forward to that. And so, at this time, I'd like to invite Deputy Managing Director Keanu Lau Hee to provide a presentation on the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. And, Members, you can look at item number 81 in Granicus to see her letter. Thank you very much. Welcome.

DEPARTMENT OF 'ŌIWI RESOURCES

MS. LAU HEE: Morning. Thanks for having us. Thank you for your time this morning. The Department of Management got a slow start in establishing the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources due to wildfire response and recovery efforts. We want to assure the Council that we are on track to establish the Department with a Director and Deputy on July 1st, 2024. The Salary Commission set compensation for the Director and Deputy, and it's comparable to the Director and Deputy for the Department of Agriculture, at \$119,700 and \$107,730, and recruitment will begin shortly. The Department of Management will transfer two positions, the Principal Archeologist and the Hawaiian Language Specialist, to the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources in FY'2025. On March 1st, the Hawaiian Language Specialist position was posted and remains open for continuous recruitment. The Department of Management's GIS Analyst position will remain in the Department of Management while continuing supporting the efforts of our Principal Archeologist and the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. The budget request before you for the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources includes funding for strategic planning efforts to ensure performance measures are in alignment with the community's vision and Charter requirements. All grants issued by the Department will be done through a competitive process. We welcome your questions later, and the Managing Director hopes to be able to join us via phone later for your questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: *(Audio interference)* very much, Ms. Lau Hee. And what we'll do is, then, we'll take the next presentation from Housing, then Human Concerns. Thank you. Oh, Josiah is on now? Does he want to say anything? Good morning. Did you want to say anything? Oh, okay. All right. So, now we can...I just got word that Josiah Nishita, the Managing Director, just logged into the...to the meeting. And I'm asking if he wants to say a few words before we move on to the Housing and Human....and Human Concerns; they're two separate Departments.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. NISHITA: Aloha, Chair. I apologize, I'm at the airport right now. But Josiah Nishita, Managing Director with the County of Maui. Apologies, I just caught the tail end of Deputy Managing Director's comments. I think the only piece that I...I just would add that while...I notified the Council before that due to the wildfires we are behind from where I, personally, like to be in the implementation schedule for the new Department. We are still on track to open the Department as of July 1st. And the only other piece, budget related, I would just highlight at this time is that previously we were hoping to use some existing space somewhere for the new Department. But, now, given some of the challenges that we face, specifically dealing with the Department of Prosecuting Attorney and some other issues, we will need to talk to you folks about moving some money around within the Department to provide for lease space for the Department, but happy to talk about that later. I thank you, Chair, for allowing us to be here today, and I hope to join you in between meetings for later this afternoon. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Managing Director Nishita, thank you for joining and...and adding to the discussion. All right. So, now we'll have from the Housing Department, Director Lori Tsuhako. And, Members, they will do their presentation. It's number 29 and 86 in Granicus.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you. And good morning, Chair and Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. TSUHAKO: I'll be doing an overview of the Department of Housing. So, the new Department of Housing was created to reflect the breadth of work currently being done by the existing Housing Division, the inclusion of the Housing and Community Development Division, and the leadership of a new Director and Deputy Director. The budget proposal before you adheres to the request made to Departments to generally maintain funding at the Fiscal Year '24 levels. However, given the significance of housing in our community, the incoming Director and Deputy will be...and able to maintain operations until they craft their priorities for existing or new programs to meet changing community needs. The Department's leadership will then seek this body's support and concurrence through a budget amendment that reflects those priorities. So, in terms of operations, the Department of Housing's Fiscal Year 2025 operations will be conducted by four divisions or programs. The Administration, which has five E/Ps; the Housing and Community Development Division, which has four E/Ps. And just a quick note, the budget details reflect that the DHHL Liaison position is in the County Housing Programs Division, but our intention is to have that liaison working in the Housing and Community Development Division instead. The third program is the County Housing Program Division, and this is six

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

April 11, 2024

equivalent personnel. This Division will be tasked with administering County-funded housing programs, including First-Time Home Buyer's Program; rental assistance grants; the workforce housing agreements; and the Affordable Housing Fund grants and loans. And then the fourth program in the new Department of Housing will be the Federal Programs Division, which will be staffed by 24 E/P, two funded through General Funds and 22 funded via HUD. And this Federal Housing Programs Division will take in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Programs and that staffing, as well as administer home and housing trust fund funds, and any other Federally-funded housing programs, specifically. The new Department does not have any proposals for CIP in this *(audio interference)* in the budget. The Department will continue to award grants for affordable housing programs. And we will also administer the Affordable Rental Housing Program, which is also known as a Rental Assistance, or RAP, Program which provides funding to agencies to help with rental subsidies for those who are eligible. Hale Mahaolu's Homeowner and Housing Counseling Program is also a grant administered by the new Department. This new Department of Housing will continue to receive Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program funds through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. An additional one point...almost 3 million is recognized for the Emergency Housing Voucher Program. And additional grant funds anticipated for the Department are the Family Self-Sufficiency Grant from HUD and OHA's own funding of \$2 million for three fiscal years for costs associated with the Huliau Housing Project here in Kahului. The Department will administer the Affordable Housing Fund as well as the 'Ohana Assistance Fund. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next we'll have...is if Saumalu Mataafa...are you going to present the Human Concerns?

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Councilmembers, for having us here today. I'll be giving you an overview of the Department of Human Concerns. If you remember, back when we did this presentation last year and we presented on the different programs for DHHC, there were four programs. And with the bifurcation happening, we'll be excising Housing. So, in the new Department of Human Concerns, there will be three programs: the Administration Program, the Human Concerns Program, and then also the Animal Management Program. So, that's kind of the big changes that we'll be seeing with the Department of Human Concerns. And aside from excising Housing Division, a lot of the things that you've seen in the past remain largely intact for the Department of Human Concerns moving forward. As far as operations go, for the General Fund, we anticipate revenues for 24...a little over 24 million for the Administration Human Concerns Program and also the Animal Management Program. The total E/P with Housing excised from the new Department is 136 E/P. And then a lot of the

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

April 11, 2024

changes that we did see, related to our budget for Human Concerns, reflect additional personnel costs, which are related to collective bargaining agreements, and a few increases in some grant funding. Operational costs for activities that our West Maui Senior Center had conducted...and our Senior Center, which was sadly destroyed in the 2023 August wildfires, will be spent on creating alternative activities for displaced Lahaina residents and senior citizens. The Department is not requesting any CIP for FY 2025. Sorry. And the grants recommended for funding FY '25 budget appear in the draft ordinance that you all have in front of you today, too. As far as the grants received by the Department, the Administration Program receives the Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success grant for underage drinking...for prevention of underage drinking. This grant is listed on page 440 of your budget narrative. And then additional grants received by the Department can also be found on page 45 and 46. The Department of Human Concerns will also manage two revolving funds, which are the Leisure Revolving Fund for Kaunoa Senior Services Division and then also the Animal Management Revolving Fund for the Animal Management Program through the Humane Society. We'll be happy to take any questions later, but that would be the presentation for the Department of Human Concerns for now. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Departments. So, Members, at this time, then, I'd like to open up for public testimony. And I can see that we have people who are here to do just that, so thank you very much. At this time I'd like open up for public testimony. And testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the lobby, which I'm sure you all did, or you can join online with the Teams link, or call in on the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the...on the budget is not limited to the Departments scheduled for today. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law I have designated...we will receive oral testimony for agenda items and individuals wish...wish...wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone; star five to raise your...raise and lower your hand, and star six to mute and unmute. Staff will add your name to the "Testifiers" list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hand. For those in Teams, Staff will lower hand once your name is called. Staff will, then, call the name you logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it's your time to testify. At this time Staff will also enable your microphone and...and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, please state your name, for the record, at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item and then you'll be given 30 seconds to complete testimony. Once you are done testifying or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. We'll now call for testifiers.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The first testifier is Dawn Pfendler, followed by Danielle Bergan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Good morning.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. PFENDLER: *(Audio interference)* Executive Officer of Hawai'i Animal Rescue Foundation, also known as HARF. I stand before you today to underscore the vital role...role of our organization and it's...plays upon in upholding the well-being of animals across Maui County. HARF is a beacon of hope in our community and is not merely an animal welfare entity. We are a nurturing force for change promoting the sanctity of life through our animal care and sheltering program. Since it's...excuse me, since its inception our program has been pivotal in doubling the rescue and adoption rates for dogs in our community offering a second chance for those in dire need. This initiative, which graciously received 50,000...150,000 in community...I'm sorry, excuse me, in County funding for Fiscal Year '24 budget, extends beyond mere numbers. It weaves a fabric of comprehensive care, vital veterinary services, and unparalleled support that transforms the lives of distressed animals. In our mission to cultivate an environment of empathy, responsibility, we have implemented a robust community outreach strategy. Our educational campaigns have ignited a Countywide conversation about compassion and kindness, and have sparked the minds of our keiki creating our next generation of solutionaries. The urgency of our commitment was put to the test during the Maui wildfire disasters. As we prioritized emergency response and aid for affected animals, our application for Fiscal Year '25 was unfortunately delayed. This unforeseen misstep resulted in our exclusion from the Fiscal Year '25 budget with the earmarked funds inadvertently allocated to the Maui Humane Society, additional funds they did not request. The previously assigned funds remain within the budget unutilized. By reinstating these funds to HARF, the Council has the power to reinforce our indispensable service to the community and uphold the sanctity of life that Maui County so dearly values. Our request is not just for funding, it is a call to action. It is an invitation to stand with us as we champion the heart and spirit of Maui, ensuring every animal receives the love and care they deserve. The detailed program description and meticulous budget plan we have submitted attest to our unwavering dedication and transparency. As you consider our plea, reflect upon the profound impact of our collective efforts. A Maui where kindness is not just a virtue but a way life; where each action, taken in favor of animal welfare, resonates throughout the community elevating the moral compass by which we all navigate. We thank you for your time, your consideration, and most importantly your support of our mission. A mission that continues to safeguard and enrich the lives of animals and humans alike. Mahalo for your opportunity to serve and enable us to cultivate a legacy of companionship. Thank you.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Can you clarify how much you said that was supposed to go to HARF but got allocated to Humane Society?

MS. PFENDLER: Yes, Fiscal Year '24 we were allocated 150,000. The '25 Fiscal Year was the same amount, so also 120,000...excuse me, 150,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In...in the program budget it says Fiscal Year '23 you got 250,000 but Fiscal Year '24 it said adopted zero. So --

MS. PFENDLER: They...yeah, they...I can clarify, they...we actually are in the budget but they put us in the wrong category. We recently clarified that with Department of Housing and Human Concerns. So, we still are in the budget, they're fixing that right now and they'll be reassessed...or readjusting our...our contract according to the delayed rectification of those funds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So --

MS. PFENDLER: And in 2023, those funds were for our shovel-ready project, so that was construction and it was not program related.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, you're saying you requested 150,000 but it went to Humane Society instead, but you'd like it excised from Humane Society and put to HARF for animal care. Did you receive any money from Hawai'i Community Foundation?

MS. PFENDLER: Yes, we did.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How much?

MS. PFENDLER: We received . . .we received \$250,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sorry, I didn't catch your name. My apologies.

MS. PFENDLER: That's okay. Dawn Pfendler.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Oh, yeah. Okay. Thank you.

MS. PFENDLER: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions for Ms. Pfendler? All right. I have a question. So, you're saying that Humane Society was given your money?

MS. PFENDLER: Basically, what happened is that we missed the deadline for the

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

April 11, 2024

application for Fiscal Year '25 funding due to our wildfire response. The funds were initially there but because they didn't get the application, they moved them over to a different category which was the Humane Society's. When we realized that we had missed the deadline we then had submitted our application and per our discussion with Department of Housing and Human Concerns, they said that we would have to talk to Council and the Mayor to see if they could put us back in the budget properly, and that's why we're here today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aww, so you missed the deadline.

MS. PFENDLER: We did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. PFENDLER: Thank you.

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

MS. PFENDLER: *(Audio interference)* --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Danielle Bergan, followed by Lisa Labrecque.

MS. BERGAN: Good morning. Aloha and good morning. My name is Danielle Bergan. I'm the Community Coordinator at Mental Health America of Hawai'i. Aloha to all the Members on the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. So, the Mental Health Association in Hawai'i, dba the Mental Health America of Hawai'i, is a highly regarded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving the State of Hawai'i for the past 81 years. For the past 52 years we have had a physical office on the Island of Maui. Our mission is to promote mental health and wellness through education, advocacy service, and access to care through our vision of mental wellness for all. As the Maui Community Coordinator with support from the O'ahu office, the Maui Advisory Board, and a quandary of volunteers, we are dedicated to raising mental health awareness at no fund...with our grant funding from Maui County. We do not charge anybody or any agency any money for our services. With the advent of the wildfires, like many agencies, we began to pivot. We immediately postponed our Maui Suicide Prevention Mini Conference, it was scheduled in September, as of not to trigger anybody. And instead we pivoted and put together a PSA on how to respond to a trauma and ask for help. I do want to thank the Chair, here, and Councilmember Paltin who did help with that. It was a great resource to put on *Akakū* for everyone. We also began a non-clinical support group and partnership with Maui. We held most of those meetings towards the end of the year in Central Maui because we were looking

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

April 11, 2024

for a secure location in West Maui and we have found one now where we're able to hold those meetings on the last Wednesday of every month just below the Civic Center at the Maui District Health offices. We also began working and looking at what we were going to do in our schools as we usually do a lot of trainings regarding youth suicide and bullying prevention. But as not to trigger anybody and realizing that really prevention is the front end of suicide prevention, what we did is we switched to our self-care for youth trainings which builds protective factors for our youth. Protective factors, three times more impactful than a risk factor. And since that August 8th wildfires, we have trained over 500 youth in Maui County in a various amount of schools. In January, we did hold our postponed Suicide Prevention Mini Conference, renaming it to Resilience, Renewal, and Recovery and brought together 178 members of our community, including 25 members on scholarship, who did not pay anything to attend the conference, who were directly affected by the wildfires. In conclusion, we continue to collaborate with agencies and groups in Maui County such as the Maui Non-Profit Directors, the Maui Homeless Alliance, the Ho'oiikaika Partnership, the State...excuse me, the State Community Children's Council, . . .(timer sounds). . . the Maui Fire Department, NAMI, and the Maui Police Department. We sincerely hope that you will support our grant funding request so we can continue to provide these services that I've spoken about today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. One quick question then I'll turn it over to the Members. There's two mental health associations; which one are you?

MS. BERGAN: We're the Mental Health Association in Hawai'i.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. \$110,000.

MS. BERGAN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Questions, Members? I think I saw Member Johnson. Oh, Member Paltin next.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Ms. Bergan. Thank you for all the work that you do, really appreciate it in this time of need. You mentioned self-care for youth. Can you give us some ages...on the ages that you're...is it across the board? Or is it more high school kids? Or --

MS. BERGAN: You know, it's really geared for middle school --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MS. BERGAN: -- and high school kids. So, we generally o into health classes...is our entry into the school. So, for example, I was just at a private middle school this week teaching the course. So, what it does is there's eight different things that

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

April 11, 2024

we go through to help you...just remind you to take care of yourself. Things like being grateful for what you have; helping others, right; eating right; getting exercise. Really simple stuff, but we try to present it in a fun way and let them know if they just incorporate a couple of those things into their life on a daily basis it really helps them fight anxiety and stress, which is two really big causes of possible suicidal ideation. So, it is the front end of suicide prevention. It's a really fun training to do. And, you know, the students really seem to respond to it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, thank you for all that work you do, it's really important. Thank you, Chair.

MR. BERGAN: Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Oh, Member Paltin, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Bergan, for your testimony. Was 110,000 your request?

MS. BERGAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. BERGAN: Thank you.

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

MS. BERGAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Lisa Labrecque, followed by Nikki Russell.

MS. LABRECQUE: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers. Thank you for having us here today. I'm Dr. Lisa Labrecque and I'm the CEO of Maui Humane Society. I'm here to thank the County for more than three decades of partnership serving the animals of Maui County and their families. All of our lives were forever changed by the devastating fires last August. And we were called upon to serve as first responders working alongside MPD, FEMA, National Guard, and other agencies. To date, we have rescued 887 animals from the Lahaina burn zone; we've reunited 237 of those with their families; adopted out an additional 244 animals into new homes; transferred 258 to partner agencies, rescue groups, and sanctuaries; and sadly recovered the remains of 372 deceased animals. In the weeks following the

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

April 11, 2024

fires our veterinary team treated dozens of animals for severe burns, smoke inhalation, and other injuries sustained in the fires. Between August and December we provided more than 531,000 pounds of free pet food, 7,000 pounds of cat litter, and 15,000 pet supplies to displaced residents. We began hosting free mobile veterinary clinics immediately following the fires as the only two veterinary clinics on the West Side were lost in the fires. To date, more than 2,000 animals have received care through our clinics. Sadly, there's still a long road ahead. We expect that displaced families will continue to make the difficult decision to surrender. Our shelter population is higher than it has been in years, and the average amount of time that an animal stays at the shelter has increased by more than 30 percent. We are contracted by Maui County to provide animal sheltering, humane enforcement services, and spay/neuter to County residents. And these obligations have expanded tremendously since the fires. Our budget requests for Fiscal Year '25 are essential for us to meet these contractual obligations. The amounts included in the Mayor's budget falls short by 200,000 for animal sheltering and 81,000 for humane enforcement. I respectfully request that these amounts be added back in so that we are able to perform the duties outlined in our County contracts. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member...Member Paltin, with a question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Labrecque, for your testimony. Just clarifying; 887 live rescues, 372 remains, 237 reunited --

MS. LABRECQUE: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 247 adopted out --

MS. LABRECQUE: 244.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 44, 258 --

MS. LABRECQUE: Hopefully, more to go.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 258 to partner agencies.

MS. LABRECQUE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you still have about 140, or so, in your care.

MS. LABRECQUE: That's right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then you said you're 200,000 short for animal sheltering, and how much for the enforcement?

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

April 11, 2024

MS. LABRECQUE: 81,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 81,000. And is that 200,000 short inclusive of the 150,000 that was for HARF?

MS. LABRECQUE: I don't know anything about that 150,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, in addition to the 2,033,000 you need an additional 200,000 for Maui Humane Society for animal sheltering?

MS. LABRECQUE: That's correct. The...the budget that we submitted for Fiscal '25 included a small increase over last year's budget, which is typical from year-to-year to cover increased costs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the full request was 2,233,000.

MS. LABRECQUE: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And how much have you received from HCF?

MS. LABRECQUE: 250,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 250,000.

MS. LABRECQUE: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Any other agencies besides HCF?

MS. LABRECQUE: That we receive donations from?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

MS. LABRECQUE: Yes, from some foundations. We've received a small grant for disaster response from American Veterinary Medical Foundation, other...other grants from...from agencies to support our free veterinary care that we're now providing; things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you have a total of the amount?

MS. LABRECQUE: I don't, but I can tell you that the donations that we've received for our fire response programs are being reserved exclusively for our fire response programs. And what we're really here talking about today is our contracted obligations through our County contracts. And, you know, that's...that's where the...the request today is about and where it falls short.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then when you gave out the 258 to partner agencies, was there any understanding that there would be ongoing support for those that transferred out?

MS. LABRECQUE: No. So, we have regular transfer partners that we send animals to because there aren't enough homes on...on island to...to house the...the number of animals that come through our doors in a year. And then, in addition, we did something new this year and we established a new relationship with the Lanai Cat Sanctuary who took in 220 outdoor socialized cats that had no home to go back to. So, we're very, very thankful for...for that partnership.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that two --

MS. LABRECQUE: But there's no ongoing care that we'll be providing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 220 is inclusive of that 258 number that you transferred out.

MS. LABRECQUE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because they asked us for 285,000 to help them, but I don't think they qualified for any money for fire relief. So, you got all the money, they got 220 cats and you're not going to give them any?

MS. LABRECQUE: Oh, we...we gave them plenty of money to take those cats, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, how much did you give them?

MS. LABRECQUE: I don't have the numbers in front of me, I apologize, but I can certainly follow up with you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'd be awesome.

MS. LABRECQUE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting.

MS. LABRECQUE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we will send them an email asking them for follow-up information.

MS. LABRECQUE: Okay.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, give us what your financial situation looks like, that would be helpful. Especially with the...the cats that the cat sanctuary received.

MS. LABRECQUE: Uh-huh. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so, Members, in addition to the \$2,080,033 [sic], there's also Animal Enforcement Program, County funds and...and some...well \$1 million also for Animal Enforcement Program. So, that is --

MS. LABRECQUE: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- also...you would use that as...as part of your basis for operation?

MS. LABRECQUE: Yes, we do. And, actually, I have some colleagues here today who will be speaking to each of those contracts separately.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And Maui Humane Society for Molokai, do you take care of that too? You didn't say anything about Molokai.

MS. LABRECQUE: Yes, I am saving that for my colleagues to...to...to talk about, specifically.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And your Spay/Neuter Program. Okay.

MS. LABRECQUE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank --

MS. LABRECQUE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- any other questions, Members? I see none.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Just wanted to let you know I'm here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. I didn't see you come in, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sorry, I'm late. There's not enough time in the day to meet with people. So, I just had one question.

MS. LABRECQUE: Uh-huh.

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

April 11, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, you're with the Maui Humane Society.

MS. LABRECQUE: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And you...you take care of all of the Humane Societies across the County. Is that right?

MS. LABRECQUE: No, just --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. LABRECQUE: -- Maui Humane Society.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Just Maui?

MS. LABRECQUE: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. But you partner with the other entities across the County such as HARF and the Molokai --

MS. LABRECQUE: We have a new collaboration with HARF that we're very excited about. We supported each other following the fires by providing different services to support the community. And we have ongoing conversations about working together more in the future. We also work closely with Molokai Humane Society, providing veterinary care over on Molokai. Our...our team goes over there regularly to do spay/neuter and provide veterinary services.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have one quick question before we move on. So, I guess, HARF testified before you and they're saying that \$150,000 that they were hoping for somehow was...they thought was given to you. So, if you don't have that money, if it is --

MS. LABRECQUE: This is the first I've heard about that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. LABRECQUE: -- this morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you need your money --

MS. LABRECQUE: Yeah.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- right, from what you're saying.

MS. LABRECQUE: Yeah, our...yeah, our...our...the amount in the Mayor's budget fell short of what we asked for. So, we are respectfully asking to have that put in so that we can meet our contractual obligations.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you for --

MS. LABRECQUE: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- joining us. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Nikki Russell, followed by Laurie Gaines.

MS. RUSSELL: Aloha. I'm Nikki Russell, Chief of Operations for Maui Humane Society. I want to say thank you to Budget Chair Sugimura and to the entire Council for the ongoing support which allows us to care for the homeless and abandoned animals of Maui. As you are aware, Maui Humane Society is contracted by Maui County to take in all animals in need and provide them with shelter, food, and medical care. As the only open intake animal shelter on Maui, we take in nearly 5,000 animals a year and we anticipate that number to be higher this year and next due to the effects of the August wildfires. We, typically, take in about 400 animals each month, and that already stretches our capacity and resources. From the single event of the Lahaina fires, we took in more than 880 additional animals from the burn zone, alone. That does not include those surrendered to us as a result of the fires and lack of pet-friendly housing. Fire response took a great toll on the MHS team. I can't imagine where we would be today without the amazing work of our incredible rescue partners and Maui County. And still, the impact of the fires has increased our shelter population more than it has been in years. And our animals' length of stay has drastically increased. This is especially true for dogs, which are becoming increasingly difficult to place due to rental restrictions on Maui. At times we needed to call in the community to care for nearly 60 percent of our dog population in foster homes. At times we needed...excuse me, this shows why our need for support from the County is so dire for animal sheltering, as well as spay and neuter funding as the increased need for sheltering is directly related to the number of unaltered animals in our County. Those of you who have pets of your own can understand that the human animal bond is like no other. We need support from Maui County in order to continue to supporting those who need us most. We ask the County for 2.2 million to cover the animal sheltering cost for Fiscal Year 2025, and those were estimated costs before the impacts of the fires would be known. This Mayor's budget falls short of this by 200,000 which we...which will not be sufficient to meet our contractual obligations. Therefore, we respectfully ask for the additional 200,000 to meet the proposed sheltering budget. Mahalo for your time

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

April 11, 2024

and consideration.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Members, questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm sorry, I...I didn't catch your name.

MS. RUSSELL: Nikki Russell.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Nikki Russell. Thank you, Ms. Russell, for your testimony. First question is how many additional animals, do you know, have been surrendered?

MS. RUSSELL: You know, I don't have that number. I apologize. I'd be happy to get that for you. We do keep track of surrenders from the Lahaina fires.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'd be great. And then the other question I had is do you participate in that equal housing survey that they give about people not being able to rent because they have pets?

MS. RUSSELL: Oh, I apologize, I'm not aware of that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Maybe our Human Concerns or Housing people can reach out to the Humane Society because they told us there's this survey about barriers to housing. And it seems that having a pet is a barrier to getting housing. But, yeah, if you can get the number of surrendered. And then the other question I have is if you don't get the amount requested and you can't meet your contractual obligations, does the contract change?

MS. RUSSELL: I wouldn't say it changes. It just makes things extremely difficult. When we have overpopulation it doesn't mean...when we put animals into foster homes, we're still supporting them. We're providing food, litter, medical care. So, it's actually just putting a huge strain on our budget and what we're able to do to provide care to those animals.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, the contract was...it...the contract stands even if you don't get the money that you ask for. But then if you don't need it to the amount, then you would just say, oh, we didn't get the money we asked for?

MS. RUSSELL: Well, we certainly don't want to not serve the animals in our care. I believe we would have to go to different resources, try to fund raise, ask for additional support. We...we believe in *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you...do you do fundraisers already?

MS. RUSSELL: Pardon.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you do fundraisers already?

MS. RUSSELL: Yes, Ma'am, we do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. All right. Thank you.

MS. RUSSELL: Thank you. I just...may I just speak to that one moment? We have other programs that don't fall under our sheltering contract. We have programs to keep pets in homes. We have programs that are out servicing our community in different ways. And so the contractual money that we're asking for...I mean, we also fundraise, but that's to cover the other...the other programs that we provide.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And...and if you don't mind sending the number surrendered, to date, that would help me.

MS. RUSSELL: I would be happy to do that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member (*audio interference*) --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I'll try get that study about the fair housing to meet up with you because that's a big barrier, it seems that's --

MS. RUSSELL: I would appreciate that. Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- not being -- the data is not being tracked.

MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One moment. Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question for you.

MS. RUSSELL: Certainly.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Russell. Mahalo for your testimony this morning. When we were on Lānaʻi we heard from the cat sanctuary organization that they received about 200 cats that were saved from Lahaina. And he asked if they were receiving any funding from Maui Strong...the Maui Strong Fund from HCF, Hawai'i Community Foundation. So, I wanted to ask the same question. And I...but I also wanted to find out...because immediately after the fire I know there is a lot of donations to the Maui Humane Society in the form of animal feed of all kind, you know, kennels, blankets, et cetera. Like all the things that, you know, animals may need. And so, I...I was

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

April 11, 2024

curious to find out about whether with those physical, you know, donations, were there donations that went directly to your organization in the form of cash?

MS. RUSSELL: Yes, we did receive monetary donations from community members, as well as people on the...on the continent. We did receive a lot of in-kind donations as well. There were some that arrived in...in large amounts that we actually distributed to Molokai and Lānaʻi, and we continue to want to do that. We did go through all of the food, litter, toys, containment that was received. And we're now utilizing those monetary funds to continue to supply the needed items to those who were displaced by the fires. Does that answer your question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: When --

MS. RUSSELL: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- when you said, by those, you mean those (*audio interference*) --

MS. RUSSELL: Well, we're...it's the humans that come forward and ask for the support to keep their animals with them. We're lucky that some of the hotels allowed them to keep their pets. And, hopefully, as they're moving into permanent structures, we're able to continue to support them with...again, with animal support, including medical.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then the monetary donations have stopped, as far as supporting the...the animals...for the people with animals after the fire.

MS. RUSSELL: I believe we are no longer receiving restricted donations to care for those people and animals that were displaced by the fire.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Russell, for that information. Mahalo, Chair.

MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next...oh, did I miss...oh, sorry, Member...I'm sorry, one moment. Member Kama has a question for you. I didn't see you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sorry, to detain you, Nikki. But, you know, you mentioned in your testimony that you were...the organization is short 200,000 to meet their

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

April 11, 2024

contractual obligation. What are some of those obligations that you're not able to meet because of the shortfall?

MS. RUSSELL: We have done studies to find that it costs approximately \$50 a day to care for one animal. The larger numbers that we see coming in, of course, puts a huge strain on those incoming monies. We have to support our staff, of course, we have insurance, all those things to...to support the staff to care for the animals that's part of the...of what the monies go to. Additionally, we have to provide medical. We receive many, many animals that arrive in our care with...in bad shape that we have to care for. We have to be available to the community to bring in stray animals. We have to be available to the community for those people who need to surrender their animals. I mean, that's for the animal sheltering portion of the contract. We do have multiple contracts that attest to the other services that we provide.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But...so this 200,000 is only for what you had mentioned and not for other pots of the other contracts that you had [sic]?

MS. RUSSELL: Correct, it does not apply to the monies for Molokai, it does not pertain to the monies for spay/neuter, and it does not pertain to the monies for humane enforcement.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. How much money in donations did...did you guys receive after the fires? The --

MS. RUSSELL: I...actually, I don't have that number. I believe that was asked previously. I think that Dr. Labrecque was going to be able to get that money and submit that to the...to the Council.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Thank you very much.

MS. RUSSELL: All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Laurie Gaines, followed by Tanya Hosoda.

MS. GAINES: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. My name is Dr. Laurie Gaines and I am the Chief Veterinarian at Maui Humane Society. I've worked at Maui Humane Society for three years and I'm here as a representative of the organization and as a representative for the animals in our community that need our help. I urge you to approve the \$40,000 increase for our spay/neuter budget. This brings it to a total of \$165,000. As you know, pet overpopulation is an issue in our community. This year we will spay and neuter between 7,000 and 8,000 animals and the County contracts funds approximately one-quarter of those surgeries. Our spay and neuter numbers are slightly lower than we planned as the fires caused us to postpone routine surgeries while the entire veterinary team shifted to support those effected by the fires. We worked around the clock to save severely burned animals. And we set up a free, temporary vet clinic, actually, in multiple locations, throughout the community. We opened the Lahaina Pet Resource Center where we assist families affected by fires every week. These services were, obviously, not planned but we saw the need and have been doing everything possible to help the community and...and its animals. We know our surgery appointments are in high demand, especially our dog spay/neuter surgery appointments. So, in response to input from the community, we are increasing our availability by 40 percent. I also want to talk about our Molokai contract and animal welfare on Molokai. We were awarded a contract last year to support animal control, provide medical care to Molokai's animals, and replace the dangerously unsafe animal control kennels that have resulted in injury or death to multiple dogs. MHS is working with Molokai Humane Society to improve access to veterinary care, including spay/neuter. We are still awaiting authorization from the County to move forward on this project and had been using other funding to pay for the vet care we are providing to these animals. Thank you, Councilmembers, for considering our request. I hope the health and well-being of animals in Maui County is as important to you as it is to me. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have --

MS. GAINES: Uh-huh.

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

MS. GAINES: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for your work. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Tanya Hosoda, followed by Judith Aikawa.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. HOSODA: Aloha. Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Morning.

MS. HOSODA: My name is Tanya Hosoda and I am the Interim Director of Humane Enforcement for Maui Humane Society. I would like to thank the Members of the Council and the Chair for your continued support of Maui Humane Society granting us the ability to serve the animals in our community. Maui Humane Society is contracted by Maui County to provide animal control and humane enforcement services to...to the community. In 2023 our officers responded to more than 4,000 calls for services, brought in 673 stray animals and...or conducted 451 cruelty investigations. Additionally, we logged a mileage increase of 26 percent in response to calls for service for animals in distress or victims of suspected animal cruelty. We expect the...the need of our services, and rescuing sick and injured animals, as well as those who are victims of animal cruelty to continue to increase. As the only open intake shelter on Maui and the agency of humane enforcement, the animals of our community need our services and deserve our very best. We asked the County for 1.4 million to cover these costs for Fiscal Year '25 before knowing how much more work the Humane Enforcement team would be called upon to provide due to the fires. The Mayor's budget falls short by \$81,000 which will hinder our officers' ability to perform those duties. We respectfully request an additional \$81,000 so that we can meet our humane enforcement contractual obligations. Maui Police Department recently asked Maui Humane Society to take over animal control services for Molokai, including management and oversight of the Animal Control Officer who currently works for MPD. \$90,000 was removed from our Fiscal Year '24 budget when the Animal Control Officer decided to continue working for MPD. But we respectfully request for that amount to be added back into the Fiscal Year '24 award as MPD agreed that it is best for Maui Humane Society to manage and oversee Molokai animal control and the \$90,000 is now needed to cover the cost of salary, vehicle, equipment, and trainings for the Animal Control Officer. For the Fiscal Year '25 Humane Enforcement contract we asked for \$140,000 so we can continue providing veterinary services to the animals on Molokai that desperately need them. Mahalo.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Were you asking us to change the Fiscal Year '24 budget? Because I don't believe that's in our authority.

MS. HOSODA: We were trying to get it back so that we continue, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, you got to talk to the Administration on that. But on the...the 81,000 for the enforcement, are you...are you guys purchasing a new vehicle?

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

April 11, 2024

MS. HOSODA: We would like to.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's what the 60,000 is for --

MS. HOSODA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in the Revolving Fund.

MS. HOSODA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you rather have the vehicle or you rather have the 81...or move that over to Enforcement?

MS. HOSODA: I mean, that would be in addition to. I mean, having a new vehicle, we would need that because right now we're short. But this additional budget would be so that we can continue to provide the services to the community that we're already doing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And there was no donations for enforcement, huh?

MS. HOSODA: No, we didn't get anything. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just double checking.

MS. HOSODA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions, Members? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Huseda [*sic*].

MS. HOSODA: Hosoda.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, you mentioned 140,000, was that in addition or to what's allocated for the 2025 budget?

MS. HOSODA: It's in addition so that we can provide the additional veterinary services to the animals of Molokai.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So...so it be a total of 280,000?

MS. HOSODA: I will have to check with them to make --

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. HOSODA: -- sure...the team with Maui Humane to make sure what we're...what that was for, exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. HOSODA: Yes, but I know it was...it was specifically for Molokai not for our current services.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, I see that. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Any other questions? Oh, you have another question, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I just wanted to clarify, I was under the impression that the 140,000 that is in there is the 140,000 that you asked for.

MS. HOSODA: Again, I will ask to clarify that with our team just to make sure. Because that...this was money that...the 140,000 was specifically for the Molokai services that we're providing, not for the (*audio interference*) we're doing now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, that's what it says, Maui Humane Society for Molokai \$140,000.

MS. HOSODA: Say again.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It says, Maui Humane Society for Molokai, \$140,000. So, I was thinking that you got everything that you asked for.

MS. HOSODA: I will clarify with them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And clarify with the Administration about that other money because we can't do anything for you.

MS. HOSODA: Okay. Thank you.

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

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the...Chair, the next testifier is Judith Aikawa, followed by Priscilla Veilleux.

MS. AIKAWA: Aloha. Aloha, Budget Chair Sumura [*sic*] and Councilmembers. My name is Dr. Judy Aikawa. I'm a retired emergency medicine physician and had

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

April 11, 2024

been a member of the Maui Humane Society Board of Directors for over 14 years. I'm here on behalf of the Board to thank the Council for your ongoing and long-standing support of animal welfare in our community. The speakers who preceded me have described in detail the outstanding work MHS is doing, the funding needed to help Molokai, and why 281,000 in additional funding is needed for animal sheltering and humane enforcement programs. Also, that we urge you to approve the Mayor's proposed increase in spay/neuter funding. You may be asking yourselves why funding support for animal programs is a priority. MHS has provided animal management services for the County of Maui for the past 37 years. We are proud of our partnership with the County and feel our shared commitment has help protect and preserve the human-animal bond, which is essential to the emotional health and resilience of the over 100,000 Maui pet owners. As many of you know who...from your own lives, pets are much loved members of a family. So, supporting and preserving those families is particularly important as our community faces unprecedented challenges and a long road to recovery. We need your help as MHS works diligently to respond to the community's increased need for pet food, veterinary care, and pet supplies for both fire-displaced pets and our regular animal population. Sadly, the number of homeless animals in our care is higher than ever before. Also the number of owned pets who need help is at an all-time high, as evidenced by a 300 percent increase in the number of financially disadvantaged owners requesting help for MHS support programs. For all these reasons, increased County support for Maui Humane Society needs to be a high priority. Thank you, again, for your long-standing support of animal welfare on Maui and for this opportunity to testify on behalf of MHS.

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

MS. AIKAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Priscilla Veilleux, followed by Douglas Bigley.

MS. VEILLEUX: Good morning, Chair and Committee Members. My name is Priscilla Erece Veilleux and I'm advocating for the Maui Mediation Services. In 1982 I worked for the County of Maui as a Clerk Typist under the Law...Law Enforcement Assistant Administration, which is the LEAA Grant, that was administered through the Department of Human Concerns. Neighborhood Justice Center of Honolulu came to Maui County and introduced the conflict resolution program which birthed into what is known today as Maui Mediation Services, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency. I became one of the first trained volunteer mediators and in early 1983 co-mediated my first case, which was a cattle

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

April 11, 2024

rustling case. Since then I've mediated a wide range of cases from neighbor-neighbor, teenage relationships, divorce, domestic, civil, landlord-tenant, employee-employee, business, restorative justice, and much more. These cases were self-centered...self-referred; sorry, court referred; and/or referred by friends, family, employers, or other agencies and entities. Being a mediator has greatly impacted my life from being a shy, fly on the wall, bump on the log, insecure, inward person to one who's passionate in encouraging people that their voice can be heard and having an equal share in their decision making. During this time I discovered how much I cared for my family and my community beyond which what I could imagine. As a parent, mediation became instrumental to one of my children's lives during their younger years of marriage. Today, they still believe in the mediation process, and they continue to utilize the tools from mediation and encourage mediation whenever possible. In 2021, I joined the staff at Maui Memorial Services as a Landlord-Tenant Case Coordinator when the landlord-tenant moratorium was lifted. Our office was able to assist many landlord-tenant cases come to agreements, thus saving many families from being homeless, and being able to have them continue to stay in their residential housing. It has been very humbling to be able to continue serving our community when the...with this mediation process for the benefit of all. So, I thank you so much for your consideration and supporting our efforts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Veilleux, for all the work that you do for our community. My question is in regards to the landlord/tenant mediation. Since the fires, have you noticed a increase in...in that service?

MS. VEILLEUX: We've had...I don't know the numbers but we have had, you know, inquiries about mediating on those requests. And there were more, I'd say, last year before the end of the year, not so much in this quarter. And probably because a lot of those cases went to court. And in court they're not...because there's a moratorium --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- they're holding off any of those cases --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- and so they're being heard.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. VEILLEUX: So, they just being continued.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is...is they...that...the majority of the cases you're finding is evictions. Is there anything else that they do with the landlord-tenant mediations?

MS. VEILLEUX: Can you repeat that question, again? I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, you know, I...I'm...I don't know this, so I'm wondering if there's other things that you're mediating between landlord and tenants besides evictions because we have a eviction moratorium, of course. But is there other things that they're...you're mediating between landlords and tenants? I don't know...I'm...just for example, maybe, rent increases, or parking, or anything that --

MS. VEILLEUX: Well --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- a conflict that would happen between a landlord and tenant.

MS. VEILLEUX: Well, some of those...some of them have complaints about being removed from the...or their lease is not being renewed because they...they feel that some of their landlords want to have...being part of the system that's getting more money for --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- their rent. So --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You...are you finding that happening?

MS. VEILLEUX: -- then they been, you know, there for how many years --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- and now, all of a sudden, they're not being able to continue --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- even though they've been paying on time and so forth. But because, according to them, there is a...a need for housing for others and they're willing to be paid more.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MS. VEILLEUX: So, if they're being...willing to be paid more than what they're getting

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

April 11, 2024

from the current renters, that's what we're hearing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. VEILLEUX: And...and, also, what we're hearing is that...because there's only two types where I believe they...it's...it's exempted, is...the first one is being...that they're selling the home. So, they have to, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- have them vacate. Or the other one is that the families are --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- their family members are coming in, so they need a place to stay.
So, I --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you guys ever follow up on that?

MS. VEILLEUX: -- we been hearing...we...what we've been hearing --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- is that some of these families who claim to have their other family members coming in --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- is...they feel that it's not true.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you ever follow up on that, if...if it is true?

MS. VEILLEUX: We...that's not our position.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Okay.

MS. VEILLEUX: And that's not our --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. VEILLEUX: -- our role is a different role.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Okay. Thank you for your...your responses.

MS. VEILLEUX: Thank you.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have questions from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Veilleux, for your testimony. Was your request for 90,000?

MS. VEILLEUX: I am one of the Care...Case managers, if you will. I am not privy to understanding any of the budget requests.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. There's 90,000 in there for you. So, let us know if that's not what you guys asked for.

MS. VEILLEUX: So, what is the question? I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, I was wondering how much you guys asked for because I see that 90,000 was allotted to mediation services and conflict resolution training. So, we're trying to decide what...how to allot all the money, and I just wanted to know if...if you got what you...your agency requested. But if you don't know, it would be nice if you let us know what was requested and if there's a shortfall, similar to how the Humane Society and other folks were letting us know, so that when we make decisions we're making informed decisions. I appreciate your work and thank you for what you do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just want to make sure that you guys are able to continue to doing it at the level that you'd like to be doing it.

MS. VEILLEUX: Yes, you know, very appreciative of having your support because of all the years that I've been in mediation, so thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for your service.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Douglas Bigley, followed by Debbie Cabebe. Douglas Bigley, we see your camera.

MR. BIGLEY: Oh, there we go.

MR. PASCUAL: Yeah.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. BIGLEY: Perfect.

MR. PASCUAL: Now we can hear you. Thank you.

MR. BIGLEY: Hi. Douglas Bigley from Makai Kahana (*phonetic*). I wanted to...I'm going to be very brief today because we did deluge you with, I think, quite a bit of information. So, I want to just mention a couple things. One is, you know, we kind of refer to our work as kind of social capitalism. What that...what we think of that is...you know, we do definitely have a strong mission. But we also understand the...that the mission has to be underpinned with sound economic, you know, policies and procedures. So, the argument today, and what we'll be making as we go forward, is that rebuilding Kupuohi makes sound economic sense under all metrics that we see. And so what that whole package really dealt with wasn't necessarily the appeals part of it, in terms of the value of getting people back home, but just the reason why it should be built economically. And that's...and so I'll be around for questions or if anybody has questions I can answer those. But that's all I have to say now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, do you want Mr. Bigley --

MR. BIGLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- or Mr. Fischer to be around when we talk to the Housing Department? Okay. I can see thumbs up. So, are you available to be a resource, Mr. Bigley, when we talk to --

MR. BIGLEY: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the Housing Department? Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Resource, I'm good at that. That's my specialty. . . .(*laughing*). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: All right. That'd be great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I --

MR. BIGLEY: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- guess, the Staff can contact you when we get to that time. Do you have his contact information? Okay. Thank you, Mr. Bigley.

MR. BIGLEY: (*Audio interference*) thanks.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier. I think I heard Debbie Cabebe.

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair, the next testifier is Debbie Cabebe, followed by Shannon I'i.

MS. CABEBE: Aloha. Good morning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. CABEBE: -- Chair Sugimura, Council Chair Lee, and Members. I'm Debbie Cabebe. I'm the Chief Executive Officer for Maui Economic Opportunity testifying in support of the Mayor's budget for MEO programs. Maui Economic Opportunity has been helping people changing lives for 58 years. We are the designated community action agency for Maui County responsible for reaching out to low-income individuals and families addressing their needs. In the past fiscal year, MEO assisted more than 20,200 individuals and families. In response to the wildfires, MEO assisted in transporting residents and assisted the State in vetting families and placing them into Airbnbs, helping them get out of the War Memorial Stadium shelter and others. We hosted consulates...consulates assisted with recovery...document recovery for immigrants, made repairs to our Head Start Center in Lahaina to reopen that, we secured private and State funds to assist in disaster recovery in all areas. And all of this in addition to running our regular programs. Since the August 8 wildfires we provided nearly \$5 million in rental assistance through the Maui fires fund consisting of more...consisting of funding from the State Office of Community Services, the Hawai'i Community Foundation, and the County Rental Assistance Program. We assisted more than 376 households and 11,114 individuals. Thanks to State...funding from the State TANF funds and the grant from the Hawai'i Community Foundation, MEO assisted 1,095 households and 3,859 individuals with rent, mortgage, utility assistance, car payments, clothing, and school supplies. The rent, alone, was...totaled to about 200...2 million...2.8 million and 866,000 for mortgage assistance. The total assistance, to date, is about 6.6 million. MEO also partnered with the State Department of Labor [sic] and assisted with the Maui Disaster Dislocated Workers Grant [sic] and we implemented it to help individuals and place them into paid jobs while assisting with recovery efforts. To date, there are 39 host sites and 123 individuals that are being paid through this program. The goal was to place 150 in employment. We have host sites at our distribution hubs, farms, health and wellness organizations, resource, and care management organizations, and more. Thanks to funding from the State and the assistance from the Maui Office of Economic Development, MEO BDC has been providing bridge grants for more than \$1.8 million to 289 small businesses with another 400 under review and expected to give out a total of \$5 million. I represent MEO on the Ho'ōla iā Mauiakama Long-Term Recovery Group and the State Economic Recovery Commission. We are committed to assist with recovery efforts every step of the way. All of these funds were made available to MEO because of the

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

April 11, 2024

core funding that we receive from the County and people come to us because they trust us. And as a community action agency we are charged with identifying local needs and finding local resources to meet those needs. So, I want to thank you for all that you're doing, ask you to continue to...please continue to support MEO programs. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Questions from Member Johnson, Member Paltin, then Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good to see you, Ms. Cabebe. Just to let everyone know that I...I sit on the board with MEO. But quick question for you, was there any COVID money that...leftover that we could use in upcoming year? Any...I know you guys do such great services across the board, is there anything left over from COVID money that we could use?

MS. CABEBE: We don't have any COVID money in our organization. I believe that some of the grant funding for the bridge grants came from COVID money through...from the State to the Office of Economic...Economic Development, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Are you receiving any of that?

MS. CABEBE: Yes, that's part of the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How much?

MS. CABEBE: -- bridge grant funds?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How much?

MS. CABEBE: We have about \$5 million.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Okay. Thank you so much. That's my question.
(Audio interference) --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin, then Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Is it possible to submit that...what you read in writing? Did you...like, I didn't find it in the --

MS. CABEBE: No, Ma'am. I...I will do that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Cool. And then the other question is, I have the breakdown of some MEO things. Are you aware of any shortfalls of what you asked for? Like I have \$320,865 for B.E.S.T., 107,532 for Enlace Hispano,

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

April 11, 2024

407,664 for MEO Youth Services. Do you know if there was anything shortfalled [sic]?

MS. CABEBE: Most of our programs were flat funded. And...and I do understand that we had requested small increases, about 3 to 5 percent, for the various programs depending on what was going on. But we were grateful that we weren't cut. That it is flat funded, and we do understand that times are tough. But I...you know, I am concerned, particularly in transportation. We have a union contract that's ending June 30th. I know we're going into negotiations next month. I don't know what that's going to look like. I...I expect...they have high...high ask and we're going to do what we can do. There are provisions in our contract that say we can't pay more than prevailing wage, so that does sort of set that boundary for them. But I do think they're going to ask for other things that are costly that I have to figure out how we're going to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And buses, are you requesting any buses this year?

MS. CABEBE: We requested one bus for the Island of Molokai.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Yeah, yeah. And then in your written testimony, did you include all sources received after the fire and the amounts?

MS. CABEBE: Can I...can I include that? I...I can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'll be great.

MS. CABEBE: I just want...I just want to make a comment about that, if I may, though. When...you know the fire funds that come in, it's...it's very specific. And it's for a very specific population. So, it's not money that we can use to fill a gap in other programs.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Thank you. I understand that. I just wanted to get a full picture.

MS. CABEBE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. CABEBE: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions for, Ms. Cabebe.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And...and real quick. It was on Tuesday night, I believe it was Ms. Ancheta with MEO, she was asking about drivers...additional drivers for Lānaʻi City.

MS. CABEBE: Well, not...we've approved it. So, she just --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MS. CABEBE: -- was asking people to apply.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. All right. Just checking.

MS. CABEBE: So, if you know anybody that needs a job, we'll hire them.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah. Sorry, about that, Member Sinenci.

MS. CABEBE: No. Thank you for that question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, next Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Ms. Cabebe, you know your Enlace program --

MS. CABEBE: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- exactly what does that program do for that community?

MS. CABEBE: Well, it was developed, initially, to help with acculturation for the folks that were brought in to work for Maui Pineapple [sic]. They were immigrants that came from Mexico. And so they were helping them sort of navigate through the community. And then later on it sort of morphed into more of a translation service, and then also helping folks with document recovery. So, we've always worked closely with Immigration Services. I think because MEO has a long history of working with the Hispanic population, there's a trust level that people will come to us. So, we help folks that are documented and undocumented. And we did a lot of work, particularly right after the wildfires, hosting the consulates. We have the Venezuelan consulate, Mexican consulate, and a whole...a whole bunch of them to help folks come and help thousands of people recover their documents that were lost during the fires. We were struggling finding a person to staff the program, so we didn't spend all the funding. But we did finally hire somebody who is a very long-term Maui resident that is bilingual. She's doing a very...very good job and I think she's going to stay. So, that...that's going to help

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

April 11, 2024

a lot.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, would it be possible for you to do the same type of program for another population that has recently landed here, such as the Micronesian population?

MS. CABEBE: If we can find the staff to...to house them...I mean, you know, to service them or help them. That's...that's...I mean, I think we all know that. You...you...the County has 700 openings. We have about a 20 percent vacancy rate throughout various programs, particularly drivers.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Some...somehow I knew you were going to ask that, Member Kama. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I forgot to ask about the underage drinking prevention that was money through the Liquor Education Fund, is that...have enough money? Or do you need money? Because there is like...the revolving fund has 230 something thousand. And how much is your underage drinking prevention that you requested? Or did you request?

MS. CABEBE: We did request an increase. We did receive some additional funding. So, I think we'll be in pretty good shape. We have been able to work with the West Side, which has been wonderful. I know after the Liquor Commission...Commissioner was here the other day...or the Director, my assistant spoke with him and thanked him for those funds because it has been very helpful. And I think we help...I don't...I don't...I don't want to give a number because I don't remember what it is off the top of my head.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But you have enough in that bucket?

MS. CABEBE: It...I think it's adequate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Because...I mean, I think there's more in that one.

MS. CABEBE: But we can do more if there's more.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. CABEBE: But I don't want to greedy. I'm, like, at all my peers here and...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, but that...the same thing, that money can only be used for that purpose.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. CABEBE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if you include in your email if you could use more, how much more that would be because, I believe, they said there's 232 in the...thousand in the revolving fund and that's all that it can be used for. And if now is the time, I rather have less underage drinkers than more money in the revolving fund.

MS. CABEBE: I agree.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Director. Good job with everything you do. Please submit written testimony then.

MS. CABEBE: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, no other questions. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Shannon I'i, followed by Courtney Ikawa.

MS. I'I: Aloha mai kākou, Chair and Members. My name is Shannon I'i. And I come here today as a directly-affected wildfire survivor to share how imperative it is to prioritize dignified housing for those affected by the August fire. I've already shared this at the budget meeting on Monday. Thanks for coming to Lahaina. But I'd like to reiterate and share that my consistency shows how vital and important housing is in West Maui, is to me, and our many of kaiāulu in Lahaina. To date, no funding has been allocated for long-term housing projects in West Maui since the fire. As thousands of West Maui residents, including myself, are still living in hotel rooms eight months after the fire. Unfortunately, over 25 percent of displaced Maui residents, including some of my friends and neighbors, have had to leave the island for lack of housing. Eighty-seven percent of displaced West Maui residents are renters. This is a critical urge that you, the Council, fund shovel-ready...shovel-ready long-term housing projects in West Maui to house displaced residents. There are currently two long term affordable housing projects that are shovel ready and need funding to get built quickly. Kaiāulu o Kupuohi, which I know a lot of friends and neighbors that live there, many of those families just moved in there and then the fire happened, unfortunately, and so that was a real bummer. And then Pulelehua, which is that site that has been sitting for quite some time. So, yeah, that's all I have. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you again.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. I'I: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for being here. Questions from the...Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. I'i, for your testimony. So, we've given, already in this Fiscal Year or allotted, 24 million to projects in Central Maui. And I see from the bills that we're anticipating \$46,882,067. And I just wanted to clarify, dignified housing for, you know, 12,000 displaced...you don't think it's inappropriate to ask for 46 million for West Maui?

MS. I'I: Yeah, absolutely not. I feel like Lahaina has had to be super flexible, and we have been. But, unfortunately...like with the traffic and, like...like, I have a daughter that goes to school in Lahaina, that plays sports in Lahaina; there's no way for...and I work in Lahaina. So, like, there's just no way for us to...to leave. And for me, I would rather live in a small studio with my family of five than, you know, in a big home. Like, I don't care; I'm not picky. But I think it's really vital and important, especially as a community, to stay together; like, that's how we thrive. Like, I don't want to just survive anymore. Like, I want to thrive as a community. And we are a super tight, close-knit community. So, yeah, I definitely don't think that's a hard ask.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. I'I: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. No other questions. All right. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Courtney Ikawa, followed by Sanoë K.

MS. IKAWA: Good morning, Budget Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers. My name is Courtney Ikawa and I'm the Regional Director with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui. Our mission is to build and support one-to-one mentoring relationships to ignite the biggest possible futures for Maui's youth. We rely on our partnership with the County of Maui to provide much needed one-to-one mentoring services across the island and at our Mentor Center in Wailuku. One in three young people don't have a positive sustained mentor in their life. For the past four years, youth have experienced record levels of social isolation, emotional trauma, anxiety, and depression due to the impact of COVID-19 as well as the wildfires. The youth we serve were already at risk due to their income level or household circumstances. And these community challenges have disproportionately affected them socially, emotionally, and academically. By pairing youth in one-to-one friendships with mentors and coaching each pair individually, we help youth develop resiliency. Our mentoring programs turn volunteers into advocates to help level the playing field for those who have been at a

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

April 11, 2024

disadvantage. Funding from the County of Maui covers three full-time case manager salary positions, as well as operating expenses. We received additional funding support through other Federal grants, private funder...private foundations, Maui United Way, and through fundraisers. Over the last year we matched over 200 youth in one-to-one friendships with mentors. Our organization is unique in that our mentors are all volunteers. But as safety is a top priority, a trained professional staff is crucial to the success of our programs. Since the wildfires, we have extended the use of our Mentor Center facility to support our community. We partner with community members and firefighters to store and distribute school supplies and other necessities from our center. Using our current staff and volunteers, we also provided program activities once a week for our neighboring youth at Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Center. We continue to provide classroom space to this group of youth as well as other providers at no cost to them. Big Brothers Big Sisters was founded on the idea that positive relationships are the bridge to building a more equitable world. With your support we'll be able serve more in-need youth across Maui and to help build the next generation of competent, confident, and caring individuals. We humbly ask for your support of our line item in the Mayor's budget of \$195,000. Mahalo for your time and consideration of this request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for your good work. Members, any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MS. IKAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier. How many more testifiers --

MR. PASCUAL: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- so we can take a break? Oh.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, there's currently six testifiers signed up --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PASCUAL: -- on our list.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Proceed.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Sanoë K., followed by Mana Shaw-Rodriguez. And I apologize, give me a moment to promote them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In the...in the other office. You want to announce the testifier again, Jarret?

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

April 11, 2024

MS. KA'AIHUE: So, sorry (*audio interference*) --

MR. PASCUAL: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Sanoe K.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Hi. Hopefully, everybody can hear me all right. Good morning. Good morning, Chair Sugimura --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. KA'AIHUE: -- and all the honorable Members. It is my pleasure to introduce myself. I am a native Hawaiian woman who is proud to be a representative of Women Helping Women. I'm the Executive Director. I've been with this agency, now, for over ten years. And the work that we do...we support victims of domestic violence through, you know, our advocacy, education, prevention, and all the other things. And I just want to come on here and just thank you for your support during this fiscal...this past fiscal year and the years prior. And also in...am in support of the Mayor's budget for this year. We didn't get awarded exactly what we asked for, however, like many of the other nonprofits, we are going to operate at 100 percent with whatever we are allotted. We run Maui County's only 24-hour crisis hotline. We run the shelter locations here on Maui and Lānaʻi. We do court advocacy and transitional housing and supports, as well as everything else. So, we...we saw...and over the wildfires, you know, we saw that there was an increase in domestic violence that...you know, there were plenty of individuals that lost family members, myself included. I was one of those, I lost a family member due to the fire. And we were able to get in there on the first or second day that they opened up the gates there. And so we were able to kind of meet with our survivors and get in touch with them and bring them the necessary items. We had...just to give you an example, we had one...one grandma who had a newborn grandchild...granddaughter with her that we were able to bring just the vital supplies. And even if that looked like what we were doing was giving her hugs and giving her, you know, notice and all of these things. You know, the fallout from the wildfires resulted in lots of victims that are battling trauma, they're battling their abuse; they're also battling the needs for basic necessities, such as housing and food. And so with our calls that have consistently increased since August, you know, our shelters still remain full. Our capacity there is 26 beds here on Maui, and then we have a capacity of 10 on Lāna'i, as well as a small capacity in Hāna, which is five...five individuals, excuse me. And so, what we're doing is we're extending people's stay regardless of whether they surpass the length of stay, which is 90 to 120 days. And that's because the rent increase has been so dramatic that our survivors, who either have zero income or one income, cannot afford to move into something. And my plea to you guys, and will always be, is, perhaps, affordable housing is not where we must go, but that we need low-income housing. And so that will bring . . .(*timer sounds*). . . sort of that measure down. But thank you guys. I appreciate everything you guys do. You guys working super hard and I'm open for any questions or comments.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I see in the budget there's \$228,000.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Any question...Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. The Prosecuting Attorney told us, in October, there was a 200 percent increase to the domestic violence hotline. Do you have the latest numbers as to the increase from pre-fire in calls? Like this is April, so I...I don't know when was the last time you checked.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Yeah, we haven't checked recently only because it's been sort of up and down as it is normally with this...with our...our work, in general. But to give you an indication, we...our normal call pattern is 200 calls. And when the wildfires happened...so, before the end of 2023, we were up to 500 plus per month, which is...which is big; that's huge.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And --

MS. KA'AIHUE: But, I apologize, I can get you a more recent number.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I was wondering what was the initial request.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Yeah, so the initial request was for people, first of all, looking for family members that were lost. And also for survivors that had no transportation to get in...or to get to shelter, and for restraining orders. So, we had...we seen a lot of restraining orders coming through...through that process. And that was...it still been a challenge. We were trying to keep with the...the number that we get. Normally, we process, within our County, about 800 TROs. So, if you can imagine, that's quite a bit for a few...two agencies to handle, actually.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. So, as Member...or Chair Sugimura said, 228,000 was allotted, but you said you fell short of...of...that 228,000 fell short. What was the number that it fell short from?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Well, what we asked for was 250 and we were actually budgeting for 240. So, we were able to sort of...kind of play with some numbers. And we...we knew that...and I'm grateful that we didn't get cut at all. But we're...we're trying to slowly raise this bar of us being able to add additional advocates, or to at least put a huge gap between cost of living...or a huge bridge between cost of living and...and what we can pay for advocates.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you receive any additional funding from HCF or any other source?

MS. KA'AIHUE: We did, yeah. So, we got some funding from the...from HCS...HCF in the form of transitional housing support. So, I think, that ended up for us was 150,000 and that was...of course, those are all earmarked for...for wildfire survivors, which was a small demographic for us, but we were able to spend that out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...the survivors were a small demographic but the other increases are like because of job loss due to the fire, or raising rents, and...and just the overall situation, is what you're saying?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Yeah, so we had people who lost jobs that needed...needed to be helped with either rent or mortgage; those kinds of things, or even client assistance parts. So, we had some survivors who didn't have housing and still needed food, they needed everything else. And...and we were able to provide that for them through HCF.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And...and you guys are aware that any moment now we're supposed to be getting that COVID 60,000 assistant with the mortgage, right?

MS. KA'AIHUE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, you guys are anxiously awaiting it like the rest of us.

MS. KA'AIHUE: I don't know if we're anxiously awaiting, but we...we know that with our partners everybody will be served. So, we're...we will take what, you know, is appropriate for us and be conservative on that front.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Member Paltin.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Mahalo, Ms. Sanoe, for...for the services that you continue to provide. I...I just had a question about the five individuals in Hāna, you guys don't provide, actually, shelters in Hāna, just the services.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. KA'AIHUE: We provide the services, yes. So, we service more people than we can shelter there. But that...that shelter setting serves as a stop gap shelter until we can get them back to...you know, into town kind of, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. Oh, so you have that physical shelter in...in Hāna.

MS. KA'AIHUE: Yes, very temporary stay. But, yes, they...they definitely are welcome to stay there until we can get them to more safety and support.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, great. Okay. Thank you. Any other questions? Seeing none. Next--oh, sorry about that. You're behind my screen, sorry about that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's okay. So, had a question for you Miss...says Sanoë K. So, you know I notice in...in the...the...the budget book that East Maui had funding for the past few years. And then...but this...this year I don't see it in our program. So, do you know if they need it, or did not need, or did not submit a request for funding?

MS. KA'AIHUE: I believe it's in there. So, we actually submit it as one thing but it's kind of a proviso. And it's been that way for the last, I want to say...oh, many years. But --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. KA'AIHUE: -- they allotted...it's still allotted at 11,000. So, the total for us with the additional ask was 228, total.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay. So, it's...so, it's under one line, Women Helping Women, and not two different lines like it was last year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. KA'AIHUE: I believe it's still listed as two line items, if I'm looking at it correctly.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. But I want to ask Human Concerns later on after we finish talking with all of you. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Kama. Sorry about that. Next testifier, Jarret.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Mana Shaw-Rodriguez, followed by Riley Bond.

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: Aloha. Can you hear me...see me?

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Aloha, Chair Lee and Councilmembers. My name is Mana Shaw-Rodriguez and I'm the Director of Prevention and Education at Maui AIDS Foundation. I've been with this agency for seven years. Maui AIDS Foundation is a nonprofit in Wailuku serving all of Maui County through case management of our HIV-positive clients; as well as preventative services like free HIV, Hep-C, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia testing. We provide free Narcan, also known as Naloxone, which is a lifesaving overdose prevention nasal spray to keep our Maui Counties safe. And it's accessible and it's free to our community. Our organization requested 172,000 in core grant services funding, and 119,000 for free clinic expansion, and 70,000 to increase prevention and harm reduction educational services. And thank you so much to Mayor's Administration for awarding us 140,000 by DHHS. So, we are requesting an expansion of our free clinic to include expansion capacity to hire an RN or and LPN to support our one provider on staff, Bryan Chin. He goes beyond...above and beyond in meeting the needs of our community and deserves the help to assist the demand and increase of STIs in Maui County. He provides free test...treatment for those testing positive for Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia. He assists those interested in PrEP, which is a daily preventative pill to lower your chances of getting of HIV. He helps those on PrEP get connected to their three-month lab and provides ongoing support with those clients. He helps get clients needed PEP, which is an emergency pill, which is a post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV taken for 28 days for those that had an accidental needle exposure or a known exposure to HIV. He helps our HIV-positive clients with medication and injections to keep our virally-suppressed clients suppressed. So, he does a lot of different services. And so if MAF had the support of another RN or an LPN, he would actually have time to provide more comprehensive services like prescribing Hep-C treatment, which is in high demand, and expand women's healthcare; like pregnancy testing, Hep-A and -B vaccines, and so much more. So, not only would this expansion benefit our provider and our services, it would also even expand the work that we're already doing through harm reduction services with Narcan as we're providing our Narcan to the Maui Police Department and other agencies, as well as trainings to the Police Department as well and different partners, organizations, and community members that request it. As a result of the fires our intravenous drug users have started using more as a coping mechanism. And as a result we are seeing . . .(timer sounds). . . an increase in overdoses and we know that these overdoses are happening in Lahaina due to our trainings. This expansion would provide more access to our STI testing due to the high cost of the STI tests and we are at a high rate now in Hawai'i. And congenial syphilis is a Statewide concern with increased infections as well as Gonorrhea and Chlamydia as those are going up. MAF is requesting an expansion to assist the agencies with these goals and objections...objectives. So, mahalo for your consideration of considering the funding of our County grant

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

April 11, 2024

proposals. This goal is to eliminate STIs and opioid overdoses, and we can affect this outcome with your help. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, are you saying the expansion that you're looking for is 119,000?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: So, we requested...yeah. So, we requested 172 of core services and 140 was approved. And we were looking for that 30,000 more. But, yes, you are correct in that for the free clinic expansion, that was 119,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're actually looking for 30. Any questions, Members? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...sorry, you got 140,000 and you requested 172,000. Is the...where is the 119,000 in that? Is that in addition to the 32,000 short?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: Yes. So, that was a separate grant. It was our...our free clinic expansion that we were looking to...looking to hire either an RN or a LPN.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, in --

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: So, the services to provide that extra...sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in the general request you're 32,000 short, and then an expansion request you're 119,000 short. Is that correct?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. So, the 119, I believe, is separate. And then I know that the...the 172 that I mentioned, that we had originally asked for, we were only awarded 140. So, we're...we're requesting the addition of that extra cost.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The separate 119, was that funded or not funded?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: I believe that was not funded. I know my Executive Director, Linda, will be speaking following me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the...the expansion, was it going to be in West Maui or Central Maui?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: It was going to take place here but we would hopefully be able to start to continuing more of our services again to West Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I don't know where here is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Wailuku.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: Oh, I'm so sorry. Wailuku.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then --

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: Central Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- when you provide the training and Narcan to the Police Department, is there any compensation from the Police Department to your organization for providing those supplies and services?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: No, with our partnership with them we do not receive any type of compensation. We are just grateful to be able to provide that training as we believe it's really important to, not only train everyone, but then also just provide the distribution of Narcan, so no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And have you received funding from any other sources being that you...how you said, plenty people are overdosing in Lahaina as a result of the wildfire, have you received money from Hawai'i Community Foundation or other sources since the wildfire?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: Yes, we have received some money through the Hawai'i Community Foundation, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you know how much?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: I don't know exact numbers. I can have Linda speak on that or we can get back to you on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think she's speaking next.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then if...if you were to value what services and supplies it costs...like at cost for you to train the Police Department, what would that value be?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: That's a great question. That's something we can get back to you on.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for your work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson has questions for you.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for all the work that you do. I got questions about...did you...did you receive any reason why you didn't get the full amount that you asked for?

MS. SHAW-RODRIGUEZ: Oh, yeah, good question. That is another thing that, I think, Linda can speak more on. I think that's a good question, though.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I'll ask Ms. Puppolo. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Seeing none. All right. Next testifier, please. Thank you.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Riley Bond, followed by Junya Nakoa. Riley Bond is online and she's unmuted on our end. Oh, there we go.

MS. BOND: *(Audio interference)* hi, guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hi.

MS. BOND: So, my name is Riley Bond. I'm here testifying on behalf of myself. I am a Lahaina resident for all my life. I want to advocate for critical funding towards the shovel ready long-term housing projects in West Maui. You're all familiar with the extreme housing crisis that was, you know, present before the fires but has definitely been exacerbated. Shannon went over a lot of statistics that I was going to include so I won't...I won't, you know, double up on that. But just touching on the fact that 25 percent of our displaced West Maui residents have been forced to leave, this, like, really, really fractures us as a community and, like, undermines the...the very, like, social fabric that binds us together. And there was a gentleman earlier who mentioned the term social capital, which I Googled the definition of that and that's the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society enabling that society to function effectively. So, we may not be a community full of wealth to throw around, but we have connections of child care, and meals, and we take care of our elderly. And so it's not as simple as just moving to the other side or getting up and leaving. And, you know, it's...it's...it's...like, you know, 25 percent of the people who have been...have been...meant...have been...had...had to leave, but there's really no number or data that you can put on the amount of trauma that that really causes, to not only the people who had to leave, but the people here who are suffering without, you know, critical members of...of their community. So, we just...we really need to allocate the funds for long term housing projects in West Maui, not only to prioritize our fire survivors but also there's the whole underscoring of vulnerable populations up north who, you know, didn't lose their home but now are being evicted to...you know for the landlords to get more money from FEMA. So, for example, I'm a single mom, I rent a studio in Nāpili, someone from FEMA

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

April 11, 2024

is being housed directly across the street from me, and they're...they're...FEMA is paying 5,000...\$5,100...5,000...over \$5,000 a month for their studio directly across the street from me. So, when my lease is up in July and if my landlord decides not to re-rent to me...you know, if they...even if they raise the rent, even if they decide to renew my lease, how...I don't know if I'm going to be able to afford it. So, it's just...it's just really critical, you know, all around. And then one other thing, I, you know, been in this meeting and hearing about the issues of, you know, domestic violence, and animal cruelty, and displacement, and, you know, mental health issues, and drug overdoses; those are all compounded by the lack of housing. You know, fixing this housing issue will have a ripple effect, positively, in so many other social issues that we're dealing with today, especially in Lahaina where we...where we're suffering even more so and we're so far away from any of these resources. So, thank you guys for all the work you do for our County and I just really urge you to, yeah, allocate some funding towards long term shovel ready projects to house people in Lahaina. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for Riley Bond? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Junya Nakoa, followed by Linda Puppolo.

MR. NAKOA: Howzit. You guys can hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. Okay. You guys heard me the other night, Monday, all the stuff. But I just when talk to...okay, we going to do one program for help out kids with the mental health like that. Brah, the parents they got to drive all over the place because they staying in Wailuku, one kid go school...get Lahaina, one kids go school in Kihei, and all that stuff, yeah. So, this housing over here, the West Maui, yeah, you guys...the Government went build one...one...one school over here, yeah. One school...when build one school over here in Kahana and one of the projects that is ready to rock and roll is Pulelehua and it's right there on that property. So, why not build the homes over there so the people no need travel all over the damn place. The school stay right there, so one less trip to have to go far. The people in Lahaina like live in Lahaina, you know what I mean. They no like go the...go the other side. It's so stressful, as it is, for lose everything. Now, you guys making them stress out so more because, like, they got to go live on the other side. So, Kupuohi, that buggah ready for go. The developers, you guys going talk to them later on. They when go spend their own money for go clean them up. They not going for FEMA and all that kine stuff. They going clean them up. They ready for rock and roll. They ready for build too. So, why the heck we not funding these two projects, yeah, that's here in Lahaina. Okay. You guys got to remember, now, where all that money come from . . .(inaudible). . . but

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

April 11, 2024

majority of that money come from all the TAT, whatever, and whatever (*audio interference*) you guys like use. But that was generated by the tourism here in Lahaina that us, the people in Lahaina, got to...got to go suffer. We got to go deal with. Yeah, we got to deal with them. We got to deal with the traffic. We got to deal with them taking all our beaches. We got to deal with them taking all our resources. So, that money should be used for the people of Lahaina, you know, more strongly, you know, and...so Pulelehua you get like, what, 240 homes ready for rock, 60 of them going be for sale, the other 180 going be for rent. You know, you guys heard the numbers by the smart testifiers early that 85 of the people that lost everything is...was renters. So, why we not...why we not thinking...why we not make...taking care of these projects that ready to rock and roll right here in Lahaina, yeah. And . . .(*inaudible*). . . they all suffering right now. Okay. And then why not build the homes here in Lahaina for the people that's been displaced, close to the school that has just been built. When spend, how much, \$79 million for . . .(*inaudible*). . . get dirty water, you know. So, maybe the County should go over here...go ahead and tap into the County system so he can build this home. Yeah, you know, again, like we said, brah, what happened to we going to listen to Lahaina? What happened to we going rebuild Lahaina? Yeah. You guys all...everybody...like you guys say all this, oh, yeah, this for the people of Lahaina, the fire people, but where the heck the houses stay? All the way the other side (*audio interference*) . . .(*timer sounds*). . . Kihei. What happened...okay, I almost pau. What happened to us building the...what...what happened to building the one over here in Lahaina? Yeah, so I heard you...Tamara ask if we...the guy...we should spend the money over here, heck yeah. Heck yeah, we should spend that money for the people of Lahaina who will help...will help generate...and suffer to generate all that tax dollars. The developer for Kupuohi is ready for rock and roll. The Pulelehua is ready for rock and roll. So, please, please, please, support these projects. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Nakoa. Any questions for him? Seeing none. Thank you.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. You guys have a good day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Have a good day. Next testifier.

MR. NAKOA: Yeah.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Linda Puppolo, followed by Tom Fischer.

MS. PUPPOLO: Hi. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. PUPPOLO: Okay, great. Thank you. Good morning, Chair Lee, Councilmembers Kama, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, Johnson, Cook, Sugimura, and U'u-Hodgins, and Paltin. And I know all you guys; you're all great. Free clinics unburden public resources at a rate of \$34 per \$1 invested. MAF is requesting...like Mana told you, we had three grants. We had one that was for 100...our core service grant was 172,000 requested, 140 DHS sent...put in the budget. Then we wrote two additional grants, one for free clinics expansion and one...for 119,000 and 70,000 for prevention and harm reduction. Now, we understand that money is tight; we do, it's not that we don't. But I want to...I want to make you understand, what if you come upon a person that becomes limp or pale, their...their breathing or their heart...heart beat slows and stops, or an elder mixed up their pills, or a child picking a pill up from a floor...on the floor, or someone that's just addicted that hasn't been able to stop yet? Every one of you could save that life by administering Narcan from a kit that you received during our training. This is one of the many mass services. We train individuals, we train groups, we train bars, we train businesses, we train nonprofits, we work with the CORE bus. We train MPD. And your question about MPD, it's about \$75 an hour for us to do the training. We get all the Narcan free. And we trained Representative Elle Cochran, and we'll train every one of you, if you'd like to be trained, and...and provide you with Narcan because everybody can save a life. That's one of our core...that's one our big services. We had not...we started this over a year ago. We had not gotten any funding to do this service. We've been doing it for over a year with no funding because it was important, because we all agreed on that. Okay. What if you were at the beach and you got poked by a syringe in the sand? To prevent HIV treatment all you...you...to get effective treatment you have to get that treatment within 72 hours. If you get it within 72 hours even if it had...that syringe had HIV, you will prevent getting HIV. We...we are a free clinic. We're open and accessible. We don't have appointments of walk-in testing, walk-in treatment. And it...it's the only...Maui County's only free clinic. What if you have symptoms of a sexually transmitted infection or an...which is called STI, or when you're asymptomatic? Getting tested helps you get treatment and helps to keep all your partners safe. Free clinics stop the spread. MAF is able to reduce infections that causes disease, someday, possibly may eliminate those infections completely. The State of Hawai'i has two organizations, one called Hep Free Hawai'i and the other one is called Hawai'i to Zero. And those are...they've made a commitment to try to end reinfection or infections by 2030 and...and we're making . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . a dent in that with...with our services. But we can't do...we can't keep up the pace if we don't get a little bit more funding. And we're not asking for huge amounts of money. We...every single dollar you give us gets invested very well in the community.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Ms. Puppolo.

MS. PUPPOLO: I guess that's --

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Are you done?

MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah, I am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, sorry about that. Member Paltin, then Member Johnson has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Puppolo, for your...Puppolo, for your testimony and service. I just was trying to clarify, so I understand the 32,000 shortfall in the AIDS map. Did you receive any amount of the 119,000 ask for the free clinic expansion and the 70,000 ask for the prevention? Or are those just (*audio interference*) --

MS. PUPPOLO: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- not funded? Not funded?

MS. PUPPOLO: No, Director Tsuhako said that...you know, that we would stay at our...our...our core...our services have been 140,000 just for core services. We wrote additional grants to ask for funding, and we received no additional funding, whatsoever, just the core service original 140,000 that we've all...that's been in our budget for quite some time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then when you said expansion for an additional, was it RN or LPN, do you have someone identified? Because I do know that there's like a shortage of workers, if you were to get money for expansion help, are...how...how sure are you that you could fill a position like that?

MS. PUPPOLO: We'd be working with the college to take...we've already talked to Nurse Jeff (*phonetic*), who's teaching at the college. And what we would be doing is looking at trying to get people coming straight out of the college to come here or even possibly work here for a little while to get their...their...what do you call? I can't say...you know, the...the work experience and then we would hire them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. PUPPOLO: That's our...kind of our plan. We've already spoken to the college, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, you know, I'm constantly getting pictures from the lifeguards about all the drug paraphernalia that they're finding around their tower, and around the bathrooms, and around the showers where our children paddle canoes. Are you having any outreach to that whole strip where there's tents up and down the beach park?

MS. PUPPOLO: We...we give needles...a needle exchange program. So, we give...they

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

April 11, 2024

give us a needle, and we give them a needle back. And that helps --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How many needles have you exchanged --

MS. PUPPOLO: -- prevent them from getting--what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- from Hanakaōō to Wahikuli?

MS. PUPPOLO: I can't...I...I don't have that isolated. But after the fire we had...we exchanged...I think it was...let me...I have my figures right here. After the fire...where is the...condoms and the needles? Was over 1,000 in...from September to December it was over 1,000 needles and normally we only exchange about 250. And then it just keeps going up. We're at five...544 percent higher than...than we've ever been. And a lot...you know, it...it's not just people in Lahaina, but we do serve Lahaina. We go over there, we...we do insurance enrollment regularly. We're planning to work with Francis Kau at the center and do testing. As far as going in and picking up the syringes on the beach, no, we...we haven't done that, but that's a great community service project for us, probably, in the future. But what we do is we...we are trying to prevent people from getting infected by...by using...by sharing needles; that's the most important thing to us. And then we're taking...we're giving them a place to bring the needles so they don't leave it on the beach.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the needles that they're finding at Hanakaōō is probably not with your program, because to get a new needle you need to turn in the needle? Or will they get a new needle even if they don't have the old needle?

MS. PUPPOLO: Yeah, it's a one-for-one exchange program. We don't give...you know, if they...if they went and picked up all those needles on the beach and they brought them to us, we'd give them that many needles; it's a one-for-one exchange.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and the conversation you had with the Director for keeping it flat because there wasn't a need for this type of expansion or --

MS. PUPPOLO: No, she never said anything like that. She was very gracious. She...she just said that she was feeling like she could only fund 140,000 in the budget for us. And I...you know, I...I pushed a little bit and said, please, please. But, no, she...she felt that that was all she could do at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and --

MS. PUPPOLO: So, I'm coming to you folks hoping that you could find a little extra money for us.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: At that time, were you able to explain the 400 percent increase in needle exchange? 544 percent.

MS. PUPPOLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. PUPPOLO: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good...good morning, Linda, good to see you or good to hear from you. Appreciate all the hard work you're doing. I guess, my question was along with Councilmember Paltin's, what was the reason why you didn't get your...your 172,000, instead you got 140? Was it...was there any reason explained?

MS. PUPPOLO: She just said money was really...extremely tight. That...that was it, yeah. She said she had a lot of...you know, she had to spread it across. And we normally got 140,000 and, you know, we're really grateful for the 140,000. It would be really hard to operate without it. But we do have other...we do have grants, and we're writing grants as fast as we can, and...but it's impossible...I tried to explain to her that it's impossible to do fundraising right now. Because if we do fundraising we're competing against the very people that need food, shelter, and water. I...it's just impossible in this community. There's just not a lot of money. We were...we, all the nonprofits, share the same amount of money. So, not...you...you know fundraisers are not really going to do it. You know we going to have to find grant funding and just...just to let you know I wrote...I needed some extra supplies for treatment. You know, we needed more treatment and I wrote a grant just recently to the Dorsey Foundation [sic] and was awarded 20,000. So, we're doing that constantly, writing grants and stuff. But this...this service, right here, this Narcan and that...and the nurse it would...our provider is one provider if he gets sick then we can't provide.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. PUPPOLO: We need some back up to be able to...and we can add vaccination services. See our goal is to eliminate STIs. And without being able to do vaccination services we can't do that. So, as a free clinic we can get people in here that wouldn't normally walk in anywhere because they don't have medical insurance, maybe they're dysfunctional. We also have a food pantry that we take

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

April 11, 2024

care of the...we have a lot of houseless people that come here and we take care of them. And with mental health...we have mental health services, case management, housing services; so a whole range of things.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You do a lot for our community, Linda, and I think the County would be wise to help support you. So, thank you for clarifying that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. And any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much, Linda. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. Tom Fischer dropped off from the call, so we'll go to our last testifier signed up which is Mike Moran.

MR. MORAN: Okay. Now, we can see me. Can we hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I can hear you.

MR. MORAN: Okay. Thank you. I thought, Mr. Fischer, was going first. I mis understood. So, good morning, Chair Sugimura and...and Committee Members. Mike Moran. I'm speaking as an individual this morning and I wanted to address three topics. So, I...I will get going so I can fit the thing in in three minutes. And the first one is in support of...of...of HARF. You heard from Dawn, I think she was the first testifier this morning, from HARF. And I met Dawn many years ago before the organization got established when they were...she and her partner Penny (*phonetic*) were trying to get it established. And because I was somewhat cognizant of...of County government I tried to help and they were tenacious in...in proceeding. They had many obstacles thrown in their way. They were all close to getting a facility, and then somebody would pull the rug out; they never quit. They proceeded along when they had no facility. They were keeping animals in...and...in Penny's home to...to the best they can. And now they've made great strides. So, they always need funding as...as, you know, nonprofits do. Now, of course, more than ever with the tragedy that we had last year. So, I'm speaking in support of their request for the 150,000. Moving onto other animal organizations, the Maui Humane Society. I do...I try to do my part and help out that organization. Over the years they have improved vastly in what they do. I've always had dogs, I'm a dog guy. No offense to the cat people but I'm a dog guy and I've always had many dogs. The last period I've gone to fostering dogs because they say that's the greatest need. And many of you have spoken about the animal issues and I know you're...you're all very aware of this situation. But I can see that the current dog that I'm fostering is one that normally would have been adopted very quickly. I've had for over six months and we...they can't find somebody. No reason why, just shortage. The whole situation that you've addressed; landlords won't accept pets, people displaced. So, please give them any funding you can. I know that it's...it's not unlimited, you can't fund

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

April 11, 2024

everything for everyone, but that...that's an organization that really needs it. I...I always try and use that to...speaking for the creatures that can't speak for themselves but you have all the people from there this...this morning speaking for it. The third item is...is housing. And . . .(timer sounds). . . Ikaika--oops, I took too long. Ikaika 'Ohana, I'll just say, I met Doug Bigley many years ago when he was starting his first project at Kaiwahine Village . . .(inaudible). . . to get that done. Once it proved a success, it became very popular with County government, and now we see the need they have in that West Maui tragedy, having a great facility burn down. So, please try and support them as well. Thank you for the opportunity and thank you for allowing me to go over a little bit. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Moran. Any questions for him? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Moran, for your testimony. Just clarifying for Kupuohi, you support 36 million?

MR. MORAN: I support anything that...that the Council can...can do. I...I realize, as I said, the funding is not unlimited. But we do seem to have tremendous amounts of money pouring in. I know it's restricted, some...a lot of the Federal money it's like, well, they could...they could cover that, ahh, but it comes with restrictions. So, I just say listen to Mr. Fischer and Mr. Bigley and do the best you can. If that's what it takes, that's what it takes. I spoke for the animal and I have to speak for the people too. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions for him? We might see you tonight, Mr. Moran, I...I'm guessing, at South Maui.

MR. MORAN: Oh. Yes, yes, Ma'am. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you very much? Any other testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that's currently all the individuals signed up to testify. If there is anyone out there in the Chamber or on Teams that would like to testify, please come up to the mic and begin your testimony or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams and Staff will unmute you. And I will provide a brief countdown; three, two, one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We have gone all morning without a break but to keep with Sunshine, James, we need to ask a question or two, and then I can take a ten-minute break?

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

April 11, 2024

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, it's just that...if...if you...the Committee can take a break now if it'd like. But it just wouldn't be able to close testimony at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PASCUAL: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What's your call? Okay. You want to close testimony. Okay. So, with your permission, then, we're going to close public testimony, Members.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great. And we will receive written testimony. All right. So, now to keep with the Sunshine Law we have to ask couple questions and we can go ten-minute break. Okay. So, we're going to be 'Ōiwi Resource, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez, three minutes questioning. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT OF 'ŌIWI RESOURCES

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And I'm...I'm...I'm going to be flying to Maui. So, when we do recess, I'm going to be monitoring on my phone --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- until I arrive there in person. Okay. I don't really have too many questions for Miss...Deputy Lau Hee. I guess, the first question is if there's any idea on...or if you could explain a little more, like, what...okay, it sound...okay, it sounds like, to me, the part of the...the worry that we won't meet...or we're...we're not meeting all the deadlines...internal deadlines for us, is that we had to kind of shift people around, is finding a physical location for the Department one of the obstacles?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Lau Hee.

MS. LAU HEE: Thank you, Chair. Finding physical location seems to be our...a challenge but not something we haven't been able to overcome. So, I don't see that as a barrier to being able to establish the Department on time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then this is for the Deputy Director. There's a planned 12-month salary, so do you have an approximate timeline of when that position would be advertised? And we're thinking that they would start, like, July 1st.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. LAU HEE: Yeah. So, based on the conversation I had with the MD last night, the plan is to start recruitment very shortly for both the Director and Deputy position so that they'll be in place by July 1st.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then for the other positions, for like the assistant...well, so several of the positions already exist and they would...would they...so, like, the Count Archeologist, would...would she stay there or would she move to where the...the...the new Department would be?

MS. LAU HEE: The County Archeologist will be moving to the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I mean...oh, okay, like, physically?

MS. LAU HEE: Oh, physically. Well, you know, space dependent and availability of the Archeologist to be able to be, currently...I guess, physically on Maui is sort of a thing we work with her on just knowing that, you know, there are some challenges in so far as finding housing. And so physically we'll...we'll be...we're...we are prepared to keep the County Archeologist physical location in the Department of Management spaces until we're able to secure a larger space for 'Ōiwi Resources.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then I'm supportive of the funding for a strategic plan. Would you expound a little bit more on the 500,000 . . .(timer sounds). . . establishing the Department? And that's my final question.

MS. LAU HEE: So, if you...you're referring to the grant subsidies for \$500,000? Just want to clarify.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yeah, sorry.

MS. LAU HEE: Okay, apologies, I wasn't, necessarily, involved in some of those discussions as we were developing the budget. So, you know, we'll respond in writing. I believe those were one of the questions that were transmitted to us, so we'd be happy to respond in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. LAU HEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair. I'll see you all on Maui.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Yeah, fly safe and glad you're going to be here. All right. Members, so at this time I'm going to call a...is it ten minute, okay? Ten-minute recess at 11...so, 30, well, let's; go 11:40. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 11:26 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:41 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development [sic] Committee. It's now 11:41. And, Members, before we proceed for the rest of...well, Ōiwi, and then Housing and Human Concerns, and Housing Departments, I wanted to just go over our procedures that we'll be going through. I just wanted to visit our priority amendments. So, yesterday I passed out a revised...or letter. And after some considerations I wanted to present this to you. April 15th at 4:30 I would like the Members to still submit your conditional language for your 140...not your, but the \$140,000...your District funds, right. So, that conditional language will be due at 4:30 to Staff. And then after I sent out the letter, I had a discussion with Chair Lee, and her major objection with my yesterday's schedule was, wait, let's finish, I...this is correct. Let's finish all the Departments and all the residency meetings, and then submit the two...and then...then proceed, right, with the...whatever your priorities are going to be. So, April 17th, then, at 4:30, two proposed priority amendments and one conditional language proposal related to the revolving fund. And two conditional language to County grants on...on Wednesday. And the reason is because Monday we're going to go to Molokai; so we'll hear it from the people of Molokai. Tuesday is Wailuku, Kahului in the Chambers, right, for residency meeting-ish. And then the last Departments we're going to be taking up...we're going to take Corp. Counsel on Friday; they were available. So, you could take up Corp. Counsel on Friday...tomorrow. And then on the 17th we have, what I call, the legislative branch, right, in which Corp. Counsel was there, the Auditor, OCS, and County Clerks. So, I wanted to get all the Departments heard, and then you can submit your proposed conditional priority amendments. Okay. And I...I...I did think...when we were setting up the schedule, I said, probably, you're not going to have amendments or changes to OCS...a lot of questions and OCC because they all met with you individually, is what I thought. But just to be fair to everybody, this is the schedule I'm proposing. Yes, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Just was clarifying, so every place that I see April 15th in bold you want to change to April 17th, is that what you said?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not necessarily, because April --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- 15th at 4:30 is still the Economic Development and, you know,

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

April 11, 2024

our...our \$140...\$140,000 --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I not doing that. I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- just going let them do their own. So, for me, the only deadline is the 17th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the one at the very bottom of the page it's...of the first page it says, a summary of Members amendments will be compiled and provided April 17th. So, that's only the District funds. Is that correct, on the 17th you'll provide a summary of the District fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, this is...this is what's also changing. Because we changing the deadlines, I'm asking Staff...this is why I was meeting with James last night at 8:30. I'm asking Staff if they could compile a matrix with all of your...your proposals, and then submit it on the 19th, which is...Chair Lee has a meeting, she's not here. It's a Council meeting day and I'm...I'm not sure if we have to agendize a meeting time or can we just submit it?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, if...if the Committee does need to distribute that in an open meeting, then the Committee can just recess its 17th meeting to the 19th in the afternoon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. But we have...do we have to get Chair Lee's approval? It's a Council meeting day.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, what are we...can you clarify what we're doing on the 19th? They're giving stuff to us, not us giving stuff --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- to them. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, they're going to come...well, on the 19th they're going to...because that has to be transmitted in an open meeting that...we have to still ask Chair Lee, but we create an agenda; 10 minutes, 15 minutes, whatever it is, but they need to give you their...the matrix...the final matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, you cannot just upload it to Granicus like the rest of the --

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- answers? No? No can?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, well, you...when you give--okay, why don't you explain it. Go ahead.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair. Chair, we're...we're looking into that to see if...that's why we're saying that if...if it is needed for an open meeting, we would...you could just consider doing a recess --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. KRUEGER: -- rather than positing an entire new meeting just for this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I'll let you know what the final is on that, but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Keep us posted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I'll keep you posted on that, but you understand. So, 15th send in your condition...oh, sorry, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. Thank you, Chair. Yeah, the 15th is our District Cultural if...if we're going to proviso.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And then on the 17th, when we do submit our two priorities, do we have to also include the cuts?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: But I know you said we were going to cut as --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- we go...go review each Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, after I listen to all of you and all your many questions, I realize that your questions that you're asking the Department were pretty targeted at how can we do this better, right. And so I figured on the 22nd, which is a Monday, 22nd to the 24th, we're doing decisions. Sorry. When we do decisions on the 22nd, we're going to start on Bill 60 and we'll go Department by Department, you know, and ask the Chair of that Department, which is Agriculture, which will, then, be Gabe Johnson, first, and then we'll just go down

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

April 11, 2024

the line like we been doing. But then you can propose, you know, any cuts, or any questions, or whatever. The other thing that I realized, after I did this calendar, is that we were still waiting for responses from Departments. And as you know, when we had asked earlier, it wasn't signed properly by the Mayor. He...well, it wouldn't be released until the Mayor signed it. So, anyway, all of that is in Granicus and we'll give you a summary of where all the Department correspondence is. And I encourage you to read it because Departments, and I'm sure you have been, has done a pretty good job in terms of answering your important questions. And then...and then talking to you in person. And then the next day by 9:00 more of the questions were due to the Department of which they're going to answer that. So, I think we're all heading towards the same place, which is to get a...a responsible budget passed. And, I think, that all of us have wildfire, top of mind, and how to proceed forward so that we can, you know, help our residents in all Districts, but I think that's top of mind. Anybody have a question? Yes, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sorry, I'm late but...oh, so we're going to have the opportunity to revise some of the rules?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's what I'm talking about now.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And...and would that be? Now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now, yeah. That's what I'm...I'm talking about what my proposed revised rules are, as you put it. So, you want me to say it again?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, sorry. Yeah, because...and fast --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: *(Audio interference)* --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- because I have 12:00 meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, Members, my goal is to get us out of here at 12:00 because we have Josiah from...until 2:00, he's available from 12:00 to 2:00. So, we can continue on with 'Oiwī after lunch. So, from 12:00 I'm going to adjourn, come back at 1:00...I'm sorry, recess till 1:00 and then take on Josiah. But for today, Chair Lee, right now what I'm talking about is --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the proposed process --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- as we...we move...go forward. So, on the 15th at 4:30 all your

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

April 11, 2024

conditions are due for the Economic Development and Cultural conditions, the 140,000 is due by 4:30 on Monday, the 15th. The 17th...because of your...discussion that we had of wanting to have all the residency meetings, as well as the Departments, all completed before we took the next step, which is April 17th at 4:30; two proposed priority amendments from you, submit it to staff.bfed@mauicounty.us; one conditional language proposal related to the revolving fund, and two conditional languages to County grants. So, that's due on the 17th at 4:30. Did I get the time correct? That time is correct, right? 4:30 is...4:30 is fine? Okay. And then the 19th, you were not here, we were talking about...that's the day you have your Council meeting. And Staff is going to check, but we think that...or they think that...they're going to create a matrix of all of your...whatever you were going to submit on the 17th, create a matrix and...but that has to be...be presented in a open meeting of which we're going to...if it's...if that's correct, we're going to ask if we can tag onto your April 19th Council meeting, some time...like even quickly during lunch, or whatever, just so that we can present the matrix, transparent and to all of you, in public meeting. But I need to find out. Take over, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But we would have to post that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have to post it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, I will. But --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- first we have to get your approval --

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- but they need to check. Yes.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: No, we wouldn't need to post. We would recess from the 17th until the 19th.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: For a separate meeting.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: And just a quick note and the reason why we're considering this is your priorities are legislative proposals, so...so different from other documents that we hand out via email.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. That's fine. Having a separate meeting is fine.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we'll...we'll let you know what we end up...is that final or are you still researching?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, but...but the main thing I wanted to ask is it's pretty clear that we cannot restrict our, you know, proposals to two and one, you know, because there's so many more...after listening to the people we have the ability, as a group, to change...like for instance, you know, some of the...especially the nonprofits, okay, we have the ability to...to make changes. And then why can't...if we not...if we're not adding to the budget, why can't we identify areas that we can either...well, cut and raise? I mean, in other words what is the rationale to have only two changes to the revolving fund? I mean, if...well, you have one condition but I had sent you, I think, a memo last night asking for more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yours was two.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But I said two, but I said...but two...but add two continued ones. Like if...if they didn't spend down what we had put in for this fiscal year, I consider that unfinished, so that should continue, you know. That shouldn't be...you know, because some of them they took out completely. So, we should have the...you know, we have the final say.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We shouldn't be following what the Mayor put in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, your...your question...if...if you want to talk about it, is the revolving funds if it...if you put in a revolving fund item last fiscal year and it's not in this fiscal year, a revolving fund for open space, it doesn't die according to the Charter 9-11. It's still alive. It's just not printed again in this fiscal year Open Space Fund. It doesn't die, you know what I mean.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But maybe we want to revise it, you know. But my...my whole point is if we not raising the budget...if we can have more time to make changes, you know bona fide changes that everybody agrees to, why not. Because I think even you mentioned to me, and I agree, if you look at this budget on the face of it you would never know this is...this is for Lahaina. You would never know that this is a recovery budget. We're going to try and, you know, restore the lives of thousands of people; you would never know that. And so we have that opportunity to make those kinds of changes, is all I'm saying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, to answer your...and then I'll go to Member Paltin. So, Members, what we were talking about was, like...oh, sorry...as a...as a Budget Chair and...and Councilmember and I have my...my Kula, you know, situation, which is way different than what West Maui has gone through. But I've lived the wildfire, too, in a different way, and it's something very important, and we hear

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

April 11, 2024

the voices of the people. West Maui was so sad, right, and we've been hearing it often, that if you took...me example was, if you put the two budgets together, you cannot really tell there's a wildfire in between there.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Exactly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And what I'm doing with my community is taking us to the next steps, which is hazard mitigation. I'm part of a grant with FEMA, not I, but the community is part of a grant with FEMA to do planning and next steps forward to prevent for the next hazard, if we do have one. But that's the kind of stuff that I'm going to be doing as I look at this budget. But what I was talking to Chair Lee was, if you put the two budgets together you really cannot feel it if that much. The whole community has moved forward and...yes, but our heart, and soul, and spirit is...is in West Maui and how to move that forward, you know. So, I think all of us are sitting at the same place. Just answer to that, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just needed some help with the calendar.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On the 19th they...I'm looking at the schedule as of April 10th, 2024, subject to change without notice. That's the most recent one, right, as of yesterday?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then in the off blue, maybe teal-ish, it says, RPT cert. due from Finance Director, refer copy of RPT cert. to BFED --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- LD on the 19th. So, does that mean on the 19th we're going to get that booklet what the certification of revenues are?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In the past, I think, we got it on the...the next Monday, the 22nd. They don't usually give us the book early. Do they give us the book early? Or are they going to give us a book?

MR. KRUEGER: So, they...they provide us the certification on the 19th, but the book, itself, might not be provided until we have the meeting on the 22nd.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Which is the 22nd.

MR. KRUEGER: But the information should be provided to us on the 19th.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like on Granicus or something, digitally?

MR. KRUEGER: It'll be direct referred to the BFED Committee and then we'll be uploading it to Granicus once we receive it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On the 19th.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, then we don't really know what we're dealing with until we get that because, you know, like, JoAnne Johnson had said in West Maui that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you know, her revenue is...or her assessed value is, like, 300,000 higher, and whatnot. So, you know, if...if we're raising taxes on our owner occupants and their assessed value is going up 300,000, or whatever, and then like, you know, whatever the budget is, is based on the revenue. So, we're...we're not...we're not exactly going to know what we're dealing with until we get that book or that information. So, everything that we discuss, or cuts, or whatever up until the 19th is...is subject to change, right? So, do we...I mean, we can tentatively talk about things until the 19th, but...and then I don't see on here the new calendar, the legislative discussion stuff that was on the old calendar. Am I...am I missing it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because we could...we could talk about that on the 18th, maybe, because we don't know what the certified --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Actually...actually, what I was going...going to try to do is on the 18th have that as a day that you...like you can catch up and review all the letters, and whatever, that maybe you haven't had because it's been kind of trickling in. So, I was thinking of...17th we're going to do the Auditor...OCS and OCC...the Clerk's Office. And then on the 18th, I was going to reserve or recess, if necessary, just because of what I just said. And then *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, when are you scheduling the legislative discussion? Because I had a item for that and I don't see it pre-posted as a thing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's the 17th.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's still on that date.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Conditional legislation introduce...you see that at the very end of the calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. I see it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, that's when we're going to discuss it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- still on the 17th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Shaw Street. Is that right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Dickenson.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's Dickenson. Okay, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I...I 100 percent agree with Chair Lee about everything you said, and I appreciate you saying it. We hear, time after time, these folks coming. They're doing the work of the County through nonprofits, and I want to help them, and I don't think we should be restricted by having these, you know, two, one, two; the two priorities, one conditional language, and two conditions of County grants. I think it's smart if we, as a body, use the powers that were given to us to...to...to fix those inequities they're...they got during budget. So, I just want to make that...I know we're short on time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook, then Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Do we know when the GET or TAT numbers are going to be solidified?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you talking about real property tax...real --

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm talking about the GE...GE...our first...our first GET that we are estimating and estimating. And then also how much the TAT is...if that's an estimate or if it's a firm number?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You...you want to take it?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. We expect to get our first GET payment in April, we don't know when in April which is why we're still kind of estimating because we don't have that yet. And TAT is also based on estimates because we're unclear on the impacts of the effects to tourism after the fires, really, would...what the full rundown will be for the next year.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, is...is there any tracking mechanism along the way? And then this...this is, like, whether the State's providing this at all. Is there any way to know how the GET is going?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The State...I don't remember which office...I think it's DOTAX, has not updated the website showing actuals since late 2023. So, we don't have a way to track what our GET is going to look like until we get that payment.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. And if you...if I may, I want to echo the fact that this budget doesn't...doesn't reflect the Lahaina fire. When I went last night to the meeting and it is a stark painful difference going to the West Side. When I'm Upcountry, when I'm at...in my District, if I'm at Kahului; it's so much...life is normal. And going over there, and hearing people, and seeing...it's not better, it's worse; the stress, the pain, the anxiety, the frustration, the anger. \$90,000 a month for a hotel room and...and it's not a solution-oriented solution. It's just hemorrhaging money and people are trying. But I just want to echo that...that getting housing built and somehow, some way, rechanneling money that is being spent to help people but isn't really getting the job done. I'm hoping that this Council can work with the Administration and get something built permanent. And I just want to echo that. It's like...it's extremely stark and we need to address that and I'd hope the Administration will be supportive of that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members...so, I'm trying to give you the new calendar of what we going to be operating under. Okay, go ahead, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thanks. Sorry, Chair, I actually had a meeting that started three minutes ago. I just want to say, I'm okay with being flexible on our

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

April 11, 2024

priorities so long as if we have a recess on Monday. But if we are all nine going to provide a whole bunch of priorities, I don't think it'd be fair to Staff to be able to staff that meeting on the 18th and then make a matrix to give it to us on the 19th. So, if we have a meeting and we could provide them that time to do so, that's fine. But I would...I would hate for us to submit a whole bunch of budget priorities, to submit at 4:30, for them to then staff a meeting on the 18th, make a matrix, set a meeting for the 19th so we can accommodate allowing them to give it to us; that would just be unfair. So, if we do, do that, which I'm fine with, then I hope we have a recess. If not, then I'm hoping we could give Staff the time to properly staff our meeting, and make a matrix, and maybe we can get that matrix on Monday but, otherwise, I'm pretty flexible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I know I'm asking them to kind of grind a lot out. Member Paltin. So, I'm trying to get you out of here for lunch.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I was wondering, under your signature there's a big...a big amount of information that's really relevant to our RPT discussion and everything that is completely missing from us. I was wondering under your signature if we can send the transmittal to DBEDT, asking them for the details of the NCS sheltering, what has been paid to each hotel to date. Because, you know, not all hotels faired the...the wildfire situation similarly. Some took in thousands of people, we have no idea what the per room cost that they were paid is, how long they were paid, and like that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...so, you want a housing update?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I want an update as to how much money in the contracts...non-congregate sheltering contracts the State has paid. Like Member Cook said, we're paying like 90,000, \$30,000 a room a month and...and that's revenue. And...and hotels receive zero increase in their taxes while we're putting it on our...our...our residents who own, like, the lowest tier of houses, you know. And...and they weren't...a lot of them weren't getting to go to work but the hotels were still bringing in money. But we don't have an accurate picture of what that is. Like how many hotels, what they've received to date and that's a big situation that we heard, you and me, at WAM. Like they're hemorrhaging this money. They're afraid the State is going insolvent but we don't know the details of what the State is paying our hotels; if they're paying GET, if they're paying TAT, all that information. And then...and then the Mayor set the hotels budget as flat and...and we don't have that information to make an informed decision. And they have those contracts which I...I would imagine should be public information what the State is doing with the public's money. And so I think that's very vital

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

April 11, 2024

information for us to have as we set the rates for hotels and other entities when we know...you know, so many people lost jobs and income that we're seeing these high spikes in domestic violence, these high spikes in needle uses, we're seeing all these social effects of people not only losing their homes, losing their businesses, losing their jobs; all of that, but we're putting it on the homeowners to make up the difference as the hotels stay flat when they're receiving so much of the State's revenue to house people. And, you know, we open...we made the announcement one month after the worst disaster, that we're opening up to tourism without securing those long term contracts. And so we weren't...we weren't given the opportunity to say, we'll pay you \$10,000 for a room for this month, we're paying 30,000, we're paying \$1 million a day. And so I think it's prudent for us to know who got all that money that the State is hemorrhaging when we're setting these rates.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. So, got it. Okay. All right. So, Members, any...anybody else want to contribute to that? So, I'm going to...what I'm going to do is recess this. It's 12:08. We have Josiah until 2:00. So, I'm trying to take a lunch and then we can...yeah, if...well, maybe 1:10. Is that all right? 1:00 is fine with everybody? Come back at 1:00. Okay. So, this meeting is now in recess until 1:00. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 12:08 p.m.
RECONVENE: 1:07 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee [sic]. Thank you, Members. Is that me? Oh, okay...for having a quick lunch and so that we can dig in. We want to adjourn this meeting at 4:00 and continue on tomorrow. Oh, you have to leave at 3:00? Okay. So, Tom has to leave at 3:00. Important decisions are ahead of us. And so, that discussion that we were having about the priorities, and conditions, and what's ahead, I wanted to let you know what I'm working on with the Committee so you would understand kind of where I'm coming from for trying to look at the budget and listening to the questions that you have asked the Departments, and I will propose this or present this on April 22nd, our decisions week and you'll get to see them. I think it's some things that you were already thinking of and to look at the areas of vacancies; so we're coming up with a list of that. And having a discussion and...per Department. We're also looking at the...oh, here's my list, sorry...make sure I say it right...on CIP discussions, because every Department has a huge CIP list, plus the additional Office of Recovery responsibilities. And so, I'm looking at the CIP list. And as...think it was Jordan Molina when he was talking about his list because you know he has a lot. He said if we are going to look at any cuts to maybe take it from the top. So, we're looking at proposed...that for CIP. And then for West Maui, right. We're all talking about how West Maui is very important. And, Staff, I didn't ask if we could do this, but can we create all the things that are in the budget for West Maui or ask the

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

April 11, 2024

Administration for that? What is better? Probably Administration, yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, I believe we're sending that question to the Mayor's Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. *(Audio interference)* --

MR. KRUEGER: *(Audio interference)* already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's...that's what was the discussion...the discussion before we took a lunch recess. So, those are the things that I want you to know that's coming up for the 22nd discussion. And then we'll hear what the Departments...the...the Administration says in terms of all the things that are going on for mitigation in the future, and prevention for the future, as well as to help us move forward with the disaster that is created by the August 8th wildfires. So...okay. And we adjusted the calendars which, I think, we was clear, right. And the proposal that I made was...the adjustments that I made in terms of what we would do as a Committee for conditions as well as the \$140,000 economic development pot, so those conditions are going to be due on the 15th; that still remains. And then as far as the conditions and how do we move forward with revolving fund condition as well as amendments...or conditions to grants and conditions, in general, your...your proposals...your two, that was what I...I wanted to do in terms of moving forward. So, Members, you want to vote on that? My...on what I propose...what I propose. So, what I propose was August 15...I will peek over to see Member Kama...I'm sorry, April 15 at 4:30 is your economic development conditions that are due to Staff. And then...then also moving forward, on the 17th, after we have all the residency meetings and all the Departments, then we're going to ask for two proposals; priority proposal amendments from each of you that's going to be due at 4:30 on the 17th, as well as conditional language for the revolving fund...which is one conditional language for the revolving fund, and then two conditional language for County grants. Discussion. Yes, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Do you want to break it down a little?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I cannot support the one on the revolving fund --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- conditions. You -- I think everybody is probably okay with the...the economic development one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can we...can we just take Josiah while we have him and...and have this discussion later?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure. I kind of wanted to finish this. So, is it going to be a long discussion? Okay. You know what let's...let...let's do that then. Let's use Josiah while we have him because I think he's fitting us in between meetings. Is he online? Oh, he is. Okay. Okay, Members, hold that thought because I do want to get some resolution to this so that you can think and get some thoughts for moving forward as a body. Josiah Nishita. Thank you very much for making time for us.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members. Yeah. Yeah, I thought Councilmember Paltin was my friend and going let the time run out for me, but I am here ready for you guys and whatever questions you have. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, next we have Member Cook, U'u-Hodgins...oh, Member Cook, Sinenci --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You guys --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Kama, Chair Lee, Paltin, Johnson. Questions on 'Ōiwi Resource Center [*sic*], three minutes for Josiah Nishita, Managing Director. So, as you're getting your papers organized, I'll move to Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And *(audio interference)* sent in some of our questions as well. Mahalo, Director Nishita. Some of them were...Keanu mentioned this morning that the...the GIS position will stay with the...the Mayor's Office.

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci, for the question. The existing individual that's in the GIS Analyst V position now in Management would stay in Management. And we did request a GIS Analyst V in the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So...so, that GIS V and the...the Grant Coordinator, I see them, they're not funded this year?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair, for the questions. I...I just would note on the...the previous question, too, I think Deputy Managing Director identified this as well, but we anticipate continuing to provide significant amount of support for this Department as well. So, those resources would still be available. In terms of the latest question, yes, the Grants Coordinator and the GIS Analyst V were put into

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

April 11, 2024

the budget's unfunded positions.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. But...but the position, is it because it'll take a while to develop those positions with DPS?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci, for the questions. Yeah, part of the reason is that it will take a little while to get the positions up and going. I...I will just say, too, that we had received a...a bit of concerns from the State Legislature regarding, you know, the creation of the new Departments and positions being expanded upon. And so we were trying to be cognizant of a variety of different factors there. But our anticipation is if they are able to send up the positions quicker, that we could come in with the Department for a budget amendment should Council support this at this time. Thank you.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, thank you. All right. Member Cook. Okay, pass. Okay. So, next we're going to have Member Kama, followed by Chair Lee on 'Ōiwi Resource Center [sic].

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...thank you, Chair. So, just to follow what Member Sinenci had asked about the positions in the 'Ōiwi Resources program [sic]. So, the GIS...oh, no. Oh, no, that's not what I wanted to ask. So, there's a Grant Coordinator position that wasn't funded and the GIS Analyst number V...VI, so those two are going to be coming over from...or being supported by other agencies. Is that right?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama, for the question. Yeah, we do have support in the GIS position, both in ITS and in Management that will provide support to the Department in the interim.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: And the...the...the grant position, you know, as you specified, I...I did relay to the Council a few times now that I...I am very apologetic that we're...we're unable to do as much, like, community outreach and outreach with you folks as I would have liked to have done for this Department. But we did hear some comments from the community, and I believe some Members of the Council have expressed this as well, just a desire to have a...a grant position within the Department. And so we...we put it forward for consideration for the Council and willing to discuss and...and open to other considerations.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. NISHITA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. And then the Archeologist that's here, is that the Archeologist that...is that Ms. Six that we're talking about...that particular position that's going to come under 'Ōiwi Resources, out of Management?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. Yes, that's correct.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And we talked about some of the barriers that might be facing this particular agency in terms of location, and so on, and so forth, when everybody else gets on board. What are some of those other barriers that you see aside from, maybe, a location?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama, for the question. We're...we're prepared to kind of be able to address any barrier that comes up in order to, at least, get the Department operational by July 1st. I think the biggest barrier, to me, right now, other than kind of just the physical logistics of getting everything in place, is that I do wish we would have had more of a road map prepared already for...you know, with input from the community and...and other stakeholders, and more extensively than what we're going to be able to do by the...the time the Department stands up. But it...it would just be a little bit more initial work for the Department at its outset. Thank you.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Kama. Next Chair Lee, then Member Paltin, then Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. Hello, Managing Director. The question I had --

MR. NISHITA: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi. So, where are you by the way? Are you on Maui.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you. Thank you for the question. I'm on O'ahu. I been on O'ahu all week advocating at the State Legislature for funding for Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh. I know...I...I know how you feel because it's a balancing act. We have...they...when we ask for money it...they want us to cut our budget and to make sure that we spend prudently. So, I can imagine how difficult that is for you because I've...I've done that a couple weeks ago. What I wanted to ask you...and I do like the idea, under the circumstances, to go a little slowly on the...on the new...on the new Departments because we can always cover that in

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

April 11, 2024

a subsequent...subsequent amendment after the budget is passed. And so, I...I do like that idea.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Well, I turning on my sound.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Who's that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nobody.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Surprise.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I hope that not the State Legislature listening to this conversation. So, are we only talking about 'Ōiwi?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, I said what I had to say and I...I think we have to fund all the expansions, at some point, and it doesn't have to be by July 1st and, perhaps, a few months after. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin, then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I guess, my first question might be for Ms. Toshikiyo, if Mr. Nishita does not know the answer. What are the consequences of not following the Charter mandate of starting the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources on July 1st? Like violating the Charter, what is our consequence there? And then, I guess, for Mr. Nishita, my question would be, you know, when we first hired the County Archeologist, you mentioned that there were so much savings because now we're not contracting out, and we're being able to make better informed decisions on things. And I was wondering if you...if you anticipate this similar type of savings by us having these positions, and resources, and information that the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources would provide? So, either Ms. Toshikiyo or Mr. Nishita, whoever has the answer to their question first.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin, for the question. As to your first point, I...I can't speak as to consequences, but I'll defer to Ms. Toshikiyo if I'm able to release, I guess, attorney-client privilege information. But I did ask for a legal opinion, specifically because this question comes up consistently at the State Legislature about not...either delaying, or deferring, or outright not implementing the provisions of the Charter for the new Departments.

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

April 11, 2024

And I...I do have an answer I received from Department of Corporation Counsel on that that I can provide if it doesn't jeopardize anything related to that. And then the second point is regarding the savings from different positions. As you mentioned, yes, the Principal Archeologist has been extensively important and extremely helpful. Unfortunately, there's not a lot of people in her similar type of position that would be willing to work for the County. But, you know, we...not all the positions are going to have a direct, necessarily, cost savings. But there are other important impacts that each position can have that will bring value to the community. And we do look for every opportunity to reduce any overlap of services or potential savings for our taxpayers when possible. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just saying for the first question, because we're getting sued left and right, in addition to the wildfire, about just procedure and process things. And if the Charter says do it, like I thought the Charter was, like, our Constitution, or our Bible, or whatever. And so now we're going against the Charter which is like...you know, it's not from 1986, or anything, this is the will of the people from the last election. So, I mean, I'm not trying to do that. But --

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Hi, Chair, if I can --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- do we got to go executive session or something? Or consulting with our lawyer to avoid lawsuits...more...more of them? Or are we going to change our mind? I don't know. Let me know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Kristina Toshikiyo wants to say (*audio interference*) -- . . .(*timer sounds*). . .

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes, thank you, Chair. And, yes...and the...the...the Managing Director's office reach out to our office for a legal opinion. And, you know, we could go into executive session, if you wanted to go into more details, but just for the sake of kind of giving you an answer...just, you know, a short answer, is that the Charter is mandating that these new Departments exist as of July 1st. So, you don't want to open the County up to any litigation for violations of the Charter. So, it's establishing the...the new Departments as of July 1st. But also...within the Charter there's also a requirement from the Mayor's Office to propose a budget that includes all Departments. And these Departments would be in existence as of July 1st, so, you know, it had to be included within the Mayor's budget as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wasn't there some kind of, like, a faux pas if the State asks us to violate the Charter and then incur a lawsuit? Wouldn't we, then, just pass the...the thing onto them...the lawsuit because they're the ones trying for make us to break the law?

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You know what, your buzzer went off.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so next...yeah, next is Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Director Nishita. I have a question in regards...I only have one question. So, it's about the strategic plan, the 300,000 page, 612 program budget, must it be contracted out? Or can it be done in house by the new Director and Deputy?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson, for the question. It...if the...I guess, the short answer is, no, it doesn't have to be contracted out. But it is our recommendation to have outside experts assist in that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I know the first year...I mean...okay, so, I guess, I'll follow up with, you know, we just had the Department of Agriculture being created and get...them getting up and running. Some of the lessons we could take from having a new Department, like Department of Ag., maybe we could apply to 'Ōiwi Resources. So, I don't know how much we spent, off the top of my head, for Department of Ag. to come up with their strategic plan, but I know that in...who knows better than people in house, is kind of my point. So, I...that's kind of where I was going with that question, Director. If you have anything to add on that.

MR. NISHITA: No, I mean, I...I...it was...thank you for the question. I...I don't have much to add on that other than it's really just a policy call. If the Council decides to remove funding for that, we will certainly work with the Department to help shape out their strategic planning in house. Just given the nature of the wildfires and the amount of double and triple duties everyone's taking on, I'd just be concerned with the amount time that it would take to...to get that done.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: But anything...anything is possible, and we're willing to work with the Council. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much. That's...that's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . all my questions, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. So, I have no questions and we can start off with Member Cook, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for the Managing

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

April 11, 2024

Director...and this has probably already been said but I didn't hear it, are we transferring Dr. Six to this position or is this a new position?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. Dr. Six would get transferred as a part of this.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir. And my next question is does the County Archeologist have any power or influence with SHPD or are they more of a consulting entity?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook, for the question. If you mean legal authority, then my answer would be no. The Principal Archeologist does not have, like, legal authority over SHPD. But we've been a beneficiary of Dr. Six's relationship with SHPD in that they highly value and...and trust her opinion and guidance. And so, we are able to get things done significantly quicker and more efficiently with her working directly with them as opposed to, even in some cases, outside consultants.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for that. Now, I...I...I appreciate her service and...and what she brings to the table, so there's no criticism at that at all. That would be something that would be helpful if we could advocate and cultivate some type of a relationship. SHPD tends to be, basically, the slowest review process because they're understaffed, et cetera. So, anyway, thank you for that. That's all my questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Cook. Next we have Member Sinenci. Oh, Member U'u-Hodgins., I'm sorry. You're online. Sorry about that I...I'm sorry, if I missed you the first round. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, that's okay. I actually joined a little bit late, Chair, because I transitioned to the Pā'ia office --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- so I could be with my kids after school, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- I'm here at the Pā'ia office and I'm with Jade Rojas-Letisi as well. And that was me with the hot mic. I was telling her that I was turning on my sound. So, there's no big brother looking in, just us little sisters. But...sorry. Okay. But thank you, Chair. My...I really only had one question, for now, for Managing Director. This morning when Deputy Managing Director was doing her presentation she said you guys are actively looking for a Director and a Deputy Director. So, I just want to know if you guys are going to

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

April 11, 2024

be ready on May 14th for the GREAT Committee to confirm your Director and your Deputy Director. For this one --

MR. NISHITA: Thank you. Thank you --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- and, I guess, all the other ones too, but specifically for 'Ōiwi.

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins, for the question. That is definitely our goal. And we're hoping to meet that deadline. That's really all I can say right now, is that we're trying our best.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Well, you let me know...you let all of us know if you need any help. Thank you, Managing Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Director, just following up on some previous questions about the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. The...the Mayor...just to be clear, the Mayor had sent down a balanced budget with...with this Department also included, correct?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci, for the question. Yes, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. And then, I think, before Member Rawlins-Fernandez left she...she asked Keanu about the 500,000 grant. You know, I wasn't sure she (*audio interference*) --

MR. NISHITA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci, for the question. I...I...I guess I didn't hear Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's question, but just...I...I guess as a high level for the Council, I did mention early on in my opening comments just given the need now for...for lease space for this Department, we've asked to move some money from the County grant subsidy to that. And specific to that County grant subsidy, the...there...there was some comments that...that we received regarding wanting this Department to be able to be an active participant with community organizations, and whatnot. And in the lack of more extensive outreach that, you know, I regrettably and unable to do at this time, I...I felt that it was a little unfair to present a budget to the Council where...where you might receive additional comments or additions, and then have to, essentially, raise taxes or cut some other areas to make the appropriate

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

April 11, 2024

changes. So, you know, we do see a potential grant opportunity of this Department, but it also is included to ensure that Council has the ability to fund other areas within this Department if needed. And in the absence of that, we can support to a reduction in this amount. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then I know you mentioned Dr. Six and...and some of the...the funding that the County is using. She's acting as a consultant for the other Departments. Is...are there any plans to...to maybe give her . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . some help and maybe...maybe train somebody under her so we could speed more of those projects through?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci, for the question. Yeah, that's definitely a concern of ours is one day losing Dr. Six. I...as I mentioned earlier, I think, there was a variety of concerns we received regarding, at least in some people's view, an...an expansion of...of Government that maybe they felt wasn't mandated or...or required. And so we're trying to be cognizant of, you know, the requests that we're making and the sacrifices that the entire community and State is making. But in our long-term plans, yes, we would like to get some additional people trained up to be able to fill her role when she no longer is with us. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair. Yeah, no more questions. Thank you for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- the extra time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay. I guess , we have to plan for the future is what he's saying, huh? Oh. Yeah. All right. So, next we have Member Kama, then Chair Lee, and Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you, Chair. So, Mr. Nishita, you know the...the positions aside from the Deputy Director and the Director, are they all civil service employees?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama, for the question. The Director, Deputy Director, and Private Secretary would be appointed, and all remaining positions would be civil servant. Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...and so the Archeologist position, would that require the Archeologist to be on island all the time?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama, for the question. Currently...right now we have a agreement with Dr. Six through the County's own

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

April 11, 2024

. . .*(inaudible)*. . . teleworking policy that we have a supervised...supervision and management plan with her for her work and work products. And Dr. Six is on the island when needed to do site visits and...and things of that nature. But we would follow the County's policies regarding teleworking employees. Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, she...that position would become...the contract would end and then she became a civil servant employee? Or would that continue?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you. Thank...thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. She is currently a civil servant employee and she would remain a civil servant employee --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- upon the transfer. Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, she's a civil servant employee on contract, at this point?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama, for the question. She's not currently on contract, she's a hired full-time civil servant employee with the County. And the only piece I was mentioning earlier is we have a teleworking agreement with her where she is able to work remotely for portions of...portions of her work schedule. Thanks.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Chair Lee, and followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions on this subject.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin. You know, I also saw Member Rawlins-Fernandez come in so we'll...we should see her soon. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if Ms. Toshikiyo would be available later for a individual visit, because I don't want to go into executive session right now. But that's okay right if I find out the executive session information, myself, in her closed-door office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Miss...you're going to meet with her? Ms. Toshikiyo, Member Paltin wants --

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to meet with you.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes, and actually I'm open to talk to any Councilmembers about...if you have any questions about the budget process or...yeah, just give me a call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. But I'm your favorite, right? . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We all thought we were her favorite. Okay. Member...Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, final round. Do we need another round of two minutes? You're done? Everybody done? Okay. So, thank you very much, Josiah. You want to say anything to us on anything?

MR. NISHITA: No. No, I just really appreciate all your folks hard work and looking forward to being back on island with all you folks. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Wow, the whole week you been gone. So, tomorrow we have a meeting with you. I hope you could make it, Managing Director.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I'll be on O'ahu tomorrow too and I'll be trying to fit in slivers of time to join the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right. So, now, Members, we're going to now go to Department of Housing. And if we could have Director Tsuhako and Managing Director Mataafa join us. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I had a question. Did you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- get Housing 2? Because I seen a Housing 3 come through but no a HO-2.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did we get --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did I miss it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did we get Housing 3?

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

April 11, 2024

MR. KRUEGER: We'll double check.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, they've been sending us lists of what correspondence have come back on Granicus. So, we'll get an update from Staff. Okay. So, at this time, then, I'm going to take Round 1 questions, start off with Member Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, if she's here; Cook, U'u-Hodgins; and then Sinenci.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, what we heard this morning in testimony and what we heard Monday night was about a shovel ready project. And I'm not sure what that mean anymore. So, can you explain to use what that means?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilmember Kama, for the question. Typically, when the Department goes and meets with different developers of housing projects we look at pretty much everything from having entitlement...land use entitlements to also having commitments for infrastructure. So, having those two things, typically, allow the project to be, what we consider at the Department, shovel ready. And then the other piece that is also a part of that is also having the financial backings to also build out their project. So, for us, we really look at having their land use entitlements and then also having commitments for infrastructure. And the typical infrastructure requests are usually water and wastewater, those are the big ones that we consider.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, does that mean that the Pulelehua project is not shovel ready? Do they...or do they not have their entitlements and their infrastructure in place?

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilmember, again, for that question. So, in the Office of Recovery...so, I'll put on that hat for right now, what we do look at is we've assembled the list of projects that are in the housing pipeline. And we looked across the County and we put a emphasis on West Maui projects. So, as you know, there aren't very many West Maui projects that have land use entitlements, Pulelehua is one of them, and then we also Kupuohi and Kūku'ia. As far as infrastructure goes, there are a couple requirements that Pulelehua does have to comply with, mostly at the State level, in order to be shovel ready and how we would considerate shovel ready, so thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, the other two, Kupuohi and...what is the other project out there? The --

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

April 11, 2024

MR. MATAAFA: Kūku'ia.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- yeah. So, those two are shovel ready?

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you, Chair. Kūku'ia is currently under construction.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. MATAAFA: And then if you remember the earlier conversations, Kupuohi was destroyed in the fire.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MATAAFA: But it did receive expedited permits from the Department of Public Works and our other infrastructure Departments to be able to build if the financing is there.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, the issue with Kupuohi is just money. Is that right?

MR. MATAAFA: From my understanding, yes --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. MATAAFA: -- the financing is a big piece there.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you for that education, I so do appreciate that. Okay. So, I'm on your budget page...program page 334. And it says to increase homeownership opportunities for first time homebuyers. And then it says for...you estimate for the 2025 here that you will have 25 first time buyer clients to...to...ready to buy a home in '25. Is that right? Is that what that number means?

MS. TSUHAKO: That...Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah, thank you, Ma'am...Member Kama. That means we're hoping to have 25 buyers who are ready to purchase and be able to help them with that downpayment.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Do you have a list of homebuyers ready or no?

MS. TSUHAKO: We do not. We have a waitlist that was established after our most recent lottery. In this fiscal year, I believe, we've only been able to provide funding for three new homebuyers. We're hoping that as the housing inventory is

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

April 11, 2024

expanded they'll be more ownership opportunities and that interest rates will correspondently go down to allow more people to afford to purchase.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, how many people or names are on that list?

MS. TSUHAKO: I believe there are more than 200 people on the waitlist right now.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, in order to get your name on the list you have to...you, the Department, have to make sure that all the 200 are taken care of before you would take care of the next person. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Is that right?

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair, may I finish a response? Thank you. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. So, I...I anticipate that the incoming Director of Housing will likely want to do an updated lottery because in...in reality many of those people who are on the existing waitlist may...their situation may have changes...changed during this period and they may no longer be eligible or want to purchase a home. So, I'm anticipating that the incoming Director may choose to...to conduct a new lottery and have a set of residents who are prepared to purchase homes.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I just wanted further clarification on the Pulelehua project. So, you did say it's entitled and one of the issues right now is...is water. And they are in...as far as I know, in discussion with the State and with our County Water Department on...on water. Is that correct?

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you, Chair. I won't speak to their discussions, but in our discussions with both the State and our Department of Water Supply on the requirements for Pulelehua in order to...for them to move forward a new use permit would be required for them to...to move forward with their project at the State level with CWRM.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So...so, those things are in discussion right now. So, it's not completed.

MR. MATAAFA: No, that's...to my understanding, those things are still evolving with the --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, right.

MR. MATAAFA: -- CWRM right now.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. MATAAFA: And --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's all I have on that. Okay.

MR. MATAAFA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Now, I wanted to get to the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program's Revolving Fund. Okay. That's the fund that you guys normally use for...you know, you...the downpayment program. Okay. Now, my understanding that the...the starting balance for FY '24 was 3,542,742. And then you were anticipating an additional 1 million, yeah. So, did you ever collect that 1 million? Did you ever get that?

MR. MATAAFA: Sorry, could you clarify? So, are you...are you talking about the FY '25 allocation --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well --

MR. MATAAFA: -- for 1 million for first-time homebuyers?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, the...the numbers come...don't kind of pencil out because initially we were talking about 3,000,500. And then you were expecting 1 million to be...for a total of 4.5. But in the FY '25 budget that number is less. So, what's available for the revolving fund is not that extra million, it's more like 722,000. So, I don't expect you to know the exact numbers but do you know if you collected less money than you expected in this fiscal year?

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you. And if possible I would defer to Budget Office if they could provide a response to that question.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. I don't have the numbers all directly in front of me, but what I believe happened is there was a little over \$3 million last year. One million was allocated to the First-Time Home Buyers Program, 2.75 was allocated to the 'Ohana Assistance Fund, those amounts have been subtracted from that 3 million amount, so that's the 700,000 you see remaining here, plus the additional 1 million in revenue anticipated for this fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, where...how do you get more money into that fund? When people pay back the...the downpayment program; is that how you get money?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner, is that --

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

April 11, 2024

MS. MILNER: Yes, that's part of the revenue that goes into that fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Was there another revenue stream?

MS. MILNER: I'll confirm that right now and get right back to you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Because that's certainly one of the revolving funds we wanted to add...well, at least I wanted to add to because, you know, we get calls almost every day for this...this program. So, thank you, Chair...not Chair but Director Tsuhako for working on the Admin. rules and getting...and doing the RFP. And, by the way, did you pick a vendor?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Council Chair. A vendor was selected. We're in the process of sending out the award, then finishing up the procurement process right now.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, when do you think the program can start?

MS. TSUHAKO: The program would probably be able to start after the Admin. rules are...are adopted and the contract is executed.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKO: I think we could push...you know we will push very hard to try and get that done by...within a month.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, that's wonderful. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Member Paltin, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, before I start my time, can I do my disclaimer? If...we only got so much time. So, if I get the answer to your question, I'll just cut you off. Because I don't mean to be rude, but I just want to get in as much questions as I can in the allotted time. So, first question, when are we announcing the disbursement of the ARPA funds for Homeowner Assistance Fund?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. I just saw our...the Deputy Corporation Counsel on the elevator on the way up and she noted that she transmitted the executed contract on...we...we did it in counterparts. So, the grantee signed, and our Administration signed. She just transmitted that to the Budget Office today. So, we expect to get that contract executed within a week. I talked to the Vice President of Catholic Charities yesterday, the finance guy, and he said that they have some...they have their systems in place. What we'll need to do is once that

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

April 11, 2024

contract is executed Catholic Charities will have to send an invoice and we have to wire half the amount of that grant so that they have the working capital to get started.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we can expect the press release by April 20th?

MS. TSUHAKE: I think the press release announcing the opening of the project might come before then, staff is working on that right now. The...the main...the main issue that will control whether they can start disbursing money to families is our ability to do that electronic transfer of half the grant amount, which is a condition of our contract.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, it's 2024, I hope we can wire them some money.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah. No, usually it's a very...Finance is usually very good and very effective with that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then focusing in on vacancies. I don't know if you guys submitted the answer to Housing 2, but I'm on question 8 in the salaries. You know we allocated ten months of funding in Fiscal Year '23 for Housing and Community Development Chief and Planner IV positions. Then we allocated full year of funding in Fiscal Year '24 but then in the Housing 1, you said you're not going to fill these until the bifurcation. And so we kind of wasted a year and ten months of funding on positions that never existed. Can you tell us where they are in the process? Have they been described, at least, by Personnel Services? Or...or what's the status?

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member. So, the...the positions that you noted, the Housing and Community Development Chief and the Planner, were described. There's one...one...the latest consultation with DPS has asked the Department to try and clarify some items in that. But, for the most part, I think that the...the descriptions are, I would say, 90 percent complete but for those small clarifications that DPS needs. I think the --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, they haven't been able to go out for recruitment yet.

MS. TSUHAKE: They haven't been recruited yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. TSUHAKO: The...those positions, though, were identified for part of our cost savings when we were asked to identify a 5 percent reduction in our operating for this current fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But, I mean, but you got so many vacancies, does it matter which position? Like if you can't hire a position, why don't you take the cost savings out of there?

MS. TSUHAKO: Well, that's what we did for --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- those positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, you know, this is...I see all these asterisks on vacancies that weren't funded by HUD or whatever other agencies. And it says that's why they're vacant but when we had . . .(timer sounds). . . the Prosecuting -- I'll come back or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can finish your question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. When we had the Prosecuting Attorney, they just asked for General Funds and still...because there's a need. And...and we're in a housing crisis, was that not an option for you guys?

MS. TSUHAKO: Historically, it has not been an option for us, Councilmember, because the grant funding for a program like Section 8, the...the County has, over the years, assumed the fringe costs for those benefits and, historically, this body has been unwilling to continue to pay fringe costs for those grant-funded positions. Additionally, I will say, that just having more positions in Section 8 does not guarantee that the County will receive additional Section 8 housing vouchers. It --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There's no other work they could have done?

MS. TSUHAKO: -- it's just the way the program runs, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There's no other housing work they could have done?

MS. TSUHAKO: No, because there's restrictions from HUD on what Section 8-funded employees can do. If they were General Funded, there's more, I think, room for having roles outside of the strict Section 8 boundaries.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, that was what I was proposing --

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

April 11, 2024

MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- General Funding because we're in a crisis. But, okay, I heard the bell. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. You know, we...we...answer your question. So, HC...what was it? HC-2 is not answered. H...HO-2 is not answered. HO-3 has...has Bigley's responses which we asked him to update us on his project and he is standing by in case anybody would like him to ask questions...or would like to ask him question. Yes, Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Sorry to interrupt. Thank you, Chair. Yes, HO-2, we are just waiting on the transmittal signatures. So, we will get that done ASAP and I just wanted to talk to the Department about HC-2, and then we'll get that transmitted as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. Okay. Member Johnson, do you have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure. Since Mr. Bigley is on the call, I wanted to ask him, real quick, in regards to the 36 million that he's...is asking for. Is...how about--is he --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is he on the call?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- let's see --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, he's on the call.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- if he's there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Bigley, we can't see you.

MR. BIGLEY: I'm here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Hello.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we can hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Hi there.

MR. BIGLEY: Oh, *(audio interference)* I'm just going to throw that out there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. BIGLEY: Thank you. Can you hear me?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, I can hear you. So, what...can we...what if we did half of the money, \$18 million, can you find matching funds through Hawai'i Community Foundation, HHFDC? I don't know if...I know...maybe you can clarify on that HHFDC, but any other matching funds you could reach out with?

MR. BIGLEY: You know, I think that it...it...that the short answer is it's more difficult to bring more into the...people to the table just because of how long it will take to assemble all the funds, you know what I'm saying.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Yeah.

MR. BIGLEY: You know because we...we're on such a time...tight time frame, we're looking for the shortest way to go. But, certainly HHFDC could do it through, you know, their emergency proclamation. You know they...I know they have funds. It's just, you know, setting priorities.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: And also we have gone out and asked several people, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you for that. I...I...I just wanted to jump on real quick, Doug, so...but I'm going to switch over to the --

MR. BIGLEY: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- Department now. So, this next question, Department, is in regards to Bill 111. So, please provide an update on the Department's guidelines for the implementation of Section 2.96., .090, and 2.96.100, Maui County Code, which is to be finalized...finalized no later than November 1st of 2022. And please identify funding needs or budget allocation to write these guidelines regarding the preferential list so the County can implement Ordinance 5315, that's also known as Bill 111. And that was in the packet of questions we gave you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. The update on the guidelines for implementation of Bill 111 and 107 is that the...during the last fiscal year's

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

April 11, 2024

budget discussion, the Administration made a request for \$2 million for the implementation. And during the deliberations, I believe, that that amount of money was reduced from 2 million to \$300,000. And the money was actually transferred out of an allocation to this Department to the Department of Management. We, essentially, did not have the money to implement the program as --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- was discussed further.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, how about this year's budget? Did you put in money for this?

MS. TSUHAKO: I...the Department of Housing has not made that request. I think what we...you know what we tried to do, in the meantime...because the Department did convene weekly meetings with the IT staff, as well as help with the procurement for a potential solution, create a platform. We also reached out to the Governor's Office because during our conversation's post-fire, the Governor's Office did have a housing group that was created and talked about doing a public facing dashboard that would essentially have the same information. And so what we did was we pursued that discussion to try and see if we could actually utilize something that was going to be paid for by the State to achieve the same results.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Could you have applied for a budget amendment and then get reimbursed by the State? Because remember this bill could, potentially, protect our community from leaving now. And then we know that the fires...post fires, people leave, right. And I don't want people of Lahaina to leave. So, this bill could help protect . . .(timer sounds). . . (audio interference) budget amendment.

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair, may I complete? Thank you, Councilmember. I...I think...you know this...the...the budget before you was crafted with a...with a general direction of trying to maintain flat functioning from the level of 2024, which we've tried to do. I...I believe that the new incoming Director and Deputy should have an opportunity to...to go for a few weeks with the operations as is, and as you discussed with 'Ōiwi Resources, to come up with their priorities and identify that. I'm anticipating that the incoming Deputy and Director will come before this body and make that request of you based on what their priorities and...and their strategic look at that Department is...will...will be. And, unfortunately, I can't speak to that right now.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I...my time is up. I'll...I'll go around for second round. But, you know, we...the West Maui folks can't...can't wait for us to, you know, sort this out. They're...they're leaving by droves, so thank you. Thank

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

April 11, 2024

you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins, then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My questions are for Mr. Bigley. Let me get to it. Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. There it is.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Chair. The question of the...the amount of funds that...necessary, looking for a grant, looking for a loan; clarify what type of funding mechanism you need to be able to get the --

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- project.

MR. BIGLEY: It can be a loan, it can be a grant; either way.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, not asking for the County --

MR. BIGLEY: Or a gift.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- not asking for the County of Maui to pay for a bunch of principal for the building, asking for County of Maui for assistance in financing the structure.

MR. BIGLEY: Correct. Correct. And I'm not sure what you mean for the principal of the building. We're not paying down anything, is that what you're...is that what you're asking?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No. Well, I'm asking if the County of Maui coughs up \$30 plus million for a building and property that your company owns --

MR. BIGLEY: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and we don't have any equity in it, it's basically a gift as opposed to County of Maui assisting with the financing of the reconstruction of the building that your company will own. There's a big difference.

MR. BIGLEY: Right, but you're saying if we...if...if you make a loan --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Right.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. BIGLEY: -- you would have that...you would maintain an interest. Yes, I...it would...that's...yes, a loan in the...in the *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, I...it's a lot easier...it's a lot easier to loan you money than to give you money.

MR. BIGLEY: Right, understood.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm just curious --

MR. BIGLEY: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- the hard...the hard cost --

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah,

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- contingency, \$6,090,200 --

MR. BIGLEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- is that a --

MR. BIGLEY: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- 24 percent contingency, and for price increases, and whatnot? What is that hard cost contingency?

MR. BIGLEY: It...it's for...it's for...it's, you know, for anything and everything because we live in an uncertain time. You know, it's just...like I said every time...and we mentioned this quickly before, but you know how we had to work both sides of the landfill, by way of example, we had to take the trash out and dump the trash as well. So, there's all kinds of things that are...are coming up. But if we don't use that money, please take it. I mean, we don't need a dime more than what we *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: But, thanks. I'm trying to help you help us --

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- identify it. So, potentially, \$2 million may be expended under that which \$4 million would be deducted from the bottom of the...bottom

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

April 11, 2024

line of the project if the over cost...cost overrun, et cetera, were only 2 million instead of 6 million. There may be a \$4 million --

MR. BIGLEY: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- savings in the construction cost.

MR. BIGLEY: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. My next one is the --

MR. BIGLEY: *(Audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- interest in carry cost, million plus dollars. This --

MR. BIGLEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- my understanding, do you have the money from the insurance companies? So, do you have the capital and you're not make...and you're not paying interest on that...that money? You're going pay interest on the *(audio interference)* --

MR. BIGLEY: No, we're not...this is going to be...this is going to sound...this is odd...an odd one to you, because it's so unusual for a tax credit deal. That property still has its existing loan in place.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: So, *(audio interference)* borrow that money, it stays in there until we rebuild and so we're paying. And what...we want to leave that loan in place because I've had to go reborrow the funds. We're...that loan is about a 3 ½ rate, maybe a 3.25 interest rate when we first borrowed it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Don't want to interrupt you, but my time is short. Thank you very much --

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah, *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- clear answer.

MR. BIGLEY: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then the operating reserves, 500 something thousand; what is that?

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

April 11, 2024

MR. BIGLEY: That operating reserve is for...we...we have to have it in place for the investors; they want an operating reserve going forward.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: So, once we reestablish building it, they'd have a reserve.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir. That helps me understand the...and, hopefully, the other Members, what the ask is and what the impact to our budget would be.

MR. BIGLEY: *(Audio interference)* -- . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My next round I'll talk to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- Department of Housing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next we have Member U'u-Hodgins, and then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. My questions are for the Department. On page 337, I understand if you cannot answer for a future Department and a future Director, however, it is on the paper so any answer would be appreciated. For goal 1 where we are discussing developing a standard procedure for identifying and evaluating parcels for a housing development, I wonder if you can provide some clarity on how the parcels will be identified and evaluated. And then discuss what the issuance of the RFPs means. So, it says 3 here. I'm wondering what kind of RFPs we will be issuing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. The...the projection for the Housing and Community Development Division was to focus, first...not primarily, but first on County-owned property that could, potentially, be developed for housing. And so that would be a...you...you know, rather than pursuing a search for just property, in general, is identifying the County-owned property that could potentially be used for housing. The number associated with the projected RFPs has to do with finding developers to partner with the County to achieve --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- to achieve the development of the housing.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. How many County-owned parcels does the

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

April 11, 2024

County currently own that is entitled for residential development?

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you. To my understanding, I know of one which is the Lānaʻi Affordable Housing Project that has both its entitlements and it's also master planned for housing.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Perfect. That makes me happy. I know that makes Member Johnson happy and the residents of Lānaʻi happy. That makes me super happy. Okay. So, then we would assume any County-owned parcels would have to go through Land Use changes. Okay. Thank you. Moving on to certified payroll. I know that we went back and forth about this but I wanted to follow up, that if we have somebody now in the Division who is going to ensure that we receive certified payroll for the projects that we hope to continue to pay for, and then we ensure that everybody receiving County funding is complying with State law.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. We actually have...so, the Housing Division, as it exists now --

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- has assumed responsibility for ensuring the compliance with prevailing wage and Davis-Bacon for the County projects that have received County funding, and those are also requirements for HUD and HOME, and HTF funding as well. So, we have identified a Program Specialist who has begun doing that work; notifying the developers, making requests for certified payrolls, the...the regulatory things that we're required to do. I would say, additionally, that we have had contact with a representative from Labor who has had experience with monitoring prevailing wage and Davis-Bacon sort of requirements and he is...I...I can't remember his name, but he has been very helpful to us in terms of getting --

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Oh, good.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- the background material and...and promises to help us...once we get the response from the developer, to help us look at it to ensure that we're monitoring that process correctly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Great. I love that. I really only have one other quick question, which is a question I asked in the letter that was sent to you guys. But since I have some time, so on page 334, I think it's Goal 1, question 2 or item 2, increase the County's inventory for affordable housing units. I see that we have the number of projects that received technical assistance in planning

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

April 11, 2024

affordable or workforce units is 25. Do we expect to see 25 housing projects? I'm assuming that's projects and not just units. Can you just clarify that for me, please? . . .(timer sounds). . .

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you, Chair. Okay. Yeah, so our Housing Division interacts with housing projects across the spectrum. And it could be from the early conceptual stage all the way up to when they're coming in for permits. So, yes, it would be 25...up to 25 projects. There is in the pipeline, right now, quite a few of them and they're all in various stages. So, that's the services that our Housing Division provides is that technical assistance for those projects in whatever stage that they're at.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Perfect. Thank you. I appreciate your guys' answers. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Are we asking questions of all Divisions of the Department?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For Housing, and then we have Bigley on the line too, right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Or just housing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, just housing.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, just housing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because...because Human Concerns, now, is separate, so that'll be after.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Oh, for the Housing then it does look like for the special...special purpose revenues, the revolving fund, it has a total for 76 million with the...the revenues for this year, 46 million. Or maybe it's a question for Acting Director --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Milner.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- Milner. Has the 29 million been already spent? And the only...so, we just have 46 million in the account?

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. So, yes, the 29 million did not take into account the recent amendments that had been passed by the Council. So, as part of our letter we will be submitting we'll be revising that down to a little over 700,000 that will remain in the account at the end of Fiscal Year '24. So, remaining to allocate for this year will be a little over 47 million.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. Okay. I...my other questions were for the Human Concerns. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Yeah, that's your...that's your kuleana, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, great. So, I wanted to ask Mr. Bigley, since he's on the line, when do you need these funds? Fiscal Year '24, which is now, or Fiscal Year '25, which is future budget?

MR. BIGLEY: I mean, that...it...I hope I'm getting this right...'25...when does...did the funds come in July 1?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

MR. BIGLEY: Is that when they come in?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- so we --

MR. BIGLEY: Let me put it to you this way, we (*audio interference*) we're going to...we're going to start building as soon as we get the funds. And then we're going to...but the project is supposed to be completed by June 30th of 2025. So, we could take some of the money after July 1, is that right, 2024.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Did I say that right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, July 1 is the --

MR. BIGLEY: Good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- new -- the new fiscal year. And that's the budget we're looking at. So, if you're looking at money for current calendar, or now, it's the Fiscal Year '24, which will end June 30th. And that needs to be allocated by the Department

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

April 11, 2024

from the Mayor. So, we don't really have control over that. We are talking about Fiscal Year '25 --

MR. BIGLEY: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- funds.

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah. Right. And we can use...I mean, we have insurance proceeds that we could spend now to start. And then we could use what...you know, the rest of the funds in the next budget cycle that's starting July 1.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. I see.

MR. BIGLEY: *(Audio interference)* --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Is that right *(audio interference)* --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I...and I know that you have been in...in contact with HHFDC, which is the State financing. And what they're saying is that what they want is your land in order to give you \$36 million or whatever it is you asked them for, I'm not sure. Are you in *(audio interference)* --

MR. BIGLEY: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to do that? Or where are you on that?

MR. BIGLEY: No, I...I...I...I said to the...the...we have a ton of money right now tied up in the land. And what they said was...I...I mean, the...that's the first thing is I looked at it like a taking, off the bat. Because we started this process...well, I'm not getting...I won't get into the...because I know we're on a time here. But what I'm saying is, we would be open to some type of sale of the land to the...to the State or to the County, either/or. Either one --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: -- we would be...we would be open to that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. BIGLEY: But nobody's come back to us. We told...but nobody came back to us with any offer or anything, no discussion --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. BIGLEY: -- since that -- since we talked about it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think the...I think the State said --

MR. BIGLEY: February...February 28th...we had a discussion with them February 28th,
yeah --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, well my --

MR. BIGLEY: -- didn't hear anything from them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: My understanding is the State HHFDC would be interested to talk
to you about \$36 million. I don't know what the number is, that's between you
guys, but they want the land.

MR. BIGLEY: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, they're waiting to hear from you on that.

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah, I (*audio interference*) yeah, we understood that. And we said we
won't give them the land but we can discuss a sale to the...to the State or to the
County of the land.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Maybe the --

MR. BIGLEY: And then that was the last...and that was in February.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They weren't...not that you going to give them the land, but they
want to buy the land from you for that amount of money because it's private
property. Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Understood.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, more discussions ahead. So, Department, in the Fiscal
Year '25 budget there are projects that I think we approved for Fiscal Year '24.
We just approved, which is Aikanaha, as well as Hale Pilina, correct? We can
take that out of the...we can delete that.

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam Chair, I'll defer to our Acting Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, we put those in there because we weren't sure
what the timing of the encumbrances would be for Department of Housing and

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

April 11, 2024

Human Concerns. Lori and I spoke this morning, and she checked with their Housing Administrator and it does appear that those projects will be encumbered by the end of Fiscal Year '24. So, if the Council would like to remove those conditions, we're fine with that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay, very good. Okay. And, Members, if you want any more detailed information of Mr. Bigley's project, it's in HO-3. Correct? We answered all these questions and, you know...but, correct, it's H-O3?

MR. KRUEGER: So, Chair, HO-3 is the Department of Housing and Human Concerns response to your letter regarding Mr. Bigley's project. But Mr. Bigley's response to your letter is also available in Granicus. That number...that's number 103 in Granicus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 103. Not 102? 103?

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, apologies if it might have changed. It's 103, currently.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 103. Okay. Okay. Members, so if you want any...any more information on that project. So, before I leave I just want to ask Mr. Bigley to, please, speak to the Mayor because it sounds like you need to communicate with...with the...the Mayor regarding your project, unless if you have. Mr. Bigley.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're not letting him go, right?

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah. Yeah, we (*audio interference*) --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, I'm not letting him go.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm just done with my questions, but go ahead.

MR. BIGLEY: Oh. No, we...yeah, we've had...we've had ongoing --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: -- dialogue with the Mayor's office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good.

MR. BIGLEY: So, what we...and we can...we'll....we'll let you...we'll keep you posted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't leave because --

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

April 11, 2024

MR. BIGLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I think Tamara --

MR. BIGLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- wanted to ask you more questions, so --

MR. BIGLEY: I won't.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- if you could stay on with us longer. All right.

MR. BIGLEY: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Kama, you have questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I do for Mr. Bigley.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: You know if we...if we all have questions of him, and when we're all done we can let him go. So, I want to continue to talk--so, Mr. Bigley, good afternoon.

MR. BIGLEY: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So --

MR. BIGLEY: Good afternoon.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- your -- your tenants that were living there previously, is it...or is it to their understanding that once you rebuild that they're going to be able to move right back in?

MR. BIGLEY: Yes, it is. They...they...they can move...the...the one thing is, is that this...the way this tax credit thing works is it maintains its status as a tax credit project and it's available to them to move back in. Some will...will be available...well, when we release Kūku'ia, they'll also be available to live there, either one. But 289 units that we hope...keeping our fingers crossed --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So --

MR. BIGLEY: -- right in that area.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- so, when they moved in, did they have to put down a deposit to

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

April 11, 2024

move in?

MR. BIGLEY: You know, I...they've already...I...I'll check, but I don't think we would require any more deposits. And we've given all the money back to them and plus some.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: *(Audio interference)* --

MR. BIGLEY: But we...they...we've given everything back to them.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, did you have any...any tenants that were using HUD vouchers?

MR. BIGLEY: I...yeah, I believe some were using vouchers at the time. Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And just out of curiosity, if you were willing to sell the property to the State, what would that look like?

MR. BIGLEY: It would look...it would have to be...the one thing...and Mr. Cook over there would know this, is that that property is secured by the bank so there's a little bit...a tricky because they have a secured interest in it, but I'm sure we could work it out with the bank. Everything we do to unwind a regulated property would be a little bit complicated but we could...we could perfect the sale if need be. So, it would...we...we'd have to work them...with the details.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, so --

MR. BIGLEY: But we could work it out.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, you wouldn't have a number figure?

MR. BIGLEY: Oh, no. I don't...I mean, look I...I didn't even consider that at the start That kind of blindsided me because...and I...I don't want to overplay this but we felt a little victim, at the time, we had the meeting with the State.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh.

MR. BIGLEY: And the first thing that came out of their mouths is we want to take your land. And it...it was to...a little bit...I'll be honest with you, it was off-putting to me to have that first initial discussion, we're taking your land. I thought that was a little bold at the...at the start because we were pretty prickly. You can imagine when we saw our building fall in three days. I mean, we didn't handle it

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

April 11, 2024

well --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: -- on that issue.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh. Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Uh-huh.

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

MR. BIGLEY: All right. *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have no questions for...for Mr. Bigley.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, Member Paltin, then Johnson, and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mr. Bigley, I think my question is on page; 3, 4, 6 of your transmittal. It's the picture of the burnt...burning apartment building. It looks to be, like, still 40 percent intact, about. Can you tell me what date that was taken?

MR. BIGLEY: When it was taken?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, what is the date.

MR. BIGLEY: I...I'm not...probably...it was probably two...a couple of days in, I suppose. It was...it was almost like it melted. Took about three...three days to collapse.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you think of --

MR. BIGLEY: *(Audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- contracting with a helicopter to drop some buckets of water on it?

MR. BIGLEY: No, we...we...did we think of it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. BIGLEY: At the time?

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. BIGLEY: We...we...no, because we, at the time...as you know that building had a, you know, state-of-the-art water suppression system...that already had sprinklers, the whole...everything you have to do. But at the time the...the building had no pressure; it couldn't protect itself so it was kind of dependent on who was in the area at the time. *(Audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I just was --

MR. BIGLEY: -- to be honest with you, we *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I just was wondering if you thought about, like, contracting a helicopter to dump some water on there from the ocean or something. No?

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah, I...I...nobody...I...I didn't come up *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if it was still 40 percent standing, do you think there would still be a \$36 million shortfall?

MR. BIGLEY: I think that's...no, because that's not how kind of the insurance works. It would have been...you know, the...that's...the...the whole problem here...part of the problem is the incidents of complete loss are so rare that people don't know how the insurance really works. But we would have enough coverage to rebuild. It would have been much...it...it would have mitigated if anything had been left. That's what we're *(audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you...did you contact the County or the Fire Department to stop it from continuing burning a couple days, three days later when they opened it up to tourist instead?

MR. BIGLEY: *(Audio interference)* I sat with the...at that particular point in time, in the couple of days that we're there, I...all I remember is we were raising money because what people don't understand, Councilmember Paltin, is that we are one of the first responders as it relates to our tenants. So, when they need money they need it, like, yesterday. And so what we do is...and, I think, Councilman Cook was asking about, like, the reserve fund. We took a lot of our reserve fund and turned around and plowed it into repaying, not only their current rents but we repaid a lot...we paid a lot of other...we were trying to get money into their pockets or in the first responder pockets because we're not the people that bring the water, we're the people that bring the money. They have great services in the area. People that were willing to cart water, and whatever the case may be, so it was a matter of us getting money to them so they could kind of do what they would do. So, we were worried about, like everyone else, are...is everybody alive,

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

April 11, 2024

did everybody make it out; those types of things. We really probably would have thought more, maybe, about the building, but we had 89 people we were...or 86 families that we were worried about, and that was our first priority. And that's why...just in my statement there, is that's why we're less focused on the...at the time we were less focused on the building and just more focused on the people. But now that we're at this point...that's why I want to make sure that everybody...before I leave here today that my mission...in a lot of ways, we accomplished some of our mission. We haven't finished yet, but it's about economics, and I think this is still a good deal. You...you...if we walked in off the street and everybody wasn't caught up in the insurance factor and I said, I'm absolutely ready to go, and I have, you know, \$44 million and all I need is this bridge, I think people would look at it differently. But just because they're kind of caught up in the history of it we're...seem to be having issues here. I don't know why.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And have you approach Hawai'i Community Foundation? They won't do any kind of bridge loan or anything? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. BIGLEY: I...honestly, I haven't...I haven't approached them. I have not. I have not. And...and...and maybe I should, but like I was telling the previous question about who we've contacted, every time we contact people...because we are on a time clock or we lose everything. Like at September 30th, we start losing credits and everything; it all goes away. So, this may just not be a...you know, no matter what you do in a certain amount of time, it won't matter. It'll be...just be gone...the opportunity.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Unless you build 89 units and sell them for, like, 5 mill. each.

MR. BIGLEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks.

MR. BIGLEY: Oh, yeah, well, that's...yeah, that's the...that's...that would be our B, or...or a distant C because we're mission driven. We need to get everybody back to that building.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you...if you sell each unit for 2 mill. each, then you can build us our Lahaina Crossroads and Komohana Hale, maybe.

MR. BIGLEY: Perfect, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: So, yeah...yeah.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Welcome, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. So, I'm going to have Member Johnson, then go to Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Is that okay? Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know that quote that Doug Bigley just mentioned is his priority was we needing to get everybody back. I wish all of our Departments had that same mentality. So, thank you, Mr. Bigley, for trying your best to get people back into their homes that were lost. Okay. The next question I have is for the Department, in the \$2 million 'Ohana Zone grant award, that's page 344 in the program budget, for the operation of the location of the old Maui MCC dorms? Or is this a new project, that's the 2 million?

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. The \$2 million 'Ohana Zone grant is being used to fund three fiscal years' worth of property management fees, case management for tenants, as well as to plan for and install a new landscaping irrigation project. So, it is for the existing project, Huliau, that you know of, not for a new project.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, you know, that parcel of land, could...could we expand and make a couple more buildings on there? Because the parcel of land is bigger than what we're using, is that correct?

MS. TSUHAKO: That...that is correct, Councilmember. And, actually, I...I believe one of the questions that came in the Committee's correspondence and was responded to was about what additional studies the Department conducted or the most recent past, and Huliau, that larger property, was actually looked at for potential expansion of housing on the same larger property. We...we haven't resolved that...like come to a decision about whether it's a feasible project or not, but we did take a look at...at that property.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: When will you know the decision?

MS. TSUHAKO: I believe we're still awaiting a final report from the consultant on that.

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

April 11, 2024

I'm not sure if Deputy Director knows the timing of the receipt.

MR. MATAAFA: I'm not aware, but we can follow up with our Housing Division staff and try to get a date for you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I really appreciate that. I...I'm going to move onto another question. Thank you. Why were there no funds put inside the Experimental and Demonstration Housing Fund? That's Chapter 16.28 in the Maui County Code. Where is the innovation solutions going to be explored to help find housing solutions? So, that's page 49 of the Budget Ordinance, Special Purpose Revenues Schedule, Revolving Special Funds for Fiscal Year 2025. In a time like this, I think we would want to have funds in there, so why not?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. You know the Department has been working with a project developer after having granted Experimental Housing Funds in Fiscal Year '23 and it's been a very slow and difficult process to meet all of the requirements as the law sets out for experimental housing. And I...the...the reason that no additional funds were...were recommended in this proposal is because we thought that the new incoming Housing Director should have a chance to sort of catch up with that process of the existing project --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- and really be able to meet with staff . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . and propose some changes that might make that execution of the experimental fund a little bit easier, not only for the developer but also for the Administration.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director, Deputy Director. Mahalo for being with us today. I guess, my...my first question...you know, I was monitoring online before the lunch recess and after. And with the new Departments coming online, you know, I...I'm supportive of the Department of 'Ōiwi Arts [*sic*], strategic planning because I want to set up these new Departments for success. And so, I want this new Department to be set up for success as well. I know that it's a bifurcation and so it's...it's like an existing Department but it's, you know, separated from Human Concerns so they can focus on housing, which has long been the biggest issue that, you know, our County has faced. So, it was a...I guess, it was a little concerning to me when I heard your response to one of the Councilmembers in...in saying that your...your plan was to keep the budget flat. After the fire, everyone was spread so thin. I...I had imagined that if you had more capable people with you that were able to, you know, do this additional work, that...that would have been amazing. What would

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

April 11, 2024

you have wished for in addressing housing, you know, our people? Do you think you would have...if you had, you think you would have been able to do more with? Like if you had this thing; whatever it is, you tell me, that it would have made things easier for you to address some of the things, or made things faster? Because I think it's more people, but I'm...I wasn't in your shoes. I'm not the Director of Housing and Human Concerns, and I won't be the Director of...this new Housing Department, and so that's why I'm asking you.

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. You know, I have spent a lot of time and energy thinking about that. And not only that, is also about how a new Department can move forward with different leadership, because it will move forward with different leadership. What I know is that our Deputy Director has been pulled out of most of his operational needs in the Department to work on recovery, specifically with the housing recovery. Our Deputy Director of Public Works has also been excised from her Department in order to focus on the interim housing based on recovery function, right. But I also look at this new Department of Housing and their leadership, being able to work with that recovery function and be able to achieve some of the housing inventory increases that . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we would normally hope for, even absent having experienced the fire. So, that's...that's really what my hope is, is that it...the...the work of the new Department can be much more collaborative with the...with the recovery process and that the Department of Housing can utilize some of those other resources that are available for recovery purposes to actually meet these goals that we've projected for them. So, that...that's sort of my hope...my best hope for the Department's ability to transcend the limitations of a...of a hard budget right now and yet still move forward and do, both, the regulatory functions, that we have to do, as well as look at assuming additional responsibilities for private-public partnerships that would focus on housing, whether it's develop...being a co-developer, as Council Chair Lee has noted in the past, have the--bless you--be the...be the co-developer with private developers to build more housing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the amount of people you had was sufficient?

MS. TSUHAKO: You know, in the perfect world the Housing and Community Development Division would have its own engineers, its own CIP specialist, its own architects, its own...you know, like, a whole section of Planners, but I...I think it's unrealistic for us to look at...have...to look at that in a first year of operations. I think the...the...the capacity building in that Department will take some time and...and I think that's where, you know, this body can be the most supportive, is to look at that capacity building with...but a new Department is not going to function like this with 20 extra people. Because people are going to...they have to find their way. And so the proposal is to stay so that they have enough operational funds, and then let the incoming Director and Deputy sort of plot out what it is they need and I'm sure that they will come back to...to this

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

April 11, 2024

body to seek your support and your concurrence with how that goes forward in terms of that capacity building.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Because I thought that's what Member Johnson tried to do two budgets ago. But I'll wait for my round 2 and round 3. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, for either the Director or Deputy Director, is it...is it news that Mr. Bigley's project could potentially be a loan and not a grant?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Member Cook. It...it is to me. I didn't know but I was watching the proceedings last week when Mr. Bigley and Mr. Fischer were here testifying. And...and I believe their testimony, at that time, was they could not wait until Fiscal Year '25 Affordable Housing Funds were available. They said, we need the money right now. And, unfortunately, we know, from Acting Budget Director's most recent statement, that when all of the previous allocations are dealt with our balance in Affordable Housing Fund, right now, is about 700,000, which, you know, doesn't meet their need.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, thank you. So, the issue is the timing. We don't have the funds now; we'll have the funds then. If...if they could make it work in 2025...I'm just...for me, granting a loan sounds a lot better than use...using the Affordable Housing Funds and giving it away. I guess, for the Acting Budget Director, do you see...from what you heard today, do you see a way forward...a creative way to do the...execute some financing that's a combination of Affordable Housing Funds and who knows what so that the...the County isn't giving money away but we are facilitating a project that is apparently the most shovel ready...most ready to go to provide...starting to provide an inventory on the West Side?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. I think there are a couple different options before the Council right now. I think part of it will depend if Mr. Bigley does reach out to HCF and find that they might be willing to contribute part of a bridge loan, or something like that, a matching fund situation. But if my math is correct...and I just did it on my phone really quickly, but if the Council does remove the 28 million currently allocated for FY '24 projects, there will be over 36 million remaining to allocate in Fiscal Year '25. So, if the Council would like to do that as a loan, if that's what they be comfortable with, you know, I think that's something we can talk about.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, I mean, my preference would be that they don't get all of that and we get creative to also have funds to provide for other projects. So...and I'm not familiar enough with the bonding and et cetera. It seems like...looking at their budget that it's...I think it's realistic and pragmatic because it's pretty...kind of fat. But I think it could be, ultimately, built . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . for...for less. Anyway, thank you for this conversation. And I'm just...I think, hopefully, we, this Council, can get something built on the West Side. That's kind of the end of my questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins, then Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. For right now, I have no further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And I was just curious, Director, will you be applying for the position?

MS. TSUHAKO: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, you're not going to like...okay. I was just . . . *(inaudible)*. . . well, this discussions. You did mention about providing more housing inventory, particularly for the...for the fire victims. So, which parts of the...the Housing Division's...what...what...what are those Divisions doing to...and I know Chair Lee is always reminder us that come next year, February, that we might, you know, possibly 3, 4,000 people that will be, you know, added to that homeless...or houseless list. So, what are some of the Department's efforts to increase...and I know it's...it's a quick turnaround, but...but just your efforts to increase the inventory?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. I think if you look at the allocations for the Fiscal Year '24 and Affordable Housing Fund you'll see that, you know, it's several hundred units created. And I will concede that the applications that were recommended for funding have not been in West Maui. I make that concession. I think Mr. Bigley's project, with its location in West Maui, is a...is a project worthy. I...the problem is, we don't have enough funding right at this second to make that commitment. And if...if the entirety of the Affordable Housing Fund allocation in Fiscal Year '25 is close to 40 million, granting that right now or through this process will leave very little for other projects that may come in to seek funding; whether they be located in Central Maui, South Maui, or West Maui. So...but, you know, that...that is not a decision that I'll make. I think as a body, when the...when the Administration comes before with recommendations

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

April 11, 2024

for funding for that...in that process and this body will have to collectively make that decision.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Director. Are you proposing that we raise taxes?

MS. TSUHAKO: That is not my position.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, project that I...well, I remember because I was part of it, the Pulelehua \$18 million that the Victorino Administration awarded to Pulelehua, do you have an update of the monies that were spent, and what it was used for, and what it was supposed to be used for?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. The \$18 million grant to Pulelehua has been administered through our Housing Department through program specialist who's doing our Affordable Housing Fund. I believe that...what was the amount? Less than 2...less than 1 percent of the funding has been provided as a reimbursement to the developer. Right now...so, less than 400,000, in other words, has been spent. And right now we are working with the developer to address some regulatory issues and until those regulatory issues are satisfied, the Department will...will not...will not reimburse the developer any further until those...those regulatory issues are...are addressed to our satisfaction to the law.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, is that prevailing wages?

MS. TSUHAKO: Oh, yes. Sorry, for not being specific. It...it's about prevailing wages. So, we're...we are awaiting the developer's response to our demand for payroll and other proof of prevailing wages.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. So many big needs. And, I guess, I will...anything...oh, I know that it also needs NPDES permits and other things, right, that you had mentioned. We...those permitting things are beyond us, right? That's State.

MR. MATAAFA: Yes, thank you...oh, thank you, Chair. Yeah, so as I mentioned earlier in my role in Office of Recovery, one our tasks is to go through and see how we can move projects in the pipeline along. And we spent quite some time on the Pulelehua project and understanding the requirements at the State level. In addition to also getting a new use permit from CWRM, they'll also have to be able...they'll also have to go through permitting for an injection well, and then they'll likely need to do a NPDES permit as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay. So, that's State, I guess. And is there anything that

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

April 11, 2024

we can do...assist to move that project forward?

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you, Chair. Yes, in the Office of Recovery we're working to understand all those requirements, right now, and we're putting together a timeline, as far as how those permits will waterfall because some of them have to be in place before the other ones can be...can be granted. So, we're in the process, right now, in the Office of Recovery putting together those requirements that are at the State level. I know one other thing that the Land Use Commission . . .(timer sound). . . did require was for them to also build a water source, which they're also doing right now. So, at the State level there are quite a few State requirements that they'll have to follow in order to be fully permitted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay. All right. So, round 3. And you know what I'm going to do, I'm going to ask...Member Rawlins-Fernandez, since you missed our first round, did you want to ask questions before we go into round 3?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If the Members have no objection.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. You're all so generous. Mahalo. Okay. Let's see. I guess, since Chair is asking question...questions about Pulelehua, I'll dovetail off of that. So, I just wanted to repeat what I just heard because I think that's the first time I...I heard that. So, you're saying that besides the 75,000 gallons of water that the County is refusing to share with Pulelehua, temporarily, for Phase I during the CWRM review of its two drilled wells. Is there...so the...the other obstacle, you're saying, is that they would require an injection well and, therefore, an NPDES permit? Because I...I never heard that ever in any of our discussions.

MR. MATAAFA: Chair. No, they're both independent of each other. So, an injection well because they are pumping water from their two wells, there's a biproduct with that and it's brine. And in order to get rid of the product...that biproduct, one of the solutions that is most often used is an injection well. So, they have put a permit in with DOH, and I confirmed that with the Groundwater Pollution Branch [sic] at DOH that an injection well application is in with them. And so that would be another thing they would have to do in order to move forward, is to have that permitted injection well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. That's for after the wells come online.

MR. MATAAFA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, that's not actually not one of

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

April 11, 2024

the obstacles. The obstacle is just the County's unwillingness to prioritize West Maui projects and share 75,000 gallons of water with Pulelehua. That's the actual obstacle.

MR. MATAAFA: Oh, Chair, if I may?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. MATAAFA: And in our conversations with the State CWRM, the new use permit would be required even if they were to receive County water as well. So, if they use the...the wells...if they use the water from their wells, they...that would require a new use permit. And if they were going to borrow water from the County, that would also require a new use permit if it was for the permanent build.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Was that said to you privately or in a public hearing? Because --

MR. MATAAFA: Oh, it was in a --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that's the first time I heard that too.

MR. MATAAFA: It was in our meeting with the CWRM staff.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In your meeting with CWRM staff, closed door.

MR. MATAAFA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. I'll...I'll come back to that. In this round I...I wanted to also follow up on the DHHL Liaison. What...do you have a status update on that?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. The DHHL Liaison position has been described and has passed that...the muster of the description. I think there's a error in the budget details. It shows that position in the County Housing Program Division of the new Department. The intention was to actually have it in the House and Community Development Division. So, we're expecting that incoming Director and Deputy will be . . .(timer sounds). . . able to do the recruitment and...and hire someone of their choice to fill that position.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I see Member Cook is going to leave the meeting. Okay, Member Kama.

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

April 11, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members, I...what I would like to do is do another round 3, and then change out to the Human Concerns, and so we can --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- be out of here by 4:00 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- is our goal, so last round of two minutes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: If you all want to go to dinner at Tom's place. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. So, real quick, I wanted to take off on the DHHL Liaison. So, the way they have it...the DPS had it set out that...that that Liaison position was similar to, as they said, as a PIO. So, they had the salary range, they had the...the units that they would belong to all in that same category. But I did...I don't...I don't see that as being the same because I don't see them as being communications officers as I do see them as being liaisons between the County, the Department, and the community. So, my question is, so what is the job description of the DHHL Liaison?

MS. TSUHAKO: Member Kama, I'm sorry, I don't have the current job description in front of me right now. But...so, I'm...I'm going to speak based on my recollection of what it is. I think the DHHL Liaison...even though the title is DHHL Liaison, the...the expectation is that that person would actually liaison...be a liaison with other State entities, private entities, other Department...other Departments within the County in order to enable the discussion, the collaboration, help create partnerships that would enhance our...our joint ability to produce housing units, whether new units or rehabbing existing properties and creating housing. So, that was the intent with which that description was made.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's...that's what I thought, too, to include also the community organizations or the associations that belong to every homestead. And I saw that that was a missing piece. That was one of the things that, at least for me, that led me to develop that because the issues that homesteaders were having just trying to access services within the Departments, whether it was, you know, water, or whether it was wastewater, or whatever, just to build their lots, and the...and the complication that they had to go through. So, my...I don't know if my understanding was the same or if I was able to relate that well enough or verbalize it enough for them to understand that...that the position was to be able to support the community also, but not just the Department, itself. Because when people try to access the Department they don't...the Department doesn't

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

April 11, 2024

understand the County well enough for them to tell us, so they tell us come here. So, we come here and we don't understand it here well enough either. But that liaison will be able to help navigate them through. Okay. But...okay, so we'll get back to that. Another thing was, the housing vouchers, how are housing vouchers...the Section 8 . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . housing vouchers allocated? And how many do we have on island? And do they stay or do they go when the people move away?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Kama. It depends. We have about 1,513 Housing Choice vouchers available through the Housing Division right now. The...the housing vouchers are allocated by HUD. Yeah, in general, they do a formulaic allocation. Sometimes we can get additional vouchers if we show that we're utilizing the...the Administrative funds that were given to the County in a way that increases our ability to subsume additional vouchers. So, it's a...it's pretty formulaic in terms of HUD. In terms of whether vouchers go with people or not, it depends. Some people choose to relinquish their vouchers because they have other opportunities or because they do not...they no longer qualify financially for the voucher program. Other people do choose to do, what we call, a port out; which is to take their vouchers with them, move to a different jurisdiction, and get the housing authority of the...of the accepting jurisdiction to accept and acknowledge that voucher, and then they are able to use it in the new location.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member Johnson, then Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. This...this question is for Mr. Bigley if he's on the call still.

MR. BIGLEY: I'm still here.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, great. Thank you for joining us...staying on this late. Mr. Bigley, what happens if you don't get the money, the 36 million?

MR. BIGLEY: Well, first of all just...I'm going to pivot back to Councilmember Paltin's question and just say, she's right we were approached with the idea that we could return all the insurance proceeds to the...to the investors and then, essentially,

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

April 11, 2024

sell the land and make everyone whole. But I kind of went on a fool's errand because I didn't think that this was a close call mainly because...and...and we found...we validated this over the time we've been working on the deal. So, within a three day...three or four days we decided we're going to rebuild this thing. We didn't even think about any kind of other alternative, and then convinced the investors that rather than taking their money back, they should at least clean the site, let us start working with the County and the State to get the money. The State pays \$30,000 per family to keep them in a hotel. That's \$2.7 million to house our 89 families every month. In fact, they're clicking off at roughly \$12 million because they house 400 people in those hotels. So, rather than look at the total picture, I think part of what happened...because people are asking what happened at HH...HHFDC, I think they looked at it in a very small window of how it affected, maybe, them or whether their funding was going to get cut, and ignored the fact that people have been placed from...displaced from housing, they're going to build...they're going to invest a ton of money, well over \$150 million or more, for what, temporary housing. To later destroy that and have to still build permanent housing. Or like Councilmember Cook...Councilmember Cook said, why not just fix it. So, what I...I think there was a lot of things that are missed. And it's hard for people to backtrack and say, maybe we didn't put the pieces together. Because what's going to happen is as a...from . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . a budgetary standpoint on the County, it's...it's not fixable on the path that the...that you're now going down. It's going to cost three or four times as much. I put a slide in your presentation that's going to show you that it's going to cost instead of 36, over \$100 million...like \$160 million to do the same work that we're doing now --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. BIGLEY: -- if they don't do this project.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for that clarification, Mr. Bigley. My time's up. Chair, I have a yes or no question for the Department, if you'll allow it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, we're getting --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Last round.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- we're getting a talk about the CDBG-DR Funds. But you guys manage HUD vouchers and...and things like that. Is that...any of that CDBG-DR money going to go to your HUD Division?

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you for the question. And I know you wanted a yes or no, but our CDBG-DR funding will actually be managed by our CDBG-DR...I mean,

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

April 11, 2024

CDBG Director in the Office of the Mayor.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I just...I know it's from the same Federal...okay. That's...curious. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm ready. I was wondering if you could give us a status update or a path forward for the Lahaina Crossroads apartments and Komohana Hale apartments. You only said Lānaʻi as the residential, is those not residential owned by the County?

MR. MATAAFA: Chair. Oh, thank you. So, when I said Lānaʻi we're talking about County-owned parcels that were undeveloped. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. MATAAFA: -- that would be the one that is the only one that's master planned and has entitlements that could move forward for affordable housing. There is one more, I think Waiʻale North does have...I mean Waiʻale South does have entitlements as well, but I don't...I think there's significant challenges (*audio interference*) --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not concerned about the others. I just was interested in Komohana Hale and Lahaina Crossroads. Prior to the fire there was testing for Lahaina Crossroads on hazardous...Crossroads on hazardous substances like asbestos and lead. Did we get those back before the fire? And what are the intentions of the County for those parcels? Should we be cutting a deal with Bigley right now or --

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. So, the results for the testing of hazardous materials for Lahaina Crossroads were received and they confirmed that there was lead and asbestos in the building material used to construct that. We have not received that information on Komohana Hale. The Department has been working with Tetra Tech, our County consultants, and with FEMA about our...about our claims for replacement costs, et cetera, for those two buildings.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, knowing that, at least, Lahaina Crossroads has lead and asbestos and it didn't look like it got knocked down in Phase I. Is Army Corps, in Phase II, going to dispose of Lahaina Crossroads off island?

MS. TSUHAKE: I don't know where they will dispose of it. But we have been asked, and we signed paperwork --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Right of entry.

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

April 11, 2024

MS. TSUHAKO: -- to allow that to...the...the destruction and disposal to happen. Our...our goal...I mean, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . in terms of the Department, our goal is to look at those parcels and try to rebuild housing and use the same footprint, literally, and create...see what we can do to create additional units in the same footprint. So, that...that's the tenure...I mean, that's the tenor of the conversations that we're having with...with FEMA and with Tetra Tech right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And, I mean, any hazardous materials, which lead and asbestos is, that was what they committed to taking off island. And that's the reason why we only needed a...a C landfill or a D landfill instead of a C landfill. So, is that not...you guys have no idea.

MR. MATAAFA: Yeah, we can confirm with our Office of Recovery folks, they're also working on it with us and I get you an answer back.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair, could that be one of the things that they get and I don't have to write down? That'll be awesome. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. I wanted to touch back on with the...go back to the DHHL Liaison position because when we had discussed creating that position it wasn't...part of its duties...that position's duties wasn't to work with other State agencies and, you know, whoever else. It was mostly to be the one person that DHHL would have to work with from the County instead of the...the DHHL having to work with our Water Department, and our Planning Department, our Building...Public Works. Just that one person would go and work in our County, know our process, and then work with DHHL. And, you know, I...I think that's a great idea from Member Kama about, you know, working with the lessees as well. But I...I...I don't know who...what Departments you're talking about when you say other State Departments because that...that wasn't what was discussed. Can you clarify, please?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I...I think when we were looking and talking with our DPS colleagues the scope of work was such that we weren't sure that there would be enough to justify a full-time position or for focusing only on DHHL as an agency. And so I think the...the position description was crafted to allow for additional interface and collaboration with other Departments, such as DLNR, for example, or I think we've had additional conversations with...shucks, I can't remember...with...well, with...yeah, maybe with HHFDC to sort of promote the idea of...of housing. But I...if I recall correctly, the discussion about the liaison being only for DHHL was limiting in terms of the scope that we discussed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, I...I guess I don't understand the purpose of, like, the interface with DLNR on behalf of the County...like for what

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

April 11, 2024

purpose? Because the...this position was to help our Government make good on its agreement to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, . . .(timer sounds). . . 28,000 people on the wait list; we're all responsible for that. So, that...that's the purpose of the DHHL Liaison, not to interface with DLNR. Unless that's to get, you know, homesteaders on land, then that is not the purpose at all. And...and HHFDC, unless that is also to get homesteaders on land, that is not the purpose. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins, then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair, but I have no further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had a question about Federal funding. I know the State had received some Federal funding. Has your Department been able to receive some of these funding through the State?

MS. TSUHAKE: Member Sinenci, what...what type of Federal funding are you talking about? Are you...specifically for recovery or --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, I'm just curious if...maybe it's for Human Concerns as well, but from the housing perspective, any Federal funding coming to the State?

MS. TSUHAKE: The only Federal funding that we have been notified about is from HUD for what's called the Emergency Solutions Grant. We haven't received the award notification yet. We'll pursue a budget amendment when that comes. But that is a relatively small amount, 200,000.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Thank you very much. So, I have no further questions. Members, does anybody have a need for another...okay. Go ahead, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Question on the Kupuohi Project. So, under Department of Management, Office of Recovery, we all know about that \$75 million bridge loan from HCF to CNHA. And I know before I got into the Chambers there was a request to Mr. Bigley to talk to HCF to, you know, figure out funding. I guess, this...well, either for Director or for Budget Director, how did this bridge loan come to be? And is there a reason we can't do this for Kupuohi?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: Yeah, the bridge loan came to be through discussions between the Office of Recovery and HCF. We could certainly reach out to see if that would be an option for us to sort of be...they would be a subgrantee from us sort of situation. You know, I can talk to Managing Director when he's back on island and see what he thinks about that since I know he's had the most interaction with HCF.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And my last is a request, not a question, for the Department but maybe a question for the Budget Office. I would like to get a list of all the affordable housing projects that are on our books that has not been...the funding has not been fully expended. So, I...I...because every budget we have a list of projects, and then throughout the year we do budget amendments to add more. So, whatever, you know, projects that are still drawing down Affordable Housing Fund, or however that's working internally...whatever the mechanism is, I'd...I'd like to have a list of that. Is that possible?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, I think if you send that request to either us or the Department of Housing, we'd be happy to work with the Department of Finance to get you that list.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Acting Director. And is that enough of a request to Staff to draft that question? Was that clear, Staff? Okay. Awesome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Krueger.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. All right. So, any other, Members, have questions? If not, we'll be done with this Department. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it was just that if...if they came through yet the...if they were signed off on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. No, Mayor will be back in office at 3:30, so we anticipate transmitting them as soon as possible --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- when he gets back.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, soon, right? All right. Any other questions, Members?
If not...thank you. --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was concerned --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- to the question I had in number 11, if I would need a
follow-up question based on the answer, so could I ask that question --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- just in case?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In your response dated March 28 to the Department's
correspondence dated March 19th, Department noted Fiscal Year '25 budget
proposes adding 3.7 million to the Homeowner Revolving...Program's Revolving
Fund. But Bill 60 (2024) anticipates the revenue will be 1 million. I just didn't
understand that.

MR. MATAAFA: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. MATAAFA: Thank you. Sorry, that was an oversight. \$1 million has been added
for the Homeowner's Program in the revolving funds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, so 3.75 is not *(audio interference)* --

MR. MATAAFA: So...yeah, so the 2.75 came from FY '24 from the 'Ohana Assistance
Program and that was lumped in, but it was an oversight. So, there's been a 1
million added for FY '25 into that fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the 2.75 has already been expended?

MR. MATAAFA: The 2.75 is for the 'Ohana Assistance Program and we're working right
now to contract with the...a vendor that we selected. So, we should have a
contract with them in the next month or so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you going expend that 2.75 in Fiscal Year '25 or...I
mean, '24 or encumber it in '24.

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

April 11, 2024

MR. MATAAFA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. All right. Yes, see needed follow up. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. So, Members, this closes the questioning for the Housing Department. And if you will just stay there and we can just continue on. Is that okay for the Human Concerns? Okay. So, now Human Concerns, change your hat and we'll start off with Member Sinenci, four minutes.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Director, in the past week we've kind of been hearing about some homeless, houseless issues. So, my first question was how many positions do you have in the Homeless Program and if you need additional positions to address some of the...I know we heard about some encampments, both, on Holomua Road, as well as Cut Mountain.

MS. TSUHAKE: Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Sinenci. So, currently the Homeless Division within the Department is...has three equivalent personnel. We have a Coordinator and two Program Specialists. One Program Specialist position is recruitment right now. An answer to your question, specifically, I do not believe that the Division requires more staff. And let me just take one minute to explain why.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Go ahead.

MS. TSUHAKE: The Division doesn't actually go out into the field to, necessarily, engage with the unsheltered folks. All right. We...we have contracts through Grants Management that actually pay for homeless outreach to provide that portion of our work. And so the work of the Division is largely administrative in nature; is responding to the SeeClickFix complaints, also coordinating with the...with the service community to address needs, and also to...to the extent possible, to manage some of the Federal grants that we get for homeless outreach and the incoming Emergency Solutions Grant, that I mentioned earlier, will be handled through the Homeless Division. I...I don't believe that there is a justifiable reason to request more staff in there right now.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So...so, it sounds like they just administer some of the grants to...to some of the nonprofits that are going out into the field. So, where would you see that...you know, with these increased numbers that we're...been hearing from each of the communities, where do you see more

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

April 11, 2024

assistance within this Division?

MS. TSUHAKO: I...so, let me just make a...a little bit of a correction. So, the homeless programs manages some grants, but the bulk of the grants that are given to homeless service programs are done through our Grants Management Division. Okay. So, the Homeless Division does a small number of grants that we receive that go through HUD to come directly to us.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: For...for house...specific for *(audio interference)* --

MS. TSUHAKO: For homelessness, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Okay.

MS. TSUHAKO: I think that the...the...the Mayor has a Homeless Solutions Coordinator position in his office. We've been trying to work very closely with Ms. Crozier to ensure the...our...our two work groups align with each other and that we're also working with the service system to ensure that we're...we're getting the biggest bang from our bucks from our...our contractors as well as, to the extent possible, addressing the unsheltered needs. So, you know, obviously one of the needs...one...one of the solutions to end homelessness is to have housing for people, right. So, that...the...the attempts to offer housing, and housing stability, and housing services continues to be...underscore everything that we do to coordinate that house...the service to the unsheltered.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then the...the old...was it the Ka Hale A Ke Ola that...that burnt down in Lahaina, is the Department going to be assisting with the rebuild?

MS. TSUHAKO: The Department has ensured that . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Ka Hale A Ke Ola meets with FEMA to rightfully pursue their claim. We haven't been engaged with the agency. They haven't asked us, yet, to kind of engage with...with them in terms of a plan to rebuild. However, the response that I gave to Councilmember Paltin is the same. So, what we want to do is we want to try to figure out if we can use the same --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Footprint.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- land and increase the number of units available to folks on that...you know, with the same footprint. So, we will pursue that same strategy when supporting Ka Hale A Ke Ola.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member U'u-Hodgins. Four minutes.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Don't mind the kid noise going on in the background. So, just ignore it like I do. Director, can you please, specifically, discuss...I know you said you worked...you work with the Homeless Solutions Coordinator in the Mayor's Office. She's doing fantastic work. So, can you touch on what you guys are doing for Holomua Road. A couple weeks ago we heard the outpouring concerns from our community and I'm...I know it's a big concern. So, I'm wondering if you could just kind of talk to us about what you guys are doing out there, I'd appreciate it.

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. So, Holomua Road has been identified as a problematic area for a...for a while now. We started, it was more than a year ago, by having our partners at Department of Public Works post a no trespassing signs, which are really required by the police in order for them to enforce the no trespassing on that property. We were right about to coordinate a larger scale removal of derelict vehicles from the area, which was also reported as a problem to us. It's a...it's really a combination of what is needed; is enforcement of the existing laws prohibiting trespassing on the property, dealing with the derelict vehicles, and...and concurrently offering those outreach services to the folks who are living in unsheltered conditions there, and, hopefully, engaging them in services so that we can work toward housing them, and allowing...and, you know, and not allowing them to be unsheltered for much more long [sic] than they need to be.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Yeah, it's a...it's a concern, the community and mine out there. But if I could go to page 467 of the program budget. This is Goal 2. So, this is to provide technical assistance to grantees to overcome problems, both problematically and physically. And it says, a...a percentage of grants receive direct technical assistance from your Grants Management. So, this...oh, rather '24 estimate was 95, '25 estimate is going to be 75 percent. I'm wondering if you can talk to me about that 20 percent decrease.

MS. TSUHAKE: Sure. That is an aspirational decrease because we're hoping that our grantees, as the years have gone by, learn from that technical experience and actually apply the...the results of that technical experience to their grants going forward. So, we're hope...you know, we have to be hopeful that the staffing will be maintained so that the people that...that get imparted with this technical assistance remain with the agency, right, over a longer period of time, and that institutional knowledge will then become embedded in that agency, and that agency will need less and less of that technical assistance as we move forward.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That would be nice. It's interesting, though, because in 2023 it's 62 percent, and then in '24 was 95. So, I guess, last year you guys needed to help a bunch of people, which makes sense. We had a lot of

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

April 11, 2024

interesting stuff to us...happen to us last year. In reviewing some of your vacancies, you guys have some vacancies from 2019. Have you guys restructured some of those positions? And how are you guys making it work if they've been vacant for nearly five years?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. I believe that was one of the questions that was transmitted to the Department and in which --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- we responded to. So, the vacancies that date back to 2019 were actually grant-funded positions. And if the grant fund is not enough to pay for the actual service . . .(timer sounds). . . and the number of staff that were previously allocated to that, then those grant-funded positions will remain vacant because we have to focus on the programmatic part of the grant.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Johnson, Paltin, then Lee. Oh, Lee left, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She left, right? Okay, got it. Okay. And before I start with my questions for Human Concerns I just wanted to state, for the record, that if the DHHL Liaison position services all three islands; taking into consideration the work in Lahaina, and all the DHHL projects needing to...to connect to County services with the rebuild, and the infrastructure, and the damage, and just all of the coordination that that would be a full-time workload. Okay. So, for Human Concerns, mahalo for your work with the Boys & Girls Club and getting them to Molokai. The Director and I have been working together on...on figuring out how to get...get this going. So, I...I appreciate all that help. For this budget it's half of what was allocated last year and the 280,000 that was estimated last year has not been...I don't know if it...has it been encumbered? Oh, I'm sorry the contract. Has the contract been executed? I know that the funding hasn't really been drawn down, possibly, at all, yet, because we don't have everything in place yet. So, is there a contract in place? And then is the idea that since that...the FY '24 funding hasn't been used for the fiscal year's programming that that funding would go into FY '25 and that's why we only have a 140,000 for FY '25.

MS. TSUHAKO: You are a mind reader. So, that's absolutely right. So, the contract hasn't been executed yet and we expect to do that. And so the time of performance, when that contract is executed, will go into the...the months of Fiscal Year '25. So, the amount of money that's proposed in...in the budget that you're looking at right now should cover the agency through the entirety of the year, and then we'll back on track for Fiscal Year '26.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And we've met with Boys & Girls Club, with Ms. Pearson, and 'Āina Pa'a Wrestling Club, and it sounds like we've come to some agreements on how everyone could work together and I'm excited. Everyone's excited about this. So, the second thing I wanted to follow up on is Special Olympics for Molokai, the 11,000. Could you provide some background on that? I know...I...I don't know if since the pandemic there has been participation, you know, to...to justify continuing the 11,000. So, if you could speak to that. And my office has been kind of trying to reach to the representatives that have helped our community members participate in Special Olympics. So, if you have any additional information while we get that information from them.

MS. TSUHAKO: I may ask for an opportunity to provide additional information in writing to you, Councilmember. But my recollection is that Special Olympics did not request funding from the Department, but we can verify that for you and...and send that information over.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I appreciate that. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. We just got back from Lānaʻi about the District budget hearings. And the first topic that we were discussing was our preschool, E Mālama I Na Keiki O Lanai, and about their...their funding. How...how much is their subsidy? And can you kind of elaborate on what's going on with it? I'm really concerned. We've been giving them money for over 30 years and it goes right to the kids' tuition. And I know that they were required to do an audit, but the price of the audit was at least doubled and that...they didn't budget for that. So, how can we help them?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. Chair, with your permission, I'd like to call on Ka'ina Bonacorsi who 's our Early Childhood Resource Coordinator so that she can provide Councilmember with some context around our response. Ka'ina, are you on?

MS. BONACORSI: I am. How do I unmute?

MS. TSUHAKO: Oh, we can hear you, Ka'ina.

MS. BONACORSI: Oh, there. Okay. Sorry. Hi, everybody. Ka'ina Bonacorsi, the Maui County Early Childhood Coordinator. And what happened with the way that we issue the subsidies for Lānaʻi and the Lānaʻi families, they are still getting subsidy assistant [sic]. So, the way that the subsidies work and the support works is that

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

April 11, 2024

it is not to any organization. It is attached and based on family need. So, it was necessary for us to move those...or the way that we operate to take the subsidies so that it's all administratively issued under one umbrella to be more effective and efficient. And so, therefore, all of the families who need assistance, they apply for the assistance. And so we keep a tight pulse and though you don't see a line item to E Mālama I Na Keiki O Lanai or MEO Infant/Toddler Center [sic], those funds are issued and reserved for as much as the families need up until the...the point that they were issued a direct grant.

MS. TSUHAKO: Councilmember, I think Ka'ina is trying to explain how the subsidies work. But, essentially, the preschool on Lāna'i did not lose money. They...the families who are on there who want to send their children to preschool continue to receive that subsidy payment through an administrative agency that allows those little bodies to be in those chairs at that preschool.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: They received a letter, and I think they shared it with the body, that just said you...your thing has been denied, right. So, can you explain that?

MS. BONACORSI: The organization submitted an application for the grants. And so we...we don't issue any grants for subsidies to any of the preschools. We run into some constitution issues when it is distributed that way. So, they are...the families are still receiving funds. There is enough preschool space available because there's also an Executive Office of Early Learning classroom on Lāna'i, and there are the two preschools, and one that's serving some toddler care. So, the families that have need and complete the applications are getting funded. There has not been any reduction.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, the...have you...this has been going on for 30 years for them to get that...getting a grant. So, are they aware of this? Did you tell them you're changing this?

MS. BONACORSI: Yes, this change was made four years ago. So, there...and there has been ongoing communication with the school and our Subsidy Specialist stays in communication with the preschool's administrator. So, I'm not sure where the miscommunication or understanding is, but that pot has never decreased.
...*(timer sounds)*...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, it...it...but they...would...they getting additional subsidies than what the program that you're discussing?

MS. BONACORSI: No, this was all the same. They're getting the same amount. They have access to the same amount.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I...my time's up. I might have a second round.

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

April 11, 2024

Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. You know, it's...it's not a surprise and folks like the Prosecuting Attorneys have verified there's these known increases in domestic violence, and mental health, and negative consequences when you have thousands of people that become displaced overnight, but we're not seeming to address that in this budget for, like, Women Helping Women, or, you know, the folks that, I guess, exchange needles, and try to do those things. And, I guess, that's probably what led my colleague, that's not in the Chair to my left, to say that this budget doesn't reflect that we've had a wildfire with, like, over 12,000 displaced. But, yet, when we looked at the Mayor's budget yesterday, I mean, they increased the amount for tourism management, they have, you know, extra money if there's great ideas that come up but don't fit into a particular program, but we know, already, that there's negative impact. So, I just was wondering if you could speak to that. Like was it the Mayor that said cut or hold flat these expenses and going to put in my OED extra money for great ideas that we haven't heard of yet. Or how...how does that work? Like, you know, just wondering.

MS. TSUHAKO: Madam Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. The Department's proposed budget really reflects the...the general guidelines that we were provided and, I think, all the Departments were provided with, is try to keep a level budget from Fiscal Year '24. And we were told in Cabinet meetings that some Departments would, necessarily, be over their Fiscal Year '24, and some would be under, and that those adjustments would be made, you know, from the 30,000-foot level. I have had no involvement with the crafting of the Mayor's budget, so I can't answer your question about that. I do think that there are other services that have been instituted, such as disaster case management, that specifically address the mental health concerns and some of the other concerns of the folks who have been impacted the most directly by the fires. And those do not come --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're not coming to the Wednesday night meetings with us, are you, --

MS. TSUHAKO: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because they're not being addressed.

MS. TSUHAKO: Oh. Okay. I know that they were instituted to address those needs. And I'm sorry to hear that they're not, but those services are sort of...have been implemented through other means through other governments that don't...I mean, they haven't...I haven't even talked to people who...before they set up the disaster case management. So, it...it kind of happened in a vacuum on its own

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

April 11, 2024

through...through those other means. And so I'm sorry but I can't speak to that and say that it was well coordinated, and we didn't do this because of this, and...and that I'm not able to say that to you today.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then...I mean, it's great to follow the guidelines and like I...I most times like to follow the rules and follow the laws but, you know, there's certain cases where morally I cannot follow the rules and follow the laws; and this, to me, I one of those cases, you know. I mean, it's been documented by the Prosecuting Attorney that there was a 200 percent increase in the local domestic violence calls since...in October. And she didn't know what it was recently. There's a 544 percent increase in needle swaps, and things like that. These are, like, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . real numbers. And, like, to me, morally, if somebody told me hold it flat, I would not do that. Are...are you applying for Human Concerns Director position?

MS. TSUHAKE: I haven't been asked yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. So, I would just push the issue if I never...if I not coming back anyway. Do the right thing, you know, just saying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: What time did you say we going to get out of here?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I was trying to leave here by 4:00 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- because we all have to go to South Maui.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Well, just wanted to know. Okay. So, I'm on page 448 of the program budget for Housing...for Human Concerns. So, you know, it says County Grant Subsidy Program Description; Food, Shelter, and Safety Grants; and you've got listed Aloha House; Malama Na Makua A Keiki; Maui AIDS Foundation; Mediation Services; Parents and Children Together; and the Roman Catholic Church, Hale Kau Kau. And then at the top you've got them all...so, they're all pretty much bunched together for 738,000. Can...do you have a breakdown for all of the various subcategories or agencies here?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Member Kama. I believe that...yeah, I can go through that right now, orally, with you, if you would like. Aloha House is allocated at 143,000; Malama...Malama Na Makua A Keiki is 185,000; Maui AIDS Foundation at 140,000; Mediation Services of Maui at 90,000; Parents and Children Together, 80,000; and the Roman Catholic Church of Hawai'i at 100,000.

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

April 11, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And all...does...I didn't add it up but I assume it totals to 738.

MS. TSUHAKE: I do too.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. And then the...the other thing I wanted to ask you about was on page 455 of the program budget. It says, Maui Adult Day Care Center for Senior Citizens and Disabled Inc. [sic] Is that...and is that Disabled...that whole thing, Disabled, Inc., is that one organization name? Or is that just the Maui Adult Day Care Centers for seniors that we have all over the place?

MS. TSUHAKE: Member Kama, I'm not absolutely positive --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Who they are?

MS. TSUHAKE: Well, I'm not...I'm not absolutely positive what the...the formal name of the agency is.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: But I don't believe the agency name contains the senior citizens and disabled language.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. TSUHAKE: Yeah, but --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: *(Audio interference)* --

MS. TSUHAKE: -- we can verify that for you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. Because I was wondering if it meant that it's a disabled, or disabled senior citizens, or senior citizens and disabled peoples, irrespective of age. That's what I was asking in another way. So, that's what I'd like to know. And I think for...that...that is all I had, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Round 2. Member Sinenci, three minutes. Oh. No.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Director, it looks like the Commission on Healing Solutions [sic] have been regularly meeting. And so my question is, in your opinion, how do you see this Commission and...and each one of the Commissioners represent, you know, a piece of the community and they want to help their individual communities. So, in your opinion, how can this Commission help the...the efforts...mission of the Department when it comes to

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

April 11, 2024

houselessness?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. So, the Commission has...has, I would say in general, met regularly. I think we...we lack quorum the most recent meeting. The Commission would be, I believe, more helpful to the Department and to the Administration, which is, I think, why it was formed as a...as an advisory group. If they were to generate more actionable recommendations to follow up on...and I'll give you a very tangible example. In the first year of its operation, that Commission forwarded to the Department one recommendation. And that was to create a medical outreach program. The Department accepted that recommendation, we did due diligence, we actually went out and obtained funding from HUD to operate this program. And...but there's...there's not been any additional tangible recommendations made for a programmatic development, and things of that nature. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You think they require --

MS. TSUHAKE: -- yeah, I want to say that we...we followed up on the...on the material that was sent to us, and we actually created a program, and obtained funding.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Do you think they, as a group...Commission, require additional funding?

MS. TSUHAKE: I don't know what they would use funding for though. Because they don't have the authority to implement anything. Yeah, I mean, they...like other Commissions, maybe, that have travel and things like that. I know we have members from other islands that...that could be, but we've been utilizing the video conference functions in order to reduce our...our travel cost, and the per diem, and all the...for...for...actually for all of the Commissions under the auspices of the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So, you guys are funding it to the Department. They're the meetings --

MS. TSUHAKE: I...I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- funding the meetings at least for . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. TSUHAKE: Well, most of the meetings don't require funding because if --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: -- you use the video conference portion we...we won't have to pay for travel or for per diem.

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then it looks like both our Congressional delegation, Senator Schatz and Representative Tokuda, they have secured some Federal funding. I know Representative Tokuda is...heads the Rural...Rural Health Caucus.

MS. TSUHAKE: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And so those funding...they have solidified funding through the State and I was wondering if your Department had received any of those funding that they have gotten. . . .(timer sounds). . .

MS. TSUHAKE: Oh, no, we have not.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: None. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins, then Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Johnson, Paltin, Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I have, first, a question for Staff because I don't have the testimony...the hard copy that was distributed to us on Lāna'i from E Mālama I Na Keiki. Is that on Granicus? Yeah. Maybe will be later. And then I'll...while they're checking for that, I was listening to the exchange between Ms. Ka'ina and Member Johnson. And I guess it...this may be a follow-up question for her regarding the preschool's funding. Can you explain why the organization...why the preschool received a letter saying that they would not receive funding from the County if it's going to go through the parents?

MS. BONACORSI: I can answer that. Sorry, Ka'ina Boncorsi, again. The organization mistakenly put in, and I'm not sure where the miscommunication is at, an application for funding. But, as in the years past when we made the switch, this year, Fiscal Year '24, 20 children from 18 families in the amount of 86,355 was allocated specifically to the families attending E Mālama I Na Keiki. So, there has not been...in order...in other words the way that it is operated...changed so that we could have administration efficiency, but there was no reduction made to the school. So, the school is charged their tuition. And the families are...heavily subsidized, probably the most in the County, to...on their tuition assistance. So, that's kind of how it was. So, an application was put in, and it was erroneously put in, and I'm not sure I...I would have to go back to E Mālama and see why that was.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, you're...you're saying that in past

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

April 11, 2024

years the preschool did not submit an application for funding for a grant.

MS. BONACORSI: That...that was...where we had the discussions that was...for the last three years that has not been the case. They have not submitted a specific application to fund the preschool. The change was made to administratively execute the subsidies while still allocating this...the dollar amount to the families on Lānaʻi. But they should not have submitted an application to just support the preschool

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. So, to clarify, each of those parents would apply to the Department, Human Concerns, and then they would receive a check to pay the preschool every month.

MS. BONACORSI: It's actually administered through a grant. So, they apply for...through Maui Family Support Services, they complete the application. Then the application is processed and then they receive an award letter of how much their need demonstrates they...they have a need for. And then, yes, it's issued to the...the check is cut from Maui Family Support Services to the school.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Would you mind explaining a little bit on how that makes the administration more efficient if it's going to go through the Maui Family Support Services, and then to the parents, and then to the school? Instead, I think, you said, like, four years ago the Department used to give a grant directly to the school.

MS. BONACORSI: So, we ran into some challenges on providing the direct assistance to a particular . . .(timer sounds). . . preschool and so because it was being made for the subsidies for families, so all of the funds...and then this all families across Maui County are able to apply for the subsidy assistance. So, this makes it so that...but in order to ease the burden of the school, we said, okay, we will keep that same dollar amount, trying to allocate that to the families that are attending that school. So, it's really important that when they make their tuition it's covered whether the families are getting the money from the County or they're getting it from direct pay on tuition. So, we've just made it so that the families are eligible for that same dollar amount.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, one...one (audio interference) --

MS. BONACORSI: So, we don't provide any direct payment to any preschools or childcare providers.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it goes to --

MS. BONACORSI: It's all assist --

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Maui --

MS. BONACORSI: -- for families.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Maui Family Support Center. And then anyone...any parent that is sending their child to preschool can apply through Maui Family Support Services. And then they are given a grant, and then the parent gives the grant to the preschool.

MS. BONACORSI: No grant. It's...it's just subsidy assistance. It's just tuition assistance so that...and the monies goes straight to the school on behalf of the parent. So, it's paying for their tuition. I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, who pays the preschool? Who...who gives the check to the preschool? Is it...is it Maui Family Support Services?

MS. BONACORSI: Maui Family Support Services gives one check for all the children that apply to the preschool. But the allocation is based on each families need. It is not on the preschool's need; it is on each family's need.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, the...in order for the preschool to know how much they're getting through Human Concerns to the...through the County, they would have to talk to Maui Family Support Services.

MS. BONACORSI: Yes. The Director does realize how much they get out of it and how many...yes, ultimately. But I can tell you for this, it's 20 children from 18 families in the amount of \$86,355.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Bonacorsi. Mahalo, Chair.

MS. BONACORSI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson, Member Paltin to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That was a little confusing for me to follow. But I...I would just ask, is...is the Montessori school on Lānaʻi getting subsidies?

MS. BONACORSI: If families apply for...no...no other school in the County is getting a direct subsidy from the County. If a family from Montessori school on Lānaʻi applies for subsidy assistance and they are found eligible, yes, they could possibly get a subsidy.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But do you know if they are? Does any --

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

April 11, 2024

MS. BONACORSI: I would have to go back to My Family Support Services and see if we had any applications that were requested.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you. I want to ask, Director Tsuhako, in regards to Aloha House, what's the update on the 12-bedroom dorm?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. So, the contract has been amendment...amended to reflect a lesser number of rooms than was originally proposed. The agency has a consultant, they're trying to get a exemption for an EA in order to proceed with...with the construction. Concurrently, I think we're working on correcting boundary amendments for existing leases, not only with Aloha House but with the other...the...the other agency that comes under the auspices of Aloha House, which is Maui Youth and Family Services. There's some boundary issues on existing leases that need to be fixed before the building of that dorm can take place. So, it...there's been progress since last year's discussion but it's moving along.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Less rooms than 12 bedroom, what...what are we talking --

MS. TSUHAKO: Yeah, the...I...I think...if I recall correctly, the original proposal was for 12 rooms. And then the agency heard through the State, who regulates the treatment issues, or whatever, that they could have the same number of people housed but in 10 rooms instead of the 12.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, it's...you know, overall...like you said...you mentioned, like, a 30,000 view...30,000-foot view of the budget. We...we're...there's a lot of nonprofits that are...like what Councilmember Paltin was saying, that are in dire need of more funding because of the diseases of despair, right. We get...we see it. We see the abuses going up. We...the...the fact that we're going from smaller dorm rooms, just as an example, and I know there's probably other factors involved in it, but when we see that happening, when we see the...the fund not going to our nonprofits who are servicing our community, and then we see the 9th floor EAs getting raises, that just...it doesn't bold well, it doesn't paint that picture when you look at...from that 30,000-foot view, that we're really focusing on these people who are doing work for our community. You know, they should be having enough money that it's going to...you know, that satisfies . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . the needs that they're giving to our community. But instead I see 9th...9th floor getting raises and I see this budget being flat, even less than flat and it really kind of...it...it's not the way I thought we would want to do this. But I think we're going to be doing...we're going to do some amendments to this bill...I would like to do some amendments to this budget because it's...there...there's one thing to get a raise on the 9th floor, but the raises that they're getting are significant. They're...I'm not saying that I need a raise. I

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

April 11, 2024

mean, they are getting some big raises, you know. And it's something that is...I don't...I don't...how...how can we say that there's a lack of funding when we see the huge raises that they're getting and then our nonprofits getting cut. And, again, the...some...the...the Aloha House dorm, the problem still exists, whether it's budget...you know, EA exemptions and smaller rooms, the people who are turning to drugs in this tragic time and lose everything, their numbers are getting bigger. You know, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins was talking about how the houselessness situation is getting worse over there. I mean, it's just across the board, across our whole community. We need to really fund these...these nonprofits and it just...I'm not seeing it, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I know my time's up, Chair. So, I'm just...I just had to say that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, what about me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. I'm sorry. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, wait, before you start me, I just wanted to have another disclaimer. I'm a little cranky. We've had to read thousands of pages --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And no breaks.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, no, no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm just saying, to me this is not acceptable. Like, I'm not a computer whiz or anything. I...I got to print things out because otherwise every time I open it up, and then close it up, and then it takes like 20 minutes to try find a document; so I print it out. And this is like cruel and unusual punishment, to me. I know it can be...like the Mayor just resent his one so it's not blurry and 6-point font and it looks cherry right now. This is like...you know, we don't get paid a lot. I just asking that the things that get transmitted are legible. Because, you know, someday I want to still be able to see and I don't...these kind of things where there's all this blank, it's just wasting trees. And so I don't know who's in charge of signing off the documents that gets transmitted to us, it sounds like it's the Mayor, because we're waiting on documents for him. But if he's going to read them and sign them off, can he, like, see that he, as an elderly person, can read them himself, and then expect us to be able to read them as well. That's just...it's a pet peeve, sorry. And I'm cranky, and there's so much to read. So, that's...I

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

April 11, 2024

don't know who, if there's like ten people in the back that can make sure that we don't get these kind of things when we print it out, that'd be awesome. I think I made the same request last year. But --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: *(Audio interference)* --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that's just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll send it to you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's the last four pages of HO-1. Oh, HC-1, sorry, my bad. Cranky.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. We have been trying to review. And I know sometimes when we scan them and they do get fuzzy. OCS has reached out to us about a couple and we resubmitted them so they're clear. But I will try and do a better job of double checking them on my screen before we transmit them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'd...that'd be awesome. Because, you know, somebody isn't signing off on them, I don't know why, but if they're going to read them, make sure that they can read them, themselves, you know. But anyway so...okay. You can start my time. Shoot, now I forgot...you can go ahead to Member Kama. I forgot what I was going to ask.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I don't have any questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I'll ask because Member Paltin is getting ready. So, rates and fees, there's no changes for this Department.

MS. TSUHAKO: No, Madam Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. What was I going to ask? What was I going to ask? Human Concerns. Shoot. It might have been on the...the ones we transmitted. Do we know when we're going to get a answer to HC-2?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I have HC-2 right here. I just have to talk to the Department about one of their answers to clarify a couple numbers and then we'll get that transmitted this afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I found it. It came up. Sorry. So, it would be

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

April 11, 2024

number 9, page 3. Since the Department can no longer review immigration applications, forms, and other documents, please elaborate on services Immigrant Services Division are able to provide; such as one-on-one sessions, or referrals to nonprofits to ensure immigrants...and how much vacancies, specifically, to Immigrant Services Division?

MS. TSUHAKO: Thank you, Councilmember. So, the Immigrant Services Division can continue to provide our requested Federal forms. We have a library full of those forms for people come in and who need it. Primarily, those forms, and the signing up, and the creating of accounts with the Federal government, we can help clients with that. Many people don't have an...computer from which to do that. So, we help them establish those accounts, keep their passwords; that whole thing. We also do warm hand offs to the other agencies that can provide the legal immigration work that we are no longer allowed to do. We have recently filled the Coordinator position that was vacant since last October and expect the new Coordinator to start work next Tuesday on the 16th. And, additionally, we have half time vacancy on Molokai and...and two vacancies in the office in Wailuku. And once the new Coordinator can get started we'll work toward filling those positions...those vacancies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you didn't have it...like a Immigrant Services Division and so you contract it out, then would you be able to review immigration applications, forms, and other documents?

MS. TSUHAKO: Based on the Corporation Counsel's opinion, I don't believe we should be doing that at all because of the...the liability that was explained to us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I not saying us do it but even contracting out a third-party entity to do it that is qualified to do it we would still get liability if we're contracting out a third-party entity?

MS. TSUHAKO: I...I don't know the answer to that for sure because the County has been sued for all kinds of things that I wouldn't expect to get sued for, so I can't say no --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKO: -- but it's a good idea.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, is it okay to write down that question and probably not for Ms. Tsuhako but Corporation Counsel and maybe not even Ms. Toshikiyo because it's not really...it's kind of budgetary but it's more like not budgetary question. And I'm not sure which . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . attorney would answer it, but that would be my question for tomorrow morning at 9:00.

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

April 11, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Corp. Counsel is coming. And we have the question, by the way, send it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: James got the question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sweet. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we are at the end of round 2 and we're at 4:00. Members, I would like to end this meeting at 4:00 to allow everybody to get to South Maui. But if you want, we can do a round 3. No. No. We're good. We're good. Okay. So, thank very much, Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just a...just a real...follow up for the Na Keiki O Lānaʻi [sic]. So, can the...it sounds like the Department will...will fund the families. But...but some of the...the queries that we received the other night was about, like, they're getting their 11,000 for their --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Audit.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- their audit, those types of things. So, it sounds like it doesn't help the school with administrative types of things. Are there any funding for nonprofits to...to kind of supplement their operations that they could apply for?

MS. TSUHAKE: Thank you, Councilmember. I think...well, what I expect will happen is Ka'ina will have an ongoing discussion with the management of the preschool. My assumption would be that the subsidy that allows the school to educate those children is allocated in a way that the agency can meet their administrative obligations. I'm not aware of the...you know, the specific cost of their audit and things of that nature, but for...for other agencies, maybe in a similar position, those subsidies should come close to balancing what it cost for them to operate.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Including their...their audits that doubled.

MS. TSUHAKE: In...including their audits. Most agencies do budget for that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. TSUHAKE: I'm not aware of a separate resource that might be able to help

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

April 11, 2024

supplement that. But, you know, certainly we're open to discussion about that, you know, and...and trying to problem solve with grantees because I know it's hard.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have questions for the Department? Seeing none. Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Tsuhako and --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I didn't mean to do this to you. I have a follow-up question to that last response --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to Member Sinenci regarding E Mālama I Na Keiki. So, in that letter that I'm going to track down and get to Staff so that they can put it--oh. Mahalo, Member Johnson--so that it can be up in Granicus. That...Ms. Ka'ina said that it was in response to an application that was not supposed to have been sent to the...to the Department. So, because the...the funding is given to parents to subsidize their children's tuition to the preschool, is E Mālama I Na Keiki required to do that three-year audit?

MS. TSUHAKO: Excellent question. We will check on that and respond back. And I understand the...the issue is if the agency doesn't get that County grant funding directly as a grantee, would the audit requirement still be required of them. And I...I think the answer is no, but we'll confirm that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I would think the answer would be no because the grant...the County's grant is only to Maui Family Support Services. So, the grantee...if...unless the grantee, themselves...but even then, the grant is to the parents. And so it's like this roundabout way to get to the preschool. And so I...I...I don't see how the County can, then, require the preschool to do a three-year audit.

MS. TSUHAKO: Yes, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. And I think part of the history of...of kind of consolidating the administration of the subsidy process is because some of the preschools, like other small nonprofits that, you know, you guys have heard from, we've heard from, don't have the larger capacity to do things like audits or to...or to dedicate . . .(timer sounds). . .the staff necessary to make sure that they're reporting on their grant performance is actually accurate and in compliance. And so you might see it on...on the year-end-report card

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

April 11, 2024

where a good agency is rated kind of junk because they're not reporting properly. And so that was one of the reasons that that...that strategy of taking the...not taking the money because they really weren't taking...is moving the money to a central administrative function made sense because now E Mālama doesn't need to report to the County on a quarterly basis; turn in invoices, turn in receipts for toilet paper; that kind of thing, right it removes that burden from them. So, as an administrator, I think that's kind of a good deal for them, you know. And it...and it helps in the Department's administration of that. So, we...we don't have to hound agencies who, you know, have challenge capacities to, hey, you better...better turn in your stuff, you know, deadline is next week Wednesday, and then send it back. Like, oh, you...you misreported this or that. So, that...that's part of the reason.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's a good response to my earlier question about, you know, maximizing efficiency. So, mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. Wow, 4:06. We're good, right. No more questions, Members? Thank you very much, Department, for being here. You have spent the day with us, so appreciate your help. And, I guess, you'll be getting some questions from us that came up today, so thank you for that. I forgot to thank Mr. Bigley for being a resource and...and answering some of our questions. Okay, Members, so it is now 4:07 and this meeting is adjourned. Tomorrow morning at 9:00 we are...we will be talking to...what's the Departments...we actually added on Corporation Counsel, and we're going to have Department of Management, as well as...I'm anxious to find out Office of Recovery, and Fire and Public Safety, Emergency...so MEMA. So, those are the Departments for tomorrow. And we have no other meetings tomorrow night. So, we can, you know, meet as long as...or don't have to worry about ending at 4:00. But I hope that we can have a efficient meeting so we don't have to be here too long.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...tomorrow? Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I thought we were ending early because of the funeral.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The funeral. Oh, yeah. Okay, the funeral was important. That's right it was tomorrow. Yes. Okay. That will be our goal then, so we could all go to *(audio interference)* --

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

April 11, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What is that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At 3:00.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The service is at 4:00?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What time is the service?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It current...I think it's 4:00, yeah. Do you know?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We can find out tomorrow --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and then just make sure we give ourselves enough time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, 6:00 is the service. Oh, is it viewing or whatever?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll figure that out and then we can announce that tomorrow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or to each other.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Members, so see you in Kihei at the Kihei Community Center. And this meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ACTION: **DEFER** pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 4:08 p.m.

APPROVED:


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

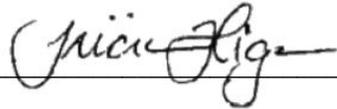
BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 11, 2024

CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 145 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 24th day of April 2024, in Mililani, Hawaii



Tricia Higa