

REQUEST FOR LEGAL SERVICES

D a t e: June 12, 2026
F r o m: Kauanoë Batangan, Chair
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee

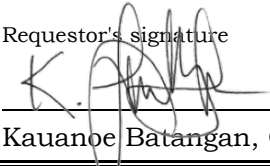
TRANSMITTAL

Memo to: DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL
Attention: Victoria J. Takayesu, Esq.

Subject: CASE UPDATES AND RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO LEO CAIRES V. COUNTY OF MAUI, ET AL., CIVIL FILE 2CCV-26-0000138 (GREAT-11(30))

Background Data: Please refer to attached documents. Please submit your response to great.committee@mauicounty.us with a reference to GREAT-11(30).

Work Requested: FOR APPROVAL AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
 OTHER: Please provide the specific reasons preventing the Department of the Corporation Counsel from reviewing and approving the attached Resolution "as to form and legality."

Requestor's signature  Kauanoë Batangan, Chair	Contact Person <u>Clarissa MacDonald or Peter Hanano</u> (Telephone Extension: <u>7135 or 8007, respectively</u>)
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ROUTINE (WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS) RUSH (WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS)
 PRIORITY (WITHIN 10 WORKING DAYS) URGENT (WITHIN 3 WORKING DAYS)

SPECIFY DUE DATE (IF IMPOSED BY SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES): June 16, 2026, by 4:30 p.m.
REASON: For consideration at the June 22, 2026, GREAT Committee meeting.

FOR CORPORATION COUNSEL'S RESPONSE

ASSIGNED TO:	ASSIGNMENT NO.	BY:
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TO REQUESTOR: APPROVED DISAPPROVED OTHER (SEE COMMENTS BELOW)
 RETURNING--PLEASE EXPAND AND PROVIDE DETAILS REGARDING ITEMS AS NOTED

COMMENTS (NOTE - THIS SECTION NOT TO BE USED FOR LEGAL ADVICE): _____

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Date _____ By _____

(Rev. 7/03)

REQUEST FOR LEGAL SERVICES

RECEIVED

By Office of Council Services at 4:26 pm, Jun 04, 2026


Date: June 3, 2026
From: Kauanoë Batangan, Councilmember

Memo to: TRANSMITTAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL
Attention: Victoria J. Takayesu, Esq.

Subject: SETTLEMENT OFFERS IN LEO CAIRES V. COUNTY OF MAUI, ET AL. (PAF 26-141)

Background Data: Please see the attached resolution. Please submit your response to county.council@mauicounty.us and peter.hanano@mauicounty.us, referencing the PAF number.

Work Requested: FOR APPROVAL AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
 OTHER:

Requestor's signature  Kauanoë Batangan	Contact Person <u>Peter Hanano</u> (Telephone Extension: 8007)
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ROUTINE (WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS) RUSH (WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS)
 PRIORITY (WITHIN 10 WORKING DAYS) URGENT (WITHIN 3 WORKING DAYS)

SPECIFY DUE DATE (IF IMPOSED BY SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES): June 16, 2026
REASON: For posting on the June 22, 2026, GREAT Committee meeting agenda.

FOR CORPORATION COUNSEL'S RESPONSE

ASSIGNED TO: <u>N/A</u>	ASSIGNMENT NO.	BY:
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TO REQUESTOR: APPROVED DISAPPROVED OTHER (SEE COMMENTS BELOW)
 RETURNING--PLEASE EXPAND AND PROVIDE DETAILS REGARDING ITEMS AS NOTED

COMMENTS (NOTE - THIS SECTION NOT TO BE USED FOR LEGAL ADVICE): Per VJT email to David Ratz on 6/4/2026 @ 3:25pm.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Date 6/4/2026

By TLM

(Rev. 7/03)

paf:pah:26-141b

Attachment

Resolution

No. _____

REQUIRING THE COUNTY'S LEGAL COUNSEL
IN *LEO CAIRES V. COUNTY OF MAUI, ET AL.*,
CIVIL FILE 2CCV-26-0000138, TO TRANSMIT
ALL WRITTEN SETTLEMENT OFFERS UNDER
MAUI COUNTY CODE SECTION 3.16.020

WHEREAS, by Resolution 25-109, CD1, the Council authorized the employment of special counsel Marr Jones & Wang, LLP to represent the County in pre-litigation negotiations and litigation regarding allegations made by Leo Caires, a former County of Maui employee in the Office of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, at a June 2, 2025, Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting, the Department of the Corporation Counsel advised that it had multiple conflicts with the matter; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2026, a lawsuit was filed in the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, State of Hawai'i, in *Leo Caires v. County of Maui et al.*, Civil File 2CCV-26-0000138, alleging whistleblower retaliation and wrongful termination; and

WHEREAS, according to a May 2, 2026, *Hawaii Journalism Initiative* article, Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. issued a statement that the County had "firmly rejected" an "excessive monetary demand for settlement" demand by the plaintiff's attorney in April 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Council played no role in considering the settlement offer; and

WHEREAS, the article also reported that a County spokesperson said that some of the lawsuit's allegations were the subject of a pending investigation by the State Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, the Council had not been informed of the investigation;
and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, the lawsuit is based on Mayor Bissen’s alleged conduct, creating an appearance of a conflict in his position that appears to be at least as strong as the Corporation Counsel’s; and

WHEREAS, under Section 3.16.020, Maui County Code, the Council may “determine and specify from time to time, claims for which all written offers of settlement are to be transmitted to the council by legal counsel”; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.16.020 further provides that, upon adoption of such a resolution, the Council can take appropriate action on the County’s behalf in response to settlement offers for a specified case; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

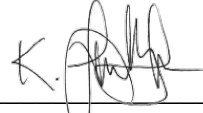
1. That the County’s legal counsel in *Leo Caires v. County of Maui et al.*, Civil File 2CCV-26-0000138, is required transmit all written settlement offers to the Council via attorney-client-privileged communication for appropriate action under Section 3.16.020, Maui County Code;
2. That special counsel must send all invoices to the Office of Counsel Services for review and approval for payment; and
3. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, Corporation Counsel, Director of Finance, Director of Council Services, and Richard M. Rand, Esq, Marr Jones & Wang, LLP.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU
Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

paf:pah:26-141a

INTRODUCED BY:



KAUANOE BATANGAN

Great Committee

From: Great Committee
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2026 9:48 AM
To: CorpCounselRFLS
Cc: Great Committee
Subject: OCS - GREAT - Case Updates and Resolution Related to Leo Caires V. County of Maui, et al., Civil File 2CCV-26-0000138 (Reso 26-99; GREAT-11(30))
Attachments: 011(30)acc01.pdf

Please see attached RFLS.

Thank you,
GREAT Committee Staff