

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

## MINUTES

December 3, 2025

Online Only via Teams

**CONVENE:** 9:07 a.m.

**PRESENT:** VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Chair  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 11:50 a.m.; In 12:59 p.m.)  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (Out 11:06 a.m.; In 12:59 p.m.)  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (In 11:06 a.m.)

**STAFF:**

Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney  
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary  
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

### Residency Area Offices

Keomailani Hirata, Council Aide, Molokai Residency Area Office  
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office  
Mavis Oliveira, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office  
Chaelin Ryu, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office  
Buddy Almeida, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

**ADMIN.:**

Thomas Kolbe, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (All)  
Abby M.K. Hoke, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (GREAT-11(20))  
Susan M. Leeder, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (GREAT-11(21) and -11(22))  
Kristin K. Tarnstrom, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel (GREAT-11(23))  
James “Kimo” Landgraf, Deputy Director, Department of Water Supply (GREAT-11(20))  
Gregg Okamoto, Assistant Police Chief, Department of Police (GREAT-11(21))  
Clifton Song, Wastewater Collection Systems Superintendent, Department of Environmental Management (GREAT-11(22))

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

Shayne Agawa, Director, Department of Environmental Management  
(GREAT-11(22))

**OTHERS:** Testifiers  
Jasee Law (GREAT-11(21) and -11(23))  
  
(20+) additional attendees

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

---

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everyone. Will the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting of December 3rd, 2025, please come to order. It is 9:07 a.m. I'm your Chair, Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the work...vehicle or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Let's begin with Committee Vice-Chair, Member Paltin. Aloha kakahiaka.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka, kākou.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Member Cook, aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha kakahiaka and good morning. And there's no testifiers in the Kihei.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Councilmember Gabe Johnson, aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna‘i District office, and I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Member Johnson, you would match the sixth floor, they're having spirit week. And they're having their sweaters today. So, yes, perfect...perfectly dressed.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I know it's cold in the Chambers and --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: It is cold.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- tis the season, so I've got my Christmas gear on.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Perfect. You look wonderful. Council Chair Alice Lee, aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha mai, kākou.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, aloha kakahiaka. Oh, I saw her face. . .*(inaudible)*. . .oh there we go.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. Sorry --

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**December 3, 2025**

---

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We hear her voice. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I was going to grab my sweater.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Perfect.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. Mai Molokai Nui a Hina. I'm at my private residence, alone here. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District office. And I wanted to quickly send a special happy one-year mark. Happy Birthday to our first office baby, Ava Grace.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, happy birthday.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She's one today.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yay. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I'll go grab my sweater.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yay, so cute. Oh, thanks for sharing that. Councilmember Shane Sinenci, aloha kakahiaka.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. And hau'oli lā hānau to Baby Ava.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes, happy birthday.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(audio interference)*. . .

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: And Member Sugimura is excused for now. I have been asked to make an announcement that there is cone and maki sushi in the back for...I was going to say the Councilmembers, but then that would be rude. So I guess everybody on this side of the floor on the blue carpet. From Corporation Counsel, we have with us Thomas Kolbe, Deputy Corporation Counsel. I don't see Abby. Oh. Hi, Abby. Are you going to be with us for our later item?

MS. HOKE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Then please come join us now. Thank you. Abby Hoke. Am I saying your name--okay, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Susan Leeder, Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Kristin Tarnstrom, Deputy Corporation Counsel. We also have with us Josiah Nishita, Managing Director; Kimo Landgraf, Deputy Director of Water Supply; Shayne Agawa, Deputy Director of Environmental

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

Manager...Management; Jody Yoshida, Boards and Commissions Liaison; and Assistant...Gregg...Chief Okamoto. Sorry, Assistant Chief Gregg Okamoto--messed that up--Maui Police Department. Our Committee Staff include Maria Leon, Committee Secretary; Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst; Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst; Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney; Lei Dinneen and Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the lobby, join on the online meeting via the Teams link, or call into the phone number noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas) as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please allow the prompts...please follow the prompts via phone: star-5 to raise and lower your hand, star-6 to mute and unmute. Excuse me. Staff will add names to the "Testifier" list in the order of the "Testifier" signing up or raising their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hands once your name is called and added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At that time Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred as or anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you are in person, please notify the Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Once you are done testifying, or you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). We will do our best to take up each person in an orderly fashion. We will now call up testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. Staff, do we have anybody wishing to testify?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there is no one signed up to testify, so I can do a last call.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Please.

MS. MACDONALD: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know. Or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call for the beginning of the meeting; three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

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

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

**ITEM 11(20): RESOLUTION 25-191, SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION:  
ELAINE AND ROBERT BOGARD; CLAIM 4089446-1  
(PROPERTY DAMAGE)**

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We're going to begin, then, with the first item on the agenda which is Resolution 25-191, Settlement Authorization for [sic] Elaine And Robert Bogard, Claim 4089446-1, Property Damage, GREAT-11(20). We have before us Resolution 259-1, [sic] which would approve the settlement of the claim filed on April 25th, 2024, in the amount of the \$57,664.74. The claim alleges damage to the claimant's property resulting from flooding from a water main break occurring on or about February 8th, 2024. Do we have any comments from Deputy Corporation Counsel?

MS. HOKE: Thank you, Chair. And good morning, Council. You pretty much covered what I was going to mention. This...it's a settlement of the claim of Elaine and Robert Bogard for property damage to their home as a result from flooding from a water main break that occurred on February 8th, 2024, in Kihei. The claim was investigated and evaluated by the County and our third-party administrators. And we have been working with the claimants and have reached a tentative negotiated settlement at \$57,644.74 after review and consideration of the supporting documents, appraisals, and estimates. So we are recommending settlement and requesting settlement authority at that amount.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Deputy Director, do you have anything you'd like to add?

MR. LANDGRAF: Okay. So it's at 276 Kaiola Place. Kaiola Place is in Kihei.

MS. HOKE: Uh-huh.

MR. LANDGRAF: It's makai of Pi'ilani Highway, and you see it as you approach Ohukai Road just before to that major intersection. So, we have a 18-inch water line in that road. And it just so happens that this house is at lowest place of that street. The 18-inch water line broke. It has a large volume of water. And basically, there are drains in the area, but there was so much water that the drain couldn't keep up. And so, because the house was at the lowest portion, the water got into the house before we were able to shut off.

MS. HOKE: . . .(audio interference) . . .

MR. LANDGRAF: We did respond right away to the break, but being an 18-inch water line, it does take us a little while to shut down because of the size. We can't just close it off and have more problems, right? So, took us about 45 minutes to get it shut down. As soon as we shut down, we noticed that the water did recede and the drains were able to take the water. But the house got flooded before that happened. So that's kind of what happened.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much. Do we have Managing Director? Is he with us? I don't know if we need any comments from him. Oh, okay. Okay. Thank you. All right. Before moving on, let's open up discussion again for this item, GREAT-11(20). Do we have any testifiers?

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**December 3, 2025**

---

MS. MACDONALD: No, Chair, there's nobody signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes, please.

MS. MACDONALD: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know. Or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call; three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Members, seeing there are no individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I would now close oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-11(20) . . .**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, we're going to have a three-minute questioning period. If you have any questions, please raise your hand. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So just clarifying, this...this place is like a short-term rental?

MS. HOKE: No. The...it will be paid to the claimants as the homeowners.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: But they rent it out short-term?

MS. HOKE: I'm not...I don't have knowledge of that. I don't believe so. I believe they are living there.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then the inventory...we're...we're paying out for the whole inventory like the surfboards were damaged by water?

MS. HOKE: They did send in photos to our third-party administrator, and those were evaluated by them. And they did, I believe, attach depreciation for all the personal property.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I mean, it seems like surfboards go in the water, so I'm not sure...like, I didn't...I didn't see pictures of the surfboards damaged or...like, you know, folding tables and things like...I mean, was it muddy water?

MS. HOKE: Yes. I do believe some of the water...well, the water was within their --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sorry, one second. We're going to take a five-minute recess. The internet is off. We're going to return at 9:22. Oh, wait. Oh. . . *(gavel)* . . .

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

**RECESS:** 9:17 a.m.

**RECONVENE:** 11:06 a.m.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the GREAT Committee please reconvene. It is 11:06 a.m. Thank you so much for that recess, Members. We had some issues with Spectrum and a power outage with the internet. But before we begin, I want to say good morning to Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Good morning. So, where we left off, earlier this morning we were in discussion for Resolution 25-191 regarding a settlement for Mr. and Mrs. Bogard for \$67,664.74 [*sic*] for flooding. Their home is in Kihei. We left off with Member Paltin asking a few questions. There is some information regarding rentals in the packet that we got. FYI, that rental is where the owners of the property, Mr. and Mr. [*sic*] Bogard, will need to live when the home is going to be repaired. Does anybody else have any more questions? Member Paltin, did you want to continue your line of questioning?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: No. I think I got all my questions answered. This is...is part of the Hale Kaiola Project that --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- we approved, and it's just sad. That was supposed to be...or it was affordable projects. So --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- super unfortunate that this happened to them. All their stuff was --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Damaged.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- damaged, evaluated by a third-party --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- Sedgwick and depreciated for value too. So, ready to vote.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just a clarifying question, no other neighbor was affected by the flooding?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Was there any other people that were affected, or is it just them?

MS. HOKE: No, there...there were multiple properties that were affected. We have settled, I

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**December 3, 2025**

---

believe, two other property cases in this development. And I assume...we have not received any others I...to my knowledge. I assume that those were taken care of with their own insurance companies, their own property insurance.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Members, any other question before my recommendation? No. Seeing none, at this time, I would like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 25-191, including any nonsubstantive revisions.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So moved.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: I have a motion made by Member Sugimura. Do I have a second?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Second by Chair Lee. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor, please raise your hand and say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, there's seven "ayes;" zero "noes;" one excused, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Motion carries.

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

**NOES:   None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:   None.**

**EXCUSED:   Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:    Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 25-191.**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. This item will move on to full Council for its consideration. Thank you very much. Nice to see you guys. Members, I just wanted to finish that up so we didn't lose track of where we are. But considering we had a very long and unplanned-for recess, I would like to do this item and possibly the next, take a brief recess, wherever we are from there, and continue on with our agenda. We have

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

two items that will probably need executive session. The last item is Member Paltin's item relating to the Childrens [sic] and Youth. I would like to end at 4:30. If we need to, if it's okay to defer that item, if we so happen to get to it, Chair Lee's item, regarding the alternate members, could be the last thing we need to discuss. That and along with everything else, is time sensitive. So we will do our best to be as quick as we can. If that's okay with you folks?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Perfect.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Did you mean that we were going to work through lunch?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Nobody wants to work through lunch to deal with me being hungry but we're just going to take a quick lunch, if that's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Perhaps maybe from 12:30 to 1:00-ish or so.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 12:30?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: If that's okay with you folks?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: But we'll...we'll try our best to be quick.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I might have to leave at 12:00.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's fine. Thank you. Okay. Let's move on.

**ITEM 11(21): RESOLUTION 25-192, SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION:  
AISSA NISHIYAMA V. COUNTY OF MAUI POLICE  
DEPARTMENT, ET AL., CIVIL 2CCV-23-0000346**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We have before us Resolution 25-192, which would approve the settlement for *Aissa Nishiyama v. Maui County Police Department* [sic], *et al.*, Civil

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

2CCV-23-0000346 filed on October 30th, 2023. The claim alleges unlawful employment discrimination and retaliation between October 18th, 2021, and July 15th, 2023. If I could, at this time, ask Ms. Leeder from Deputy Corp...from Corporation Counsel for any opening comments. Thank you.

MS. LEEDER: Yes. And good morning, Council. Aissa Nishiyama was a Juvenile Counselor with the Maui Police Department. And she did file suit for the...the claims that...as were stated; employment discrimination, retaliation, and also whistleblowing. Trial is set for May 11th. We had an initial demand letter come in, but it was way back in 2023, before I was on the case, and apparently, that was immediately rejected. So we...we haven't brought this before you. Now, we're going into the final discovery, and we'd like to get approval for settlement authority going in. While we have defenses against her claims, there is some risk. And so, I'd like to be able to discuss those with you in...in executive session, unless you have some questions preliminary.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much. Assistant Chief Okamoto, are you online? And if so, do you have any opening comments?

MR. OKAMOTO: I'm online but no comments at this time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much. Before we go into discussion, do we have anybody wishing to testify on this item, GREAT-11(21)?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, there is one individual who signed up online. Jim Langford --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: All right.

MS. MACDONALD: -- is our first testifier. Mr. Langford, we have promoted you, so you are unmuted on your end; you'll just...on our end. You'll have to unmute yourself on your end. In the top right-hand corner, you should see a camera and mic icon with a line through it. You'll have to click on those to unmute. Chair, there's nobody else signed up to testify, but there's an individual --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. MACDONALD: -- yeah, approaching the podium. So we can return to Mr. Langford after.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-11(21) . . .**

MR. LAW: Jasee Law, Waiakoa Ahupua'a. Good morning, Councilmembers and Council Chair Nohelani. It's regretful that things like this happen. And I haven't read the...the packet to find out what's going on, but I just wanted to stick up for my local police chief. And I won't get too much into the...the man versus woman thing. And I save the rest of my time for the Hawaiians.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Do we have Mr. Langford?

MS. MACDONALD: We've promoted Mr. Langford, but he hasn't unmuted himself on his end, so...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Can you please do last call? And then we can move on.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes. If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know. Or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call; three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Members, seeing there are no more individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-11(21) . . .**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, again, we're going to have a three-minute round, so if you have any questions that you would like to ask in open session, please feel the need to do so now and raise your hand. If not...I don't see anybody. I'm going to make a motion to go into executive session.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So moved.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I will entertain a motion made by Chair Lee to convene in executive meetings in accordance with Section 92-5(a)(4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to consult with legal counsel on questions and issues pertaining to the powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liability [*sic*] of the County, the Council, and the Committee. And Section 92-5(a)(8), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to deliberate or make a decision upon a matter that requires the consideration of information that must be kept confidential pursuant to a State or Federal law, or court order...order. I have a motion made by Chair Lee. Do I have a second –

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: – by Member Sugimura to enter executive session for Resolution 25-92 [*sic*]. Any further questions? Seeing none. All those in favor, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, I'm seeing seven "ayes;" zero "noes;" one excused, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

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

**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION: RECESS open meeting and CONVENE executive meeting.**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. For the record, the following personnel will be in attendance in this executive meeting all Councilmembers, including myself, Committee Chair Nohe U‘u-Hodgins; Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin; Councilmember Tom Cook; Councilmember Gabe Johnson; Council Chair Alice Lee; Councilmember Shane Sinenci; and Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. We have with us, as well, Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney, and Maria Leon, Committee Secretary. From Corporation Counsel -- are we going to have you -- Deputy Corporation Counsel Susan Leeder. Mr. Thomas Kolbe, are you going to be staying as well? Okay. Ms. Hoke...Abby...Abby Hoke. Okay, those three. Did I say your name correctly? Okay. At this time --

MS. LEEDER: Chair, can we have Gregg Okamoto also?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Can we have Mr. Gregg Okamoto? Can we have Mr. Okamoto?

MR. HANANO: Yeah, that'll be fine, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. And Assistant Chief Gregg Okamoto. We are going to take a five-minute recess as we...and we will reconvene in executive meeting. Members, don't touch your computer screens. Kasie will move you over. And we are now in recess, and it is 11:17. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 11:17 a.m.**

**RECONVENE: 11:50 a.m.**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back, everybody, to Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting. Will it please reconvene? It is 11:50.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

Members, we have just completed our executive meeting on Resolution 25-192. And if, right now, I could just refer to Mr. Hanano to please provide us a summary in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 92-4.

MR. HANANO: Thank you, Chair. Your GREAT Committee met in executive session to discuss strengths and weaknesses of the case; settlement authority amounts by Corporation Counsel. There was some discussion regarding policies and procedures of the Maui Police Department related to spreading of rumors or harassment, which I think should be discussed in open session. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Assistant Chief Okamoto, is he with us? Yes. Okay. Can you please turn your camera on? And then Member Paltin has a question for you. If you don't have the answer, we can also send you the question in writing. But it was related to--oh, did you want to...did you want to ask? I don't want to take away your words.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was wondering what the process and procedures are when there's rumors going around about employees' personal, sexual life?

MR. OKAMOTO: So yeah, they have the right to make a complaint if there's a particular person that...that they feel is...started that rumor. And then it'll...it'll be either investigated by their supervisor or Internal Affairs.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Is...is there any process, policy, or procedure of the folks repeating an untrue rumor to get a negative evaluation on the JPR, as this individual was given a negative evaluation on her JPR for gossiping?

MR. KOLBE: Chair, this is Tom Kolbe.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .(audio interference). . . you have an answer.

MR. KOLBE: No. I just...I...I think...and now that we're not in executive session, anything related to the specific details of this case should be kind of discussed in more of a general pattern. So if there are general orders or other particular protocols that are in place at...at the Police Department, those would be appropriate to discuss rather than specifics related to this case.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: If anyone is found to be repeating a rumor, will they receive a negative mark on their JPR?

MR. OKAMOTO: Well, so the...the categories for evaluation is based on performance. So if that rumor is part of their...you know, is some sort of negative reflection on...on their performance category, then...then it...yeah, it can...it can be used as a justification for their...their rating.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I don't think you're understanding the question I'm asking. If the upper chain --

MR. OKAMOTO: You're saying...you're...you're saying that...sorry, go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: If the upper chain of command believes a rumor, endorses it, and further repeats it amongst the chain of command, is there negative consequences for those people that are repeating and furthering a rumor against the female employee that they are untruly having sexual relations with their supervisor? Is there any consequence, within the MPD, for folks that repeat an untrue rumor?

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay. So are you asking specifically, because...because as I stated --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: As process and procedure --

MR. OKAMOTO: -- you know, there...there --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- I'm asking, is there negative --

MR. OKAMOTO: Right. So --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- consequences in the Maui Police Department for anyone to repeat an untrue rumor about having sexual relations with a supervisor? Is there any consequences for that, negative?

MR. OKAMOTO: Okay. So now...so, now...again...so...so like I said, you're...you're talking about, like, a specific rumor. But then there are certain behaviors that are...general behaviors that are prohibited. Like I say, if you're saying that it's...now you're talking about evaluation marks too, and stuff like that too. So, again, if it's part of their performance of their duties, then, yeah, then it...it can be used in...in evaluating and employee. But then now you're talking about...also is there consequences for, like, that specific act. But is...is that...is that what you're asking?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, because there should be no place to repeat untrue rumors. I mean, there should be negative consequences, and I'm asking is there?

MR. OKAMOTO: But again, you're...so you're talking about spreading rumors. Is it...is there a perceived harassment...is the harassment complaint that...that they're going to make against...against someone. You know, we're talking about conduct and how...how...internally how employees treat each other, we do have rules against that...rules for that as well, too, policies for that, so...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: All the way to the upper chain of command...or to follow the same rules?

MR. OKAMOTO: Yeah. The policies apply to everyone in the...the Department.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I --

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- I hope so.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Paltin. Thank you, Assistant Chief Okamoto. Members, are there any other questions before we move on to my recommendation? Thank you very much. At this time, I would like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 25-192, including any nonsubstantive revisions.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. I have a motion made by Member Cook, a second by Member Sugimura. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's seven "ayes"...six "ayes;" zero "noes;" two excused, Chair Lee and Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:     None.**

**EXCUSED:   Councilmembers Lee and Rawlins-Fernandez.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 25-192.**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Members, if you don't mind, we're going to take the next item up on the agenda before we take recess. It should be relatively quick.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

**ITEM 11(22): RESOLUTION 25-196, SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION:  
KANANI KEALOHA FALEAFINE; CLAIM 4A25055GZPO-0001  
(PROPERTY DAMAGE)**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So, before us we have Resolution 25-196, which would approve the settlement of the claim filed on May 5th, 2025, in the amount of \$55,668.18. The claim alleges dam...alleges damages to the claimant's property resulting from a sewer line collapse under the property occurring on or about June 1st of 2024. At this time, I'm going to ask for opening comments by Deputy Corporation Counsel Susan Leeder.

MS. LEEDER: We also have Clifton Song from Environmental Management . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Clifton Song. Okay.

MS. LEEDER: Thank you. Thanks, Council. So yeah, as mentioned, it was a sewer line collapse. This is a fairly old sewer line. And the owners of the property, it's a commercial property. They rent space to a gym, among some other tenants. And during the time that the sewer line was getting repaired, they actually did not have bathrooms, and it's a gym. It's the Ho'omana Barbell gym. It didn't have any restrooms. They were using restrooms next door, and neighbors, and that sort of thing. So the claim is actually for their lost rent during that time and also for some additional water bills during the...the time of the repair and some...a few cleanup items, so...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LEEDER: And I did reach out...Mr. Song is here, but he...he went and did the initial inspection, but then requested help. And it went to a civil engineer at Capital Improvements. And I initially hoped he could be here, but unfortunately, he had a site inspection out in Lahaina with people from the mainland, so he's not able to be here. But he did provide me a statement that I could...could read that I think would probably answer some of the questions. And he states...and he says he would swear to this as truthful. We had to replace the old sewer line, sewer line C or SLC, because it had collapsed. SLC had been problematic for some time. And, in fact, we had to install a new sewer line on Pikale Place a few years ago to reconnect homes which were previously serviced by another portion that had previously collapsed. Unfortunately, we could not collect...excuse me, connect the home on Barbell Island...and Island Appraisals and Spalding Realty to the new line because it would be impossible to run a lateral from those properties to the new Pikale Place line. Meaning those properties had to remain with the old sewer lines, which eventually failed completely. And he goes on to describe more details. If you have more questions, I can go into those more. But so essentially, it's...it's lost rent, cleanup, and water that we're. . .*(inaudible)*. . .that they're...and they...they have settled this if...if you approve it.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Does Environmental Management have any comments? I...is Director Agawa online? Or Mr. Song, do you want to provide any comments?

MR. SONG: I have none.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Mister...Director Agawa, do you have any comments?

MR. AGAWA: Hi, Chair. No comments in addition to Mr. Rivera's statement that was just read. I was going to say the exact same thing to give a little bit of background.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: But we do acknowledge that the pipe collapsed and that we had to make repairs in that area. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members, I should have mentioned earlier, but this is, again, settlement authorization for Kanani Kealoha-Faleafine claim 4A25055GZP0-0001, property damage. This is GREAT item 11(22). Do we have any testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently no one who is signed up to testify. I could do a last call?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please.

MS. MACDONALD: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know. Or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call; three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members, without objection, I will now close oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-11(22) . . .**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Written is still and will happily be accepted. We're going to have a three-minute questioning period. Members, if you have any questions, please raise your hand. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just checking if there were receipts received for the damages.

MS. LEEDER: Yeah. So they provided us...and it's in the claim. They provided us the rent, what they had received on rent. Although, it has an explanation that apparently the tenants at the gym were behind on their rent. So they itemized it out by month and then provided us the bank record of what they actually received, with an explanation that a lot of that was paying back rent. So for the time period that they're requesting, they didn't receive any actual rent from that. So I did review those bank records. We also were provided with the water bill, which does show the amounts that they...they

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

were requesting. One that's due...they had stated more...due to the contractor of 162, and then the time when they had extra water between...or I'm sorry, they had water bills between the time of the repair that they weren't able to...to use the facilities.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(audio interference)*. . . thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Of course. Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member Johnson, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. This question might be for Mr. Song, but if Corporation Counsel has the answer. The water bill jumped by a lot. And I'm curious to what was going on. In May of 2024, it was \$48, and then in August it was \$405. Was that due to the damage or...was it just water...what...what happened? Why is it so high?

MR. SONG: I'm not sure. Our contractor worked on the line. . .*(inaudible)*. . .sorry.

MS. LEEDER: Oh, sorry.

MR. SONG: I'm unaware of what caused the raise in the rates. Our contractor was working on the line. County personnel were not working on the property.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. And they're asking for us to pay that whole list of water bills from May 2024 to 9/2024. That's correct?

MR. SONG: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. SONG: I'm not sure if that's contractor use. I cannot confirm. That would be a Juan Rivera question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. What is the total? I'm...I'm looking for the total ask...or for settlement. Do we --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- is it --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: \$5,668.18 [*sic*].

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Okay. All right. No further questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Johnson. Members, any other questions? Okay. Then, at this time I would like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 25-196, including any nonsubstantive revisions.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I have a motion made by Member Cook and a second by Member Sugimura. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's six "ayes;" zero "noes;" two excused, Chair Lee and Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Motion carries.

**VOTE:       AYES:   Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Sinenci, and Sugimura.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXCUSED:   Councilmembers Lee and Rawlins-Fernandez.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 25-196.**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Okay. Members, we do have three more things on the agenda. The next is Komar, and we will go into executive session for that. The next is Chair Lee's one regarding alternates on boards and commissions. And the last is Member Paltin's one relating to the Commission of Children and Youth. What would you folks like to do because it's only 12:00 now? How long of a lunch do you folks want to take? You want to take a one-hour lunch? Well, we were...we were in a recess from like 9:30 to 11:00.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, Chair, I don't mind a shorter recess, half hour, 45 minutes.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Do you guys want to come back at 12:45?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Is 12:45 okay with you folks? What about you guys, Corp. Counsel, you guys okay? Kasie, you okay? Peter, are you okay? Maria, you guys okay? 12:45.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

Okay. Well, it is 12:05 now, and we will be in lunch recess until 12:45. See you folks in 40 minutes. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS:** 12:05 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 12:59 p.m.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: . . .(gavel). . . Good afternoon, Members. Will the GREAT Committee please reconvene. It is 12:59 p.m.

**ITEM 11(23): RESOLUTION 25-201, SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION:  
COUNTY OF MAUI, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT V. KOMAR MAUI PROPERTIES I LLC, CASE  
1:24-CV-00203-KJM**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We're going to go straight into the next item on our agenda, which is Resolution 25-201, Settlement Authorization: *County of Maui, Department of Environmental Management v. Komar Maui Properties I LLC*, Case 1:24-cv-0020...03, GREAT-11(23). So, again, Members, we have before us Resolution 25-201, which would approve the settlement of *County of Maui, Department of Environmental Management v. Komars [sic] Properties*. They are...Komar Properties is seeking abandonment damages under Section 101-27, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, after the County withdrew claims of eminent domain of the subject property identified as Tax Map Key (2) 3-8-003-020 on or about November 18th, 2024. And at this time, I'm going to ask Corporation Counsel for opening comments. Thank you.

MS. TARNSTROM: Thank you, Chair. This is in regards to the eminent domain action the County brought to obtain property owned by Komar Maui Properties I LLC, that's the property they own that's close to the Central Maui Landfill. This Council is aware, after multiple attempts to buy the property, we initiated an eminent domain for the purposes of using it for the permanent disposal site for the Lahaina debris --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

MS. TARNSTROM: -- for various reasons. Chiefly, that the County was not able to maintain...or obtain immediate possession of the property. And at the same time Nan Inc. land became available for purchase, we abandoned the eminent domain action. Under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes 101-27, when a government entity abandons eminent domain actions, that allows the landowner to seek what's called abandonment damages. And that can include attorneys' fees, costs, other reasonable expenses, and damages that they occurred because of the eminent domain. Komar has exercised that right to seek those damages, and the Federal Courts have set a jury trial for determination of those damages next year in I think it's August right now. So the parties had a settlement conference on October 24th, and we are here to discuss settlement liabilities of the County, and would request to move into executive session to discuss the details of all that. Thank you.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Ms. Tarnstrom. Before moving on to discussion, Members, do we have any testifiers wishing to testify on this item?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's no one signed up to testify, but I see someone approaching the podium.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: All right.

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-11(23) . . .**

MR. LAW: Aloha Ka ‘Aha o ke Kalana O Luna Ho‘omalu. Jasee Law from Kula Uka, Waiakoa Ahupua‘a. Thank you, Corp. Counsel, for working on this one. I think if we would've had a court in Hawai‘i then we probably would've got it because California is a lot bigger, and they don't have the same problems we do with waste disposal. It was November 5th, 2019, that I learned about a process called...and you're the perfect one for this one, Nohelani, because I learned about the process of gasification, which is high temperatures under pressure, and here's the trick, with no fire. And if we would've just spent a lot...our time and money on getting one of these gasification machines for the waste process then we would've been a lot further along. And so, yeah, that's it. Gasification. Look it up, you guys. Thank you for your time. And I save the rest of my time for the Hawaiians.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Anybody else wishing to testify?

MS. MACDONALD: No, Chair. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Please.

MS. MACDONALD: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know. Or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call; three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Members, without objection, I will now close oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-11(23) . . .**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Written testimony will continue to be accepted. Again, we're going to have a three-minute discussion period per Member. If you have any questions, please raise your hand. Please note, we plan to go into executive session. So ask any questions you feel is comfortable in open session. Okay. Wait, I hear an echo. We got it? Okay, thank you. Member Paltin.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was wondering if the abandonment of eminent domain triggers these things to be paid for by the County. Would it...is it...there...better to not abandon it? I mean, I know it's not a eminent need for the debris removal, but we aren't really cutting down on the amount of waste we produce. Would it make sense to not abandon the eminent domain?

MS. TARNSTROM: I can't...I can't speak to the policy decision choosing to abandon the eminent domain. I can say that I believe the purpose of the statute is distinguishing abandonment between actually taking the property. If we actually took the property, we would just owe compensation, and that would cover the landowner's, you know, somewhat of their damages. But really...mainly just...they would get some compensation for their land. In this instance, I believe the statute kind of contemplates us taking possession, and maybe causing damages, and then letting go of the action because . . .(inaudible). . . --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Which . . .(inaudible). . . --

MS. TARNSTROM: -- something like that. So the idea is to compensate the landowner for...for those abandoned actions. Again, it's a policy decision as to...to whether or not to maintain the eminent domain and move forward with it. I believe greater concerns were related to the identification of a permanent disposal site, and I think that was the focus. But I can't really speak to that . . .(inaudible). . . --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then we passed a resolution to go forward with the eminent domain. Do we need to pass a resolution to abandon it or...

MS. TARNSTROM: That's a good question. I don't...I don't believe that...there's no requirement in the State statute that requires a withdrawal of eminent domain be approved by a Council. There is a requirement that the County Council approve the action of eminent domain. It doesn't require the dismissal of an action of eminent domain.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So, at any time, the Administration could pick it up and run with it because we already passed the resolution to eminent domain?

MS. TARNSTROM: I think...I think that the...the...I would have to look at the State statute. But I think there's specific requirements as to the initiation of the eminent domain as...as permitted by the County Council. I don't think we could just pick it up and...and run with it.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Because we already secured the site for the purpose --

MS. TARNSTROM: Right, because it --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- that it was being eminent domain for.

MS. TARNSTROM: -- it involves the appraisals within a certain amount of time and...and a amount certain put aside for the eminent domain, so yeah.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I think that's all my open-session questions. I'll yield to anyone else.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you, Member Paltin. Members, any other--Member Sinenci, please feel free.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, just a clarification, the County is the plaintiff.

MS. TARNSTROM: Yeah. Thank you. We are the plaintiff. There's a bit of...a bit of confusion in this kind of case because it was consolidated in another matter but...in which we were the defendant. But the remaining case, we are the plaintiff and Komar Properties is the defendant.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Members, any other open-session questions? If not, I would like to entertain a motion to convene an executive meeting in accordance with Section 92-5(a)(4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to consult with legal counsel on questions and issues pertaining to the powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liability [*sic*] of the County...the County, the Council, and Committee. And Section 92-5(a)(8), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to deliberate or make a decision upon a matter that requires consideration of information that must be kept confidential pursuant to a State or Federal law, or court order.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I have a motion made by Member Sugimura and a second made by Chair Lee to enter into executive session for Resolution 25-201. Any further questions or discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight "ayes," zero "noes." Motion carries.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

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

**NOES:**    **None.**

**ABSTAIN:** **None.**

**ABSENT:** **None.**

**EXC.:**   **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**    **RECESS open meeting and CONVENE executive meeting.**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. For the record, the following persons will be in attendance in this executive meeting: all Councilmembers here right now and online, which include myself, Committee Chair Nohe U‘u-Hodgins; Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin; Councilmember Tom Cook; Councilmember Gabe Johnson; Council Chair Alice Lee; Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez; Councilmember Shane Sinenci; and Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. Office of Council Services Staff include Mr. Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney, and Maria Leon, Committee Secretary. From Corporation Counsel, we have Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristen Tarnstrom and Deputy Corporation Counsel Thomas Kolbe. We are--huh? And Deputy Corporation Counsel Susan Leeder and Abby Hoke. And again, we are going to take a five-minute recess, it is 1:09, to set up an executive meeting. Members --

MS. MACDONALD: Chair?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. MACDONALD: I apologize. I believe Director Agawa is also online.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, and Director Agawa.

MS. MACDONALD: Yeah, if --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, that sounds great. And Director Agawa of Environmental Management. We're going to, again, take a five-minute recess. It is 1:10. See you folks in a few. Don't touch your computer. Kasie will move you over. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

**RECESS:** 1:10 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** 3:12 p.m.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .(*gavel*). . . Will the GREAT Committee please reconvene. It is 3:12 p.m. Thank you, Members, and public, and everybody else in this room for your patience. Today has been trying us all. We have just completed our executive meeting on Resolution 25-201. And at this time, I would like to refer to Mr. Hanano to provide us a summary in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Section 92-4.

MR. HANANO: Thank you, Chair. Your Committee met in executive session to discuss with Corporation Counsel settlement efforts, case strategy, settlement authority, County's defenses, and County's exposure, as well as any settlement authority. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members, any questions before we move on to my recommendation? Seeing none. I would like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 25-201, including any nonsubstantive revisions.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. I have a motion made by Member Cook, second by Member Sugimura. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight "ayes," zero "noes." Motion carries.

**VOTE: AYES: Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura.**

**NOES: None.**

**ABSTAIN: None.**

**ABSENT: None.**

**EXCUSED: None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION: Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 25-201.**

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Members, if you don't mind, let's finish off the next two items because I think we have enough internet service to go, but we will make it quick, if that's okay with you folks, just in case. We do need to adjourn this meeting so that the morning's time-sensitive issues are not lost. So we're going to continue on.

**ITEM 13: BILL 105 (2025), ON ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: And we have before us Bill 105 (2024) [*sic*]--thank you--entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 2, MAUI COUNTY CODE, ON ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS." Bill 105's purpose is to allow alternate members to fill mid-term vacancies on boards and commissions on an interim basis. Right now, we don't have that option. Chair Lee, did you want to add anything else before we take testimony?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, the purpose is to allow alternate Members to fill mid-term vacancies on board and commissions on an interim basis.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So...okay. Thanks.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Do we have Jody Yoshida? Does she want to provide us any remarks before we take testimony? Okay. We don't see her online. Let's go into testimony for this Bill 105. Do we have any testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently no one who is signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Please.

MS. MACDONALD: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know. Or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call; three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members, without objection, I will now close oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-13 . . .**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. We're going to have a three-minute questioning period with any follow-up you

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**December 3, 2025**

---

folks need. But again, we're trying to make this quick. So it's pretty straightforward. Right now, it's just to allow alternate Members which...are...how many boards and commissions have alternate members? Just a handful. There's only two. And, you know, if somebody...if a regular member does, for whatever, need to leave, it will provide them a way to fill the vacancy with the alternate member as it...as...as it should be. Anybody have any questions? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. The Bill 105 states the Hāna Advisory Committee, that would be one of the...the...boards that have alter...alternates?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: What would be the...does it state the other one?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I think it's like UDRB or something. And Public Works, so three.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And so, we would just be following those examples.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. All three of them will have the same process to fill a vacancy with our alternates.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, my internet on my Surface Pro isn't working. I was trying to pull up the bill, but just wondering if it was signed by Corp. Counsel.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Let me check.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And if my internet --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- was working, I would check.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I don't see that...I only see that it's signed by Chair Lee. Do we have any issue with it, Corp. Counsel? Do you want a copy? I have it here. Do you want this one? It's a hard copy.

MR. KOLBE: It is just signed by Chair Lee. What's the question?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Would...would you --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Are you okay with it?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

MR. KOLBE: Oh, yes, I understand now. It hasn't been approved or...or recommended. Okay.  
Yes.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can we get the signed copy by first reading?

MR. KOLBE: Yes.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. KOLBE: Yeah, when...when is that?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Friday.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: No, probably --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Not this Friday.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Not this Friday.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- probably the 19th.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The 19th or after.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. KOLBE: Yes.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We can work with you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: That concludes my questions.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Perfect. Does anybody else have any other questions? Seeing none. I would like to entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 105 (2025), including any nonsubstantive revisions. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I have a motion made by Councilmember Cook and second by Chair Lee. Any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor--oh. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you have discussion. Please go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Real quick. I fully support this and maybe we can have alternates for, like, all the boards and commissions to help. . .*(inaudible)*. . .great idea, Chair Lee. Mahalo.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Or at least . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. All those in favor, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight "ayes," zero "noes." Motion carries.

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

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXCUSED:   None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     Recommending FIRST READING of Bill 105 (2025).**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. This item will move on to full Council for its consideration with a signed bill at that time. Thank you. Okay, last item.

**ITEM 14:       BILL 118 (2025), ON THE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We have before us Bill 118 (2025), A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 2.39, MAUI COUNTY CODE, ON THE COMMISSION OF [*sic*] CHILDREN AND YOUTH. It is again to disband this Commission of Children and Youth. Member Paltin, did you want to have any opening comments?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sure. You know, the mass nominations is a unwieldy beast and there are boards and commissions that have a specific outcome to it that helps the County function like, you know, Planning Commission, Cultural Resources Commission. It needs to give these approvals before other things can happen. And Chair Lee had said that in her creation of the Commission on Children and Youth they were to weigh in on

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

the distribution of early childhood education grants and in asking Department of Human Concerns if they do, they do not. And just saying that our boards and commissions, as well as ourselves, are kind of held up from doing important work by the Sunshine Law. You can't meet together without agendizing it. So, you know, it's all that work. You can't have conversations outside of the meeting that is unagendized and things like that. And so, I think having this board or commission not...not doing the original intention of the function that it was created for and not stopping them from meeting but from being a board and commission that is part of the unwieldy beast just makes sense to me. Not saying that these individuals couldn't continue to meet on their own and do the great things on their own. But it just doesn't make sense to me to continue on this process in this way, especially that it's not fulfilling the original intent that it was created for.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much. Oh, hold on, we're not in discussion. That was just opening comments.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: But I will call on you first after we take testimony. Do we--Jody Yoshida, is she still with us? If not, I'll move on.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: She's staffing INB.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, she's staffing INB. Okay, got it. Okay. Then let's go into the testimony Bill 18...118.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, there is no one signed up to testify. Would you like me do a last call?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please.

MS. MACDONALD: If there's anybody in the Chamber who would like to testify, please let Staff know. Or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call; three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members, if there are no objections I'm going to close oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**... CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-14 ...**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Written testimony will continue to be accepted. We're going to do, again, a three-minute discussion period, and I'll begin with Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I'm not opposed to disbanding this Commission.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

However...however, the...the mission still exists, that early childhood education...preschool education, all of that needs continued attention. And I would suggest that the Department of Human Concerns create an advisory committee to help them come up with proposed legislation or programs to...to fund to advance this very important issue. And so, as far as having an...you know, an actual board that is subject to so many rules and regulations, and it's so difficult even finding people to fill it, something more informal might be more helpful. Thanks.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Member Sugimura. And did everybody get the testimony submitted by the Chair of the...okay. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So what's going to happen--we just, I think, approved someone to be on the Commission. So what are we going to do with the members?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Good question. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, if...if they want to be a part of the advisory committee or if they would love to serve on other boards and commissions. We sure do have a lot of vacancies. So --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We do.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- I mean, either option would be great, I think. Or they could do both. Fill out in another board or commission and be an advisory member, or either one.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Is it impossible to take this commission...I'm sure they already have parameters...but to make them advisory instead of disbanding them and then changing the scope of their work. Does that require a bunch of stuff on our end? Maybe Mr. Kolbe can answer the question. I can't...I was trying to look up their minutes, as suggested by the Chair. But, of course, our internet is really junky right now.

MR. KOLBE: Chair, I don't have the...the minutes in front of me. I mean, the objectives to these functions are all laid out in Chapter 2.39 of the Maui County Code. And this was created by an ordinance, and there's an ordinance here to undo the Commission. So I guess if you wanted to have something informal or removed, certain of the objectives, duties, or functions, I guess we could do that. But I'm not certain whether you would need to make changes to your ordinance in order to do that.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. KOLBE: It shall also make recommendations to County Council on all matters related to children and youth and children and youth programs proposed for adoption by the County Council. So if...if that is the primary objective, duty, and function of the Commission, it's essentially advisory in some context.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: It is advisory. And initially, they were--Member Paltin, and initially they were organized to help determine what? . . .(inaudible). . . --

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**December 3, 2025**

---

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: How the early childhood education monies are distributed.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: But they no longer do that?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I don't think they've ever done that.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I answer that?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, please.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. When I was the Housing Director and Human Concerns Director, we had what is called a Grants Review Committee --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- which decided where all the monies would go with regard to social grants. So that would include children, teenagers, and kūpuna. And I had asked each...each group...like for...for the kūpuna group, the early childhood group, the animal group, the...all...all these different groups to advise the Council on their recommendations on who should get the funding --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- rather than only one committee, the Grants Review Committee --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- deciding where all the money goes, no matter what purpose.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's...that was the setup before.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That...and so, this Early Childhood and Youth Commission was supposed to help us because one of the issues that I used to face was the Grants Review Committee would...would give it to the same people every year, no changes. You know, so when new groups came up they didn't have a chance. That's why.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I...I appreciate that times have changed, and I appreciate the efforts to kind of, you know, get with times. But, you know, I...I

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

have here the...the meeting minutes of the past meeting. And I'd say...I'd argue these guys are doing great work. Just the few things they're talking about: there's a vocational newsletter by Teens On Call, artificial intelligence and its roles in family in educational institutions, Maui Nui and Ka Pewa Youth Summit. This is really fascinating to me. They did a temporary investigative group, a TIG, on investigating mandating reported...reporting in the Maui Police Department, Department of Ed., and the Department of Human Services and entities in childcare. They're...they're doing the work out there...information on homelessness. These are all very important topics that...that this Committee is working...working on. So I...I kind of like keeping it there. Now, the issues about quorum and those types of things, I really understand. And I...you know we...we sent Axel Beers, my...from my team to go and speak on this. And one of the things they were talking about is adding a youth age into the membership, between ages 14 and 24, like the way the Honolulu...the Honolulu Youth Commission does. And if...you know, they're talking with the Corporation Counsel to...to see how that would work. I'm...I would...I'd like to initiate something like that where you expand it so you can bring younger people on the board about young people. You know, it kind of makes sense to me. I think that...that this...this...after looking at some of the...the things that they're trying to tackle, I think it's a worthy endeavor to keep them doing it. And if we need to maybe widen the scope and add some younger folks on there so that you can get more of a pool of people who are interested in this. You know, if you recall, Members, we had all the kids come down and sit in our seats and debate...debate policies, and I thought that was fascinating. So to have, you know, kids more involved, especially on issues that concern them, like some of the topics that I just mentioned, I think that's really important that...that we do more...more of this kind of work. So I think that...and I don't think I could support something like that, you know, right now. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: To be clear that I'm supportive of that kind of stuff. I don't think that being a formal board or commission furthers that endeavor. You know, if they want to call each other up and work on things, Sunshine Law prevents it, you know. If anybody from anywhere wants to come and be a part of it, the process of the boards and commissions and the selection prevents it. I think that, you know, before taking on this job or becoming a part of anything that involves Sunshine Law, there's not an awareness of how limiting it is. And I'd love to see them continue the work they're doing and expand it beyond the bounds of the Sunshine Law because even for this Council, for almost all the boards and commissions, I understand the purpose of the Sunshine Law, so that decisions don't get made behind...behind closed doors.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Or, you know, things that affect other people don't happen in a vacuum or...or, like, that people are allowed to testify. But in...in helping our children and youth, I think that being this type of board or commission is a limiting factor. And I think that there are other ways to accomplish things that may be better. And that by relying on a set of individuals that have to go through this process, that have to get Sunshine Law

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

training, that have to be gathered in a certain way, it feels as though we're pushing it off to a select group of people and...and being done with it, you know. And so, I...I don't disagree with Member Johnson that they are doing important work. I just think that there are better, or more efficient, or other ways to do it. I can be amendable to the fact that we don't have those set up yet --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- and we could work on some other ways for folks to do it before disbanding it, or whatever. But I don't feel that we should continue on this process that doesn't necessarily have...it's...it's kind of just dependent on who is on the board at the time, if they are putting things out. Like the iteration of these people before, there was all sorts of problems and...and there were hardly quorum, and things --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- like that. And then people stepping down, and other things like that. So I just...I don't disagree that right at this moment they're tackling important things. Do I think that it could be done in a more effective and better manner, and that we're not doing them because this thing exists? Yes. And so, that's why. And then also the unwieldy beast part as well. But I think, you know, if...if we want to concentrate on children and youth, creating a board or commission that's called Children and Youth and just letting them go based on an ordinance isn't our best way to do it. You know, there are existing PTSAs around the County or, like, you know, getting together groups of educators, or people specialized in sports, or whatever, and giving them some sort of support that isn't in the form of a Sunshine Law board to me is more effective. And...and just having the Sunshine Law board there is like, oh, we...we've done something for children and youth. So that's where I'm coming from.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I...I understand the limitations it has on us. Like, a lot of times I just want to take the nine of us someplace, look at something on...on a spur when it's happening, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . talk it out with the people in the community right there but prevented. And...and then they're like, why is government so slow, why is there bureaucracy? No, no, no it's like, yeah, because the law.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Member Paltin, can I ask you, after...maybe you know or maybe Chair Lee knows. But after this Commission discusses whatever item is on the agenda, where do...where does their opinions go? Do we see it come to fruition in the County in any place? Do you know?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: To my knowledge, I haven't seen it. But, like, you know, the...the projects that they're doing, they said something about the bus, talking points, and like that but --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. Yeah. Talking Is Teaching Campaign and they're putting buses

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

on posters [sic].

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. But I mean if they...if they don't do anything...like say if we produce iterations of the board, or whatever, nobody knows. Nobody...whatever. But I did see Member Rawlins-Fernandez had her hand up.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Member Paltin. I think this is a great discussion. And mahalo for the proposal in addressing an issue that we faced for a couple years now, the challenge of filling vacancies and keeping folks on boards and commissions and being able to achieve quorum for, you know, the various boards and commissions. I agree with Member Johnson's points, excellent points. And, you know, perhaps we as Councilmembers can, you know, go to organizations or try to connect with organizations that are doing this work and other youth groups that are being the voice of youth. I know that the...I think the State has a youth commission. We have...one of my former interns serves on that, so. I think...I can...I can support this. And I understand the origins of it, that it was formed to serve one purpose and then that purpose went away, and then it kind of fell on the board, itself, or the commission itself, the members to, you know, make it continue to be (*audio interference*) choosing grants was no longer something that was under their authority. My suggestion, before, you know, taking action in disbanding the Commission, is perhaps asking them when they would like to disband. Initially, I was thinking, oh, how about we give them another year to complete whatever it is they're doing. And then I was thinking, you know, maybe, you know, we...we could set for up to a year and then they can disband in a month if they wanted to because the legislation takes effect upon passage.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And so, once it passes --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the...the section is repealed, and it takes effect immediately. And I...I hate to just, you know, cut them off mid-conversation, especially since Member Johnson pulled up their meeting minutes and saw.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, three of the commissioners term out on...in 2027, two of them 2028, and then --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: One.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- one next year in March, and then one in 2030. So, you know, three of them, almost half of who's left, there's two vacancies, term out

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

in two years. So I was thinking of maybe asking their opinion on, like, how many...you know, if...if they want a few more months to complete whatever it is that they're doing. And then we, you know, repeal that section the time that they recommend.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: How would we do that?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: If I can respond?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, did you ask them?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: No, I...I wanted to...a little bit of dialogue on that. Like, I think it is a good idea, but unless they're watching this right now, they don't know what is going on in our mind or what. And maybe we should send them correspondence about, like, you know, the reason that we're doing this is not because we don't think that you're doing great work. It's that we know how the Sunshine Law can hamstring people from doing more things, and having a broader reach, and the selection process, and like that. Like, you have to meet at a certain time, you have pre-agendize [sic] it, you can't like just have...sit around a circle, and brainstorm, and act on it. So I'm okay with deferring it --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- and maybe under this Committee, like, send them some correspondence --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- and asking the questions, and, like, explaining that we're not trying to not give you support but --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- about the...the limitations of the Sunshine Law and the extent of other things that you could do. And even ask their input on, like, you know, if they feel hamstrung by the Sunshine Law, and if they weren't a Sunshine Law board, like, what other types of support that they...they might have. Like, just allow them to dream, you know, because right now it's like should we have a board or commission or shouldn't we. And, like, there's...they are working on good things --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- with this particular group, even though there's two vacancies. But if you could not be bound by the Sunshine Law, is there more things you would want to do and how would you like the County to support you on that, you know.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. So you want to defer this item, and then we'll send it

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

over to the Commission and they can figure out --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Send the correspondence.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- yeah, how they would like to proceed moving forward, and entertain the idea of some sort of disbandment, and figure out how they could meet otherwise, similar to the Ag Working Group as you used in reference.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I love the Ag Working Group as my example that you don't need to be on a board or commission to do a lot of stuff.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. We...I'm okay to do that as well. Member Johnson, thoughts?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just say that the Youth Council that was here before was a great success. I...I...I think Chair Lee could push that forward if she wanted to. I think it...you know, my office right here has been working to bring the youth into this commission. Again, you know, to make that point, I just want to double down on that, that it's important that...them to be at the seat at the table. And I'd like to try some of the suggestions that we just were talking about before we disband it. The...the...the important point that we're discussing on the Sunshine Law, you know, okay, when we saw the Youth Council here actually following Robert's, actually following these...I thought it was a real-life experience for them, and I...I'll argue that they're not going to forget something like that. So, yeah, it's a burden. It's a different way to talk, you know, and it's different rules, but it's real life. And that's what we, as Councilmembers, have to...have to deal with. It's janky at certain times, you know, the...like with the example Councilmember Paltin said, we should all just go out and look at the place and say, yes, or no, you know, but that's not how we operate, and I think it's real-life experience for the kids. So I...I appreciate the...the...the deferring it, and maybe we can come up with some solutions.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sounds good. Members--oh, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And I support deferring it because --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- Cost of Government is looking at all the boards and

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

commissions. Do we remember that? And one of them that they're looking at is this exact Commission because when it came up, I remember Member Kama was saying oh. Cost of Government. You know, of course she worked with Evan who's the Chair. So, if we can defer it and then find out what...and I just texted Evan, and he said next week they are presenting their recommendations to the INB --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- board. And then maybe we'll hear more of that. You know, we'll have kind of the same situation or circumstances, you know.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And I'm not into the meeting...I'm not allowed to get into the meeting.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, you're...I see you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, I...I can't.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, you're --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh weird --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- on the big screen too.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, that's really weird, it's not on my--never mind --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- running out of time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. Okay. So, Members, then I would like to entertain--do I have to...I have to make a motion to defer, yeah? No? Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, does Staff have all that --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We'll just...recommendation to defer.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You got it? Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, she's got it. I think . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objection.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. No objections to deferring this item, Bill 118?

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**December 3, 2025**

---

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Perfect. I appreciate that compromise, everyone. Today's been a long day. So for right now, this Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting is adjourned. It is 3:42. And I appreciate everyone's time and patience. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ADJOURN:** 3:42 p.m.

great:min:251203min:ml

Transcribed by: Tricia Higa

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

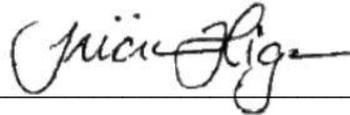
**December 3, 2025**

---

CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 39 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 12th day of December 2025, in Mililani, Hawaii

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

Tricia Higa