

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

**MINUTES**

**April 2, 2025**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE:** 10:02 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member (left at 12:05 p.m.)  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (left at 12:01 p.m.)  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (left at 11:30 a.m.)

**STAFF:** Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney  
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services  
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office  
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office  
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office  
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office  
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

**ADMIN.:** Victoria J. Takayesu, Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Mimi Desjardins, First Deputy, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Lisa Kahuhu, Administrative Assistant, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Lydia Toda, Risk Manager, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel  
John Pelletier, Chief, Department of Police  
Wade Maeda, Deputy Chief, Department of Police

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

Lesley Uemae, Accountant, Department of Police  
Cheyenne “Blaze” Jarnesky, Private Accountant, Department of Police  
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor  
Marcy Martin, Director of Finance

**OTHERS:** John Pele, Maui Hotel & Lodging Association  
Stacey Moniz, Police Commission Chair  
Tom Croly  
De Andre Makakoa  
Junya Nakoa  
Others (21)

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Today is our third day of doing budget deliberations, and it is now 10:01 a.m. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I’m the Chair of this Committee, and we are doing this meeting in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder, when your name is called, if you’re not in the Chamber, please identify who is with you, and minors do not need to be identified. So, at this time then, I’d like to start off with Chair Lee. Good morning, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can. And we can see you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. You can see...oh, good. So, I’m sorry I can’t be there this morning, but...I wish I could say I’m in Costa Rica, but if I were in Costa Ric...if I were in Costa Rica, I would say hola. Hola. So, I’m home alone with...in my workspace, looking forward to your meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Did you say hola? Hola.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, hola. Not [ola], but hola.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Hola. Next we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Costa Rica is on my bucket list. So, hola. And aloha kakahiaka kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hola to you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Hola, Chair, Council Members, community members. There’s no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office, and I’m here and ready to work. Mahalo.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hola to you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokaʻi District Office. And I don't know if Costa Rica speaks Spanish differently, but I don't think the H is pronounced...I think it's a silent H. Mahalo, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know, it's okay. We have choices.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Alternative facts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So funny. So funny. All right. So, always makes an impact, Chair Lee, and thank you very much for the corrections. It's like true to form. Next we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Hola. Aloha. Good morning. Nobody's at the Kihei Office to give testimony right now, but people are standing by.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hola to you. And Member U'u-Hodgins, how was birthday?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It was great. Thank you so much. Luckily for me, my kids love bread pudding and not cake, so I don't have any extra cake. Nobody eats cake in my house, but it was great. Thank you. Good morning, everyone. Happy to be here. Hola. Hola, however we want to say it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Sinenci, you drove all the way to Hāna to...to take this meeting this morning from your home.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hola.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I did. I got home at 10:00 last night. Aloha, hola, and e ola kākou. Here at the Hāna District office with District Staff Members Mavis Medeiros and Dawn Lono, and probably Uncle Don and Jock will join us in a little bit. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Very good. And then we have Vice-Chair Kama. Hola to you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, everyone, and hola to you all. And it really makes a difference on that H because, you know, in Oregon, there's a school called Aloha School in Oregon. They don't pronounce the H in Aloha. And as much as I've talked to them in Oregon, they say, no, this is how we pronounce it. Lost cause. But good morning, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Interesting. Interesting. Very interesting. Okay. Welcome, everybody. So, we have all nine of us with us today. And I just want a special shoutout to Member

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

Sinenci for driving all the way home because he's actually preparing for us to join him this evening in the...in Hāna for the residency area meeting. So, appreciate that. And...and we anticipate a good time, right, in Hāna. I wanted to also welcome the Office of the Mayor Lesley Milner, Budget Director. Good morning. Department of Police Chief John Pelletier. Good morning, Chief.

MR. PELLETIER: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Thanks for being with us. Deputy Police Chief Wade Maeda, who has wonderful children; Lesley Uemae, Accountant, good morning; and Joy Medeiros...Captain Joy Medeiros, who's joined me at some meetings. So, appreciate you being here. I didn't see you. You must be right below me. So, Cheyenne "Blaze" Jarnesky...Cheyenne "Blaze" Jarnesky, Accountant, is here also. Who's here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh, so, who's not here is Joy Medeiros. Ah, okay. She's pretty awesome. Department of Corporation Counsel, we have Victoria Takayesu, thank you very much for being with us; and Mimi Desjardins must be online then, or she's in the...oh, you'll join us later, or you can join us...okay. Lydia Toda is Risk Management Officer, I remember she was at Maui Land & Pine; Lisa Kahuhu, Administrative Assistant; Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel. My awesome Staff with OCS, Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary, thank you very much, Pauline; as well as Yvette Bouthillier, Kirsten Szabo, and James Krueger, Jarret Pascual, Clarissa MacDonald, and they make up the Legislative Analyst Staff brain...brains. Thank you very much for all that you do. Peter Hanano and Richelle Kawasaki is OCS Attorneys. Richelle is actually our Deputy Director, so I don't mean to be disrespectful. She's having computer problems. Lei Dinneen, Counsel Services Assistant, she's out in the lobby. Thank you very much. Please see the last page for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for getting today's Budget Committee meeting together.

**ITEM 1:                    PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
                                 OF MAUI**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And as you know, we have one item on our agenda, which is BFED-1. And what this means is the community can testify on everything and anything that's in the budget for three minutes when it's your time to testify. So, before I go into the meat of the conversation, I just wanted to say that last night we had our first residency area meeting, and it was in Kula. Thank you very much, Kasie, who did notes as we were going through the meeting, has --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Pukalani.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- information...Pukalani. Okay. What did I say? Kula?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, did you think, oh, we weren't in Kula?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I did think it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, anyway, we were at the Hannibal Tavares Community Center, and we are true to form, Members. You are paying attention. Very good. The important thing I think I just want to summarize about the meeting is that the testifiers who came in organized were from the STEM program and with the King Kekaulike High School automotive program, as well as the eSport program in Pukalani Elementary. Both of them were at Pukalani Elementary. I was very impressed with the kids. And then we also had...and of course, they were asking for funding, right? So, they were giving their stories about why whatever they participated in were helpful. And Maui County Farm Bureau. So, Warren Watanabe, who is the executive director, organized his slew of speakers, including Brandon Balthazar, who is hilarious, right? So, it's always fun to see him when he comes. And then the Kula Community Association was also present, just to give us their list of what they want. And of course their list is, you know, much more than...than is in our budget. But I told them I would get back to them and...and talk to them about different things. It was good to see Gerry Ross, the owner of Kupa'a Farms. And I will tell you that when I first met him, I went to his farm because somebody had...had an axis deer that was in my driveway when I first launched the axis deer program, the task force. And somebody took all the trouble in the world to drag this dead deer, put it in my driveway, and we had to figure out how to dispose of it. And that's how I met Gerry Ross. He does composting.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it's pretty gross. But it turned out to be a positive experience. Thank you, Kyle Ellison from Mālama Kula, who is talking about the cleanup of the August 23rd wildfire, and there's still work to do. I will tell you that in my district funds, I have given him...to continue that work of the cleanup, as well as he's gotten an EP&S funding. So, there's work to do, and we're...we haven't forgotten. I think the thing that I want to...well, also, a testifier came up and talked about the need for us to pay attention for Federal funds that may be lost. And I will tell you that it is something of this Committee. It is one of the questions for all the departments that we sent out about the impact of Federal and State funds and your...your programs, and what we need to do. But I think there's more to come...and August, the State is going to have a meeting just to talk about that. I am going to tie into it. So, thank you for that testifier that bringing them...for bringing that up. And I think the funny thing that I want to end with is, one of the testifiers from the automotive program or the STEM program was saying that he enjoyed it much more than he did when he went to the junior prom. And I thought, oh, that's very impactful for how important it is. And I thought...and then, Keani, what was your thought about that? Because you immediately tied into when Brandon Balthazar.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I did, Chair. I asked for a clarifying question because Mr. Balthazar said that he must have not...Kyle--no, it wasn't Kyle--that

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

testifier must have not gone to the proms that he had gone to if his STEM program was more fun than his prom. So, I had asked for a clarifying question on his prom experience, which he clarified after the meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(*inaudible*). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's right. You're the one, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Did Brandon go to the prom with his sister?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, he said he went to every high school prom on the island. Every high school. And then a little more details, which I won't share.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I believe that, all right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anyway, just trying to end that...but it was very...you know, community came out in force and spirit, and I appreciate that. It...it is filmed, and will be shown on *Akakū* and Facebook Live later. And that I've heard many words of appreciation for us coming to the community. And we will continue that. Tonight, we're going to Hāna and hear from what the community is saying about the work we're doing, as you heard last night. So, at this time then, I would like to also say that if we can, we want to adjourn at 1:00 because we all have to travel to Hāna. So, that's the big goal. Remember your questions to be concise. We are getting all the responses from the departments. And then once we get that, you know, we can learn more. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I have a meeting before the meeting, and I'd like to maybe leave at 12:30, just to let you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I think Tamara wanted to leave early also, so...no? Okay. So, we'll...we'll see how all this goes. I wanted to just remind all of you that Monday, April 14th, we will be receiving by 4:30 your priorities for the OED Economic Development Fund. So, don't forget about that. And then on the 17th, which is at Thursday at 9:00, we will be receiving from you your...your own priorities that you will be submitting. And then on the 21st of April, we get real property tax certification. Tied to that, this afternoon, we will be passing out...yesterday we asked by 4:30 for all of you to submit what your recommendations were for the real property tax range. We're going to...did we pass it out already, or is it on Granicus yet? Okay. We'll do it after. But you're going to get a copy of it, what everybody proposed, and then we can have a discussion of it before we...we finalize it. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. To my understanding with the process for the range of rates reso, it's...it's going to be posted tomorrow, right? And so, my understanding was that we're going to have a discussion and not just get a copy of it because there could be variations proposed by the different Members, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, that's exactly what we're going to do.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The discussion? We're going to have a discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I mean, that's why we're bringing it up. Otherwise, it would be done, deadline yesterday, already you guys done. But we're going to open it so that everybody can see what the...what the Members proposed and what the proposed final is, I guess. And then we can talk about it. Hope we can do this all before 1:00 today so that we can get in our cars and go to Hāna. Any other questions? Seeing none. Okay. So, at this time, then I would like to ask for our Chief to please provide any kind of information you would like us to consider for your Department, and then we'll go to Corp. Counsel, and...followed by public testimony.

MR. PELLETIER: Well, thank you very much. Good morning. Aloha. Hola, como estas usted? I...I know I screw up a lot of pronunciation, so now that I know that it's fluid and flux...you know, and we can be in flux, I will feel less bad because I do...I actually phonetically write things out, and they hear me do my a-e-i-o-u's before I say things sometimes. So, that being said, I'd like to just cover over some specific issues. One, all the correspondence and the questions that you guys asked us, you do have them emailed. So, everything is now in your baskets. So, I know there's a lot of questions, but every answer has been supplied to you as far as that. So, I know in the interest of time, that should really alleviate a lot of different things. Salary and wages, if we could just kind of talk about that first. The expansion positions that we're asking for, I think in this meeting I'm actually going to make a couple of changes on them, and you'll understand why. We are asking for an expansion position of something that's already there. We have currently been budgeted for two part-time cold case investigators. But because of some of the issues with DPS, we can't sort of seem to understand what a part-time investigator looks like. They wanted part-time officers. We're not doing that. We're going to have two full-time officers there. They're currently special assigned. This was borne of the fire. They do all the missing person investigations, cold case homicide, cold case sexual assaults. They're doing remarkable work, and instead of just keeping them SA, we need to make them permanent. So, it's just an adjustment to make those part-time, full-time positions. The Custodial Ground Supervisor and custodial ground employees for Kihei, I'd like to pull this off because of a conversation that I had over the weekend when I was on Lānaʻi with Councilmember Johnson at the skate park. Director McCall had mentioned that because of the union request of some of the grounds and some of the custodial things, the reason we were asking this was because the Ka Lima O Maui folks, they don't want them...there was like, we don't want them working anymore because we're going to give that to the union. I personally think if we don't fight for them...if we don't fight for them, then shame on us. And so, I don't ever want to feel that when Ka Lima O Maui wants to do that work. And so, to me, that's a line in the sand. So, if we could pause that because the State is apparently making some headway, we can go back next year and do it. And if people are a little upset, well, get in line. So, I just...but I'm going to fight for those folks. I'm sorry. I think that's a really appropriate thing to do. The Information Practice Coordinator, that is a FOIA or a UIPA request. We've seen that borne of the fires, but it's a full-time job. We need to do that. And so, you'll see that...in addition, you'll see the CORE Counselor position. We made an adjustment from juvenile. We put them into CORE. So, that's one of the

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

things we absolutely do need. They...they facilitate and lead the LIYT program, the Live In Your Truth program, which is a State-mandated position, and they just do an exceptional job. And again, that's being special assigned, and so, we...we do need to make that permanent. For operations, the subsidized vehicles, this is a recruiting and retention issue. We are the only County that wasn't doing it. We are doing it now. And if we want to attract local folks from this community and from within the State, we need to make sure that we're as competitive, if not more, than any other place. And we...we cannot be doing things lesser than other places are doing. And so, that's simply for that. We're asking for \$2 million. This is the final component for the CAD/RMS, the Computer-Assisted Dispatch Record Management System. This will be the best computer dispatch system in the State when it's done. These are for the final interfaces, the final pieces to do that. We anticipate going live by the end of third quarter this year. If there's extra monies in that, we will use that for the beginning of some software to help build a real-time operations center. And so, there'll be some cameras we may need at some point, but...but that'll be for what that is. The canine program--and I don't know if you're looking at the handout that I gave you, but the...the...the canine program, we talk about operations. Those are the first two dogs. You see their names right there. And so, Kū Makani and Maka Ihe, if I said that right, tip of the spear. And I think I said the H, yeah, but I wanted to make sure that we had strong Hawaiian names. That was my ask. These are the first two patrol police dogs in the state. Our officers, the first two officers, our sergeant and officer are going there this weekend to begin a six-week program, and then we're going to do more training here. We've also purchased the other two dogs. There'll be eight in total to begin with. One will be on Moloka'i, for sure. And then we can look to expand as needed to...to Lāna'i, but this is a game changer. This will change policing. This...this will actually be an incredible de-escalation tactic and technique. And I think it's going to be an incredible recruiting and retention thing that we will all be very proud of. And you guys have a huge hand in that. The radio shop, we turn the page. It's deceptive. Our budget is deceptive because we have this number in there that the Police Department has had that burden. But Fire uses it, Parks use it...everybody in the County uses the radio system that we built. And then when we start talking about some of these CIP projects, let's go back in time, 19-1/2 months ago. The only reason we had radio communications was the tower on Lāna'i and the tower on the Big Island prevented the blackout of the radios. And that shows that the infrastructure that was put in place years ago paid dividends when we needed it, but we have to have continual upgrades, and improvements, and different things like that. And so, you'll see that. And they're...to me, they're no brainers, but again, it shows the operations of why exact...exactly we need this. And if you flip the page, I wanted you to see the helicopter. It's on Maui. It's...it's being finished. It's being completed. The paint scheme is a play on the current police vehicles. The...the Department voted on it. Hekili is thunder in Hawaiian. That's its name, Blue Thunder. And so, some of the older folks might get a little kick of that. And so, that would be...the go-live date will be this summer, and it's extremely exciting with what we're going to be able to do with that. Turning the page, some equipment that we have to get, portable radios. It's actually not for the vehicles. These...these are going to be portable radios for...for the officers. And here is one of them. And this particular radio, what's great about this is this radio is...unfortunately it's...it's...this is \$7,500, but what's great about this, this radio will pick up cell and Wi-Fi from the building that you're in. So, now, with the officers in



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

**April 2, 2025**

---

here, it'll pick up the cell and Wi-Fi, and they'll use that as a repeater. So, if you're in the hotels, if you're in different properties, if you're at locations that don't normally have the capability, it'll grab your cell and Wi-Fi. And what's even more important about this, it'll tell where all the other radios are. So, now, when we have an officer in distress--we've got the fire, we've got these different issues--we're going to know where each and every person is. This is a game changer. Now, the other reason why we have to do this, and this is...this is a--and I only asked for half--but the only reason that we're...we have to do this, the current radios that are being made, it's like an iPhone 8, if you will. Well, eventually it's not going to be supported. They're not...they're not manufacturing those radios anymore. And so, it's...it's a...it's an evolving technology. And so, this is going to be where we're...we're going to be forced to have to go to. And I don't think that it's something that we want to...to shy away from. You'll see the network expansion, that's increasing communication abilities. And then you're going to see this come up more, and more, and more. And I actually do encourage, as we have the...these discussions and we build this, but Cyber Crimes is really a huge direction for the future. Think about this. When we start asking about digital footprints and digital evidence, and...and...and looking at, oh, how do we know that that cell phone was there? How do we...the text messages of the...the...the murderer? Well, it's the Cyber Crimes Unit that's looking at those things, you know. And so, those are...those are things that are not cheap, they're not free, but that's going to be the standard. And so, we...this is for some laptops for that. It's something that's absolutely necessary as we go on. Turning the page, the forensic facility. One of the things that I think that the Council can be very proud of, one of the things that the community can be very proud of, is what we've built, which we refer to as the MINT for the fire, right? The Morgue Identification Notification Task Force. That forensic facility right now, as it exists, we have some of the leading technology that nobody else has in the State. The Maui Police Foundation, from the monies that came in from the fire, we bought the rapid DNA machine that we used in the fires. Nobody else has that right now. Big Island's coming over to look at it. And we're actually trying to help them. When the two people that were attacked by the shark, we believe, on O'ahu occurred, we reached out and said, we will come and get you a DNA profile, and we can do it within a few hours. They opted not to because they felt they could do it within 24, but we could do it in three...and I'm including travel time. We can get a profile in...in less than an hour. And if we have a family member when we do it simultaneous, so just imagine that, how quick we can...it doesn't exist. But the problem is, is nobody paid attention to the forensic facility for years. Nobody. People...people here didn't even bother to visit it during the fires, okay. So, I just say it got ignored, but we can't ignore it anymore. So, we need to make some improvements. And that's exactly what that's for. You'll see the upgrades for the radio system facility. They're self-explanatory, that's there. And so, we...we...we know we need to get those. Turning the page to the Wailuku Station facility improvements, 40-year building. It...it...every ceiling tile now is replaced, but, you know, we've got things in there that...that grossly need to be replaced. It's not ADA compliant. We need to fix that. It's again, self-explanatory. We need to fix the...the parking lot. We need...we need to pave over in the area where the Cameron Center is. The reason I...I'm putting that out there. I didn't ask you for anything Gucci. I didn't say, hey, we need to get this because we want it. Look, cops are...I get it. They want the coolest, they want Staccatos, right? Those are \$2,500 handguns. We have Glockes. Those are...those are \$450 handguns.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

You know, we'll probably...we're going to be putting an optic on at some point here because it'll actually help officers shoot better, which we want to target isolation, target identification, we want to be able to do that, but we're not asking for things that are not operationally necessary. Every single thing we asked for in this budget is because we've identified a need, and it's a need that this County has to have. It's a...it's not lost on me that really...and this is not fluff, Chair. I...I...I've said this, I'll continue to say this, one of the greatest partnerships that MPD has is this Council, without a doubt. The...the relationships that we've built, the needs that you guys see, it...it...it's very clear. I'd be remissed [sic] in the opening comments if I don't acknowledge the Police Commission Chair, Stacey Moniz, because the...the budget we submitted, I know it's one of the questions, Chair, that you had, but we worked for months as a collaborative group. And the budget that is actually submitted to the Mayor is actually the Police Commission's budget. That's what's submitted. And so, I appreciate the...the work that is done in a collaboration with that. And so, I know there'll be questions and different things like that. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present this. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. We know you would be enthusiastic. Thank you for your presentation. Next, we have Corp. Counsel.

MS. TAKAYESU: Thanks. Good morning, Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. TAKAYESU: -- Committee Members. I'm not quite sure how to follow that up. I have no dogs. I have no helicopters. I have no super radios, but I'll try my best. Gee. So, our asks are somewhat minor. I know, like Blue Thunder, what the heck? Anyway...but it makes our asks so much smaller.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Approved.

MS. TAKAYESU: Thank you. Okay. I'm done. What we are asking for are two expansion position Deputy positions. Those were really the brain child of our First Deputy. What we envision is one full-time Deputy for the Department of Environmental Management. They've...as you know, have had quite a heavy lift after the fires, and will continue to do so as recovery continues on. That will also assist us in reshuffling some of the assignments so that our other Deputies, as well, can devote more time to departments with heavy lifts, such as Police, Public Works, or Planning. And the other Deputy position we're envisioning is a land management position. I know that that was discussed a little bit with Personnel yesterday. What we envision our Deputy doing is having someone with land management experience, working closely with the Department of Finance's proposed position of a Land Manager Administrator...but our Deputy will be able to assess properties, help with sales, acquisitions, easements, rights-of-entries, eminent domain actions...all the legalese that really, we don't have someone specifically set for. So, we think it'll be a real addition to the team for the County. And then the other expansion position would just be a Law Tech to help support those two Deputies. We are asking for a vehicle. This is the most exciting thing maybe that we have. It's for an Investigator. We want an SUV for him because he does

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

go to all areas of the island; tinted windows because he does do some surveillance; all-wheel drive; et cetera. So, that's kind of neat. Sort of. Or maybe the Police can give us one of their old vehicles. And then the last ask we're asking for--and this is more of a safety net--we have...you guys graciously gave us the funding for our eDiscovery program last year. We got off to a slow start because we have to work closely with IT, obviously, for confidentiality, security, so on. But IT was tasked with migrating the County to the 365, which was a huge lift for them. So, we sort of, you know, took a backseat to that, obviously. But then now that we've migrated on, IT has worked hand-in-hand with us in getting an appropriate RFP that they're comfortable with, with the guidelines that we're comfortable with, that will serve our needs. And in fact, the RFP should be going out today. We should be getting bids by the end of the month. We should have the contract signed by June 30th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay.

MS. TAKAYESU: But my concern is if something goes wrong, you know, July 1st comes and we don't have the contract, then we won't have the funding. I promise to give it back if we don't use it, if we get this contract signed in time, but it's more of a...like I said, a safety net. And those are, I think, the highlights of our...of our budget. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. So, at this time then I'm going to take public testimony. Do we have testifiers signed up? We do. Okay. So, anybody who would like to testify, please identify yourself when you come to the podium. You have three minutes and 30 seconds to finish. You can testify on anything in the budget, as I said earlier. And if there are people online, you can join via Teams. And please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. Or if calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star-5 to raise and lower your hand, and star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order that they do sign up. And...okay. And then after you're done, they'll...they will also enable your microphone and video. Oh, and if you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff so they will not call your name out. And that's all. Oh, you can view this on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or [mauicounty.us](http://mauicounty.us)...[mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). All right. Can you call the testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The first testifier is John Pele, to be followed by Stacey Moniz.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

**. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .**

MR. PELE: Make sure I get this right. Hola, Chair. And aloha, everybody, and astute Councilmembers. My name is John Pele, representing the Maui Hotel & Lodging Association. On a...on a side subject, I also heard that that \$7,500 radio can prepare a cup of coffee for you in the morning also, so it's probably a good investment. But anyways, I really thank you guys for letting me testify today. The item I'm testifying on,

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

what you guys were hearing yesterday, and I apologize, I had a schedule conflict, so I'm a day late. Hopefully, I'm not a dollar short. So, I did want to talk about the Mayor's Budget and how we were excited in the OED section of the grant funding that there was \$450,000 line item for the promotion of the visited industry. We're also excited to see \$300,000 on a line item for the promotion of the wedding industry. And just to share some facts, you might probably know, I'm kind of new at this position, just over three months now, but prior to me being where I'm at as the Executive Director, there had already been what we call the Visitor Industry Partnership formed with some of the entities that you might know--MHLA is there, MVB is there in our meetings, the County is represented in those meetings, some OED representatives are there, HTA is there. So, we...we're kind of talking things over--and the Wedding Association for Maui is also present. So, we kind of talk things about...talk about things about how the visitor industry is going to look. And we get it, guys. We understand where we're at with the visitor industry. We understand where we're at with the funding. We understand what used to be and what is now, and that's where we're at. We got to live in this space. And one of the words we do here a lot is mitigate and...or im... impacts of our industry. And I just want to let people know that in my position, I am...I am solidly...I am dedicated to make sure that...that we are controlling the impacts, or we are trying to satisfy the impacts of our industry. We've...we've heard you. We've heard...we've heard what the community wants, and we want to be here to help be a solution with mitigation. And those funds that are there, although they're not what they used to be, we appreciate them being there. And I think furthermore, we have to understand...oh, I guess I'll just leave that as it is, as far as the different entities. If you guys want to talk about the entities, all the letter entities, please, I'm happy to be here and...and share with you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice to see you here. Anybody have questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Pele, for your testimony. I was wondering if you had a breakdown as to how the 450,000 for Fiscal Year '25 was utilized.

MR. PELE: I...I don't have a breakdown, and I was hoping you'd ask this question. I think I need to clarify some things. Not...not...so, MHLA, Maui Hotel & Lodging Association, we're an advocacy group. We don't market. That's not our expertise, and that's not what we do. We stand before you, and we...we advocate for funding so that our professional advocator--marketers like MVB and other people--can go do what they do. And so, we are working at --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. PELE: -- getting MVB . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To clarify --

MR. PELE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you don't know if they were even used or not then?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. PELE: Oh, for 225...for 2025? I don't know if they've been used or not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. If the Director knows, I guess we'll save that for discussion . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. PELE: Yeah. I just...I just, you know, I just wanted to...to further clarify. You know, you hear all these letter groups--HLTA, HHA, HTA, MVB, HVCB--we are separate from all of those. We don't receive...we...we are partners with them, but we're not with them, right? We're on our own. We don't receive any funding from government. We're totally membership-driven as far as our funding at MHLA, and we are an advocacy group. So, thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions? Seeing none. Okay. And if we want, we can send that question to the appropriate entity because that's not the appropriate entity. Next...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I missed the 9:00 deadline, though. That was for Mayor's, right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yesterday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. We can talk story.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair...yes, Chair. The next testifier is Stacey Moniz, to be followed by Tom Croly.

MS. MONIZ: Whoa, I...I feel really short. Hi. I'm Stacey Moniz, and I'm here today in the capacity as a Chair of Maui Police Commission. I want to thank all of you folks for being leaders. I believe it is hola, but I said to somebody one time, I don't habla Espanol, and she said to me, hobviously [*sic*]. So, I believe it's correct that the H is supposed to be silent. So, I...that's just my personal lived-experience of wrecking the Spanish language. I am bilingual, I only speak pidgin and regular English though, so that's about it. But good morning, everybody. Thank you again for being leaders. I know it's a tough time to be leaders right now, so thank you for being here. I just want to say, you know, the Chief did a great job of explaining all the new things and the flashy toys, and I think that is a hard act to follow because in addition to them being flashy, they are here to help us protect our people. And I think after the fires, we get to see, really and truly, how critical all these services are. I'm here today to kind of echo some of the things and spotlight a few. I grew up here on Maui, and so I remember a time when we used to subsidize police vehicles, and my neighbor was a policeman. He had like a...I wanted to call it was like a Monte Carlo or something like this, very big, long, but you could tell all the police cars, they all kind of looked like that. They were low to the ground and

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

fast, and so I really support subsidizing cars. I do agree that it will help with both retention, which is really important, and recruiting new officers. And I wanted to echo the conversation about the 911 system, which is so much more than just Police. You know, the Fire use it, EMS using it, Animal Control uses it. It's...so, if we actually divided up the...the cost between all these departments, you know, that might make it easier for us to see, oh, but the Police budget is kind of large because we're supporting all these different entities as well. The Police Commission asked for a really big increase, and that is so that we can bring our Secretary to full-time. And the biggest increase would be the Investigator. It's a full-time position. I want to mention that previously, we would borrow Corporation Counsel's Investigator, but then they retired, so we didn't have anyone. The Honolulu Police Department's Investigator retired, so that left us without an Investigator...and we have about five complaints that are outstanding all the way back to 2022. So, I feel horrible for those people who are still waiting for an investigation to happen, but that's just the truth. It's kind of the justification for that position. And eventually, we'd like to get our own meeting space. For me personally, I feel like if you have a complaint to file against the Police Department . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . it's really hard to take that complaint to the Police Department. So, if we had a place outside the police station where people could drop off their complaints. It is written in our guidelines that they can deliver it to a commissioner, but that's part of all of that. So, we did submit some answers to you folks for some of your questions, specifically about the commission, the investigator, but I'm here to answer questions if you need. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Moniz, for your testimony. I was wondering if you could clarify on the Investigator position, what is it that they're investigating complaints against, the Police Department?

MS. MONIZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. MONIZ: So, yeah, there's complaints against the police officers. So, when we get a complaint...when the Police Commission Secretary gets a complaint, we...we gather information, whatever we can, before our commission meeting, and then during our executive session, we'll review it and see if it's...we need to send it out for investigation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if yesterday somebody sent me a letter, can I just give it to you?

MS. MONIZ: You know, actually, they have to fill out a complaint form, and they have to have that notarized, and then get it to our Commission Secretary within 60 days of the complaint. So, I know it's a high threshold.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, what should I do with the letter? Just send it back to the person?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. MAEDA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . send it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, send it.

MS. MONIZ: And...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll go down to my car and grab it right now.

MS. MONIZ: That's great. Yeah. Because if they want it reviewed by the commission, it has to be on the form. They can attach that letter to the form and have it notarized. Yeah, we just want to...yeah. And if we do not investigate, we have to give all of our reasons why. Those are all created by statute, too. But, yeah. I know I...we've had other complaints where we...people call and complain, and they have to go through the process.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: A rundown.

MS. MONIZ: Yeah, it's kind of cumbersome, for sure. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions? Seeing none. All right. Oh, I'm sorry. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I don't have a question, but I just want to thank Stacey for her work with the commission. And I know you understand how hard it is to sit here, but we also understand how hard it is for you --

MS. MONIZ: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- to sit where you're at.

MS. MONIZ: Right. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, thank you so much.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, too. I appreciate you all.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

MS. MONIZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else? Seeing none. I want to ask you a quick question. I think it was one of the questions, but if you could tell all the Members. I heard that what the commission had approved is not what the Mayor had submitted. So, do you know about that?

MS. MONIZ: I didn't realize that.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MONIZ: Sorry, I haven't looked at the Mayor's Budget in comparison. Did you?

MR. PELLETIER: I can answer that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wait. You're not the testifier. Okay. Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: Sorry. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I thought maybe you would have known.

MS. MONIZ: No, I didn't look. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Any other testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Tom Croly, to be followed by De Andre Makakoa.

MR. CROLY: Aloha, Council Committee. Thank you, Chair. Tom Croly testifying on my own behalf. Thank you, Chair, for alerting us in this that you are going to have a discussion about the range of real property tax rates. Otherwise, I might have held this testimony for a little while longer. Maui County has approximately 27,500 properties that are owner-occupied. And as I've told you before, all but 146 of these property owners benefit from a \$300,000 tax exemption and a much lower tax rate than any other property tax classification. To receive these benefits, the owners of these properties must reside full-time as Maui residents, and the Code defines this as 270 days a year. Some of these owner-occupied properties are strictly homes with no other uses taking place on the property. However, many take advantage of Maui's County...Maui County Code 19.67.40, and operate a home business that allows them to operate a variety of businesses...like massage therapy, hair salons, professional services like law offices, accountants, bookkeepers, and a host of remote workers who operate from their homes. And defined in...as defined in home...in Code, these businesses must be operated by the resident owner, and may have up to one employee, and may use up to 40 percent of the home for their business purpose, and serve up to two customers at a time, and a total of no more than 16 customers a day. All of these home-based businesses are taxed as Owner-Occupied. Some owner-occupied properties are located in business zones, and make...and are made up of multiple buildings offering, in some cases, full retail stores, and even food services. And the entire property, including the commercial businesses and buildings, are taxed at Owner-Occupied tax rates, provided that at least a portion of the property is used by an owner--not all the owners--but an owner on the property. So, again, we have...we have commercial uses in commercial...in business zoning that are taxed as Owner-Occupied. Many Maui residents...not many, but some Maui residents operate a daycare or a preschool from their homes, and they're not only taxed as Owner-Occupied, but they're given an additional exemption on top of the homeowner exemption. The only Maui resident homeowners operating a home-based business that



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

**April 2, 2025**

---

are not taxed at Owner-Occupied rates are the 146 Maui residents who have gone through the process to be granted a B&B permit to use a portion, sometimes as little as a single bedroom, to host guests in their homes for less than 180 days at a time. I'm asking the Council to establish fairness for these Maui residents by establishing tax rates in the Commercialized Residential tax classification that mirror the tax . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . rates that are provided to other Maui homeowners operating businesses from their homes. While you cannot restore the homeowner exemption to these homeowners because that would take a change in the bed and breakfast ordinance, you can tax them more fairly. Over the 16 years since the Commercialized --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you...can you summarize?

MR. CROLY: -- Residential tax classification was established --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tom...

MR. CROLY: I'm in my last two sentences.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. CROLY: Over the 16 years since the Commercialized tax...Residential classification was established and applied to my home, the increase in my personal property taxes has risen from double to what's proposed this year to be more than triple the rate, or the total tax bill that I would have to pay if I did not have my B&B permit. So, as you discuss the range, please make sure the range is at least as broad as the...as the homeowner range, and I'll bring you more justification for this further down the road. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody have questions for Mr. Croly? Okay. Seeing none. Thank you very much. Thanks very much for being here.

MR. CROLY: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next, and currently final individual signed up to testify is De Andre Makakoa.

MR. MAKAKOA: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. My name is De Andre Makakoa. I'm a filmmaker and a fire survivor from Lāhainā, and I provide video and storytelling services across Maui for people who need it, like farmers, nonprofits, community groups, cultural practitioners, things like that. But I'm here today humbly asking that the County consider future funding support for Maui-based film and media projects that can, you know, strengthen our economy, support recovery, and also reposition our tourism industry for longer-term sustainability. Over the past year, our team of multigenerational Lāhainā locals, we've led the production of an impact-driven film focused on Maui's recovery, and the production process alone has already been...you

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

know, it's already had a powerful effect in our community, and it has the potential to reach global audiences, and shift the way people see and engage with Maui. Getting this far has been a real challenge because we've chosen integrity over convenience, and that's cost us a lot because we've struggled to find private funding that wouldn't try to influence our story, and I believe that's where the County can step in. Supporting future local media production isn't just an investment in storytelling, but when it's done properly and with intention, it can be a tool for economic development because it keeps jobs and creative talent here on island. It's a...you know, it's a high-demand industry, and it's a growing industry, and it also helps brand Maui in a way that aligns with our values, especially when it comes to tourism. Tourism across the globe is evolving, and the visitors we want are the ones who care, contribute, come to learn, and come to connect. So, strategic media projects like the ones we do, and are planning to do in the future, are exactly what attract these types of visitors, it helps steer the industry in a direction that benefits both visitors and our residents, which we all know has been very one-sided, and it brings long-term value to Maui's recovery and reputation by, you know, reaching that global audience with that type of storytelling. So, I don't have a formal budget request, but if this would...if this is something that the Council would be open to exploring, I would be happy to follow up with a more detailed proposal. But mahalo nunui a ke aloha nō.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I have a question for you, then I'll turn it over to the Members. It is budget-related because we do have film in our budget. So, are you working with our Film Commissioner...the Film Commissioner?

MR. MAKAKOA: We've...we've been in talks with, but we haven't...it hasn't resulted in any type of support, other than like advice and stuff...like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MAKAKOA: -- like to apply for grants and such.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, there are grants that are available to you then...is that what you just said?

MR. MAKAKOA: There's grants we have applied for, but we haven't gotten...but yeah, there are...there are grants out there for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, I guess through the County --

MR. MAKAKOA: -- for film-related projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- because this is County budget, so through the County there are?

MR. MAKAKOA: Oh, no. Not...not . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Thank you. Any other questions? Oh, Chair Lee?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you know what? I can't see you --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- behind all these things that are on my screen. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Mr. Makakoa, welcome, nice to see you again. Just wondering. You didn't make any specific requests, but can you give us a range of how much you would ordinarily need for your project?

MR. MAKAKOA: Well, for example, the...the project that we're wrapping up on now that's...we're already, you know, proposing it, or sending it off to film festivals and trying to reach that global audience. We've made this film for just around 200,000, and that was all from, you know, angel donors and private funding.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay. That gives us an idea of the kind of funding that you need. Why weren't you able to get a funding from the County previously? Do you know? You may want to consider...you know, my time is real limited, so you may want to consider an umbrella agency. Sometimes people who the County works with on a regular basis, a nonprofit, could help you apply for and manage the grant, and then you get the funds, yeah, for a fee. So, you may consider that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. What is the name of your production company?

MR. MAKAKOA: So, we're...it's...we're...two technically, it's Mālama...Mālama Productions and Island Eye Productions. It's three of us between the two.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And how important is it to you that local filmmakers, local producers, local all the things are utilized?

MR. MAKAKOA: So, it's...to me, it's extremely important because as it stands, the film industry and every...I mean just what everybody knows about Maui has been told largely by outsiders, and I think that's largely the reason why we attract the type of visitors we attract, who are just here to...the people who watch Temptation Island, or who watch, you know, Hollywood movies about whatever. You know, just expecting that Mai Tai on the beach, and people cleaning up after them. But if we were to realign that with the way we see our island, the way we see our culture, the way we envision our tourism industry, and we...we then hold that narrative, then we can attract a better type of

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

visitor...people who want to come plant trees, or go on historical tours, or go to museums more than just the surface level Mai Tai on the beach. And I think that's what local storytelling can do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And if you were able to secure a line item in the Fiscal Year '26 Budget, which would be the preference, for Mālama or Island Eye Productions, for it to go under?

MR. MAKAKOA: Oh, shucks. I think I would have to talk to the rest of my team about that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. MAKAKOA: -- before I could answer.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You can get back to me. Maybe when Matty testifies on the 10th, he might know.

MR. MAKAKOA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama.

MR. MAKAKOA: Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Makakoa. Thank you for coming before us and identifying yourself as another filmmaker. Because you know, we're looking for filmmakers, local filmmakers, who hire local staff and, you know, keep our local people who are excited about the film industry alive and well. So, my...my question is, is there a way we can contact you, or email you, or...

MR. MAKAKOA: Oh, yeah, definitely. I can provide my phone number and email.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MAKAKOA: Should I do that here?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes. You can send it to our Staff and they can, I guess, send it out to us who don't have it.

MR. MAKAKOA: Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Anybody else have questions? I see no more hands. Thank you very much. And if you give us your phone number, you're going to hear from all nine of us, so get ready. Thank you.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. MAKAKOA: All right. Sounds . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MAKAKOA: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, now the final testifier signed up is Junya Nakoa.

MR. NAKOA: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. Okay. I seen the camera guy is the guy De Andre, but I call him the camera guy. I seen their work, brah. I seen their work. I seen what they do. I see how they educate the America about what's happening here in Lāhainā and all that stuff. So, it's very valuable. But it's kind of coincidence that today at 3:00, the State Legislation is taking up a bill for the filmmakers here in Hawai'i. And one of the...part of the bill is to...for the people, the productions that hire 80 percent local of Hawai'i people, they're going to get another tax break. You know, so that's what we like to do. We like...hey, you guys all know, I go do the...the Temptation Island for two...two months on lock up, I was lock up little bit. But I when get for see what actually when happen in this film industry. I know they was using...they was using mainland companies for rent cars, and all that stuff. I when scold 'em. I told 'em hey, go use the local kine, and you know what? They did. So, if we can go ahead and educate these producers, that come over here to shop local, use the locals, use everything local, you know what I mean, and whatnot, and we can...we can benefit from that. But you can imagine if we get young filmmakers like camera guy, like Blake, like Matty, like all those buggahs. I just say...I tell them don't film me because I ugly buggah. So, I tell them no put me in front the camera. But I going tell you guys this, brah, I mean, if you can find a way to help fund these guys, will be awesome. I when call up Tracy Bennett. So, he...he also is working, trying to work out to help these guys. So, we all got to put our heads together on how we can make these young film producers kick some 'ōkole, you know, and educate America when they come over here, how to act, how to respect our resources, how to respect our culture, and all that stuff. So, yessah, good job, camera guy. I got you. Okay. You guys have a good one. No have question, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No questions for Junya at his request. Does anybody have questions? We don't want him to say we don't care for him. Okay.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more testifiers?

MR. NAKOA: You guys have a good one.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 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 SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, everybody. And with your permission, I'd like to close public testimony and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, we're going to go into deliberations. We'll ask for three minutes per. And just...just before we start, wanting to...we're going to start with Police. So, Corp. Counsel, if you want to go in the...be in the gallery, that's fine, or you can sit with Police. So, Police is on Granicus number 27 for PD-1, and Corp Counsel's on 11 when we start. So, at this time then, shall we start with Member Sinenci? And we'll go down this way.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Chief Pelletier, for the presentation. Yeah, our questions have to do with East Maui. And as you know, we get a lot of calls...our office gets a lot of calls out in Kipahulu and Kaupō. We get, you know, a lot of the residents and the visitors out on our highway. And we want to keep our East...the Hāna Highway safe. And so, recently, the Hāna patrol shifts changed from a three 8-hour shift to two 12-hour shifts, and that means that more officers are on the...on one of the shifts than...and...than the other one. So, for your vacancies, are there any plans to add any more patrolmen out in East Maui?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chief?

MR. PELLETIER: So, some of this stuff is already covered on the correspondence that we sent. But since you're asking --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- the honest answer is no. But let me just clarify, they're on...they're on...they're not on two 12-hour shifts, they're on three 12-hour shifts. That means they're on three days one week, four days the other. So, it's actually the same exact equal distribution of the officers, based...and that's based on calls of service. And so, every month in the Police Commission meeting, we...we send out what they have as far as calls in each district broken down. And so, if all of a sudden there was a great need

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

to do that, we could make adjustments. But the...the staffing is...is currently adequate for what we're seeing on an annual basis. We have no problem doing directed patrol activities, or what's called special assignment, like if we were to do things for a weekend or things like that. But the way the staffing is right now is adequate for the geographic area that D3, District 3, Hāna represents.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, Chief. So...so, if two officers are going out into Kipahulu and Kaupō, how many does that leave, two back in...in Hāna Town to answer any of the calls that we have from our residents?

MR. PELLETIER: So, it could leave one plus a supervisor. But then if there's something critical that happens, they can always call the other officers out, depending on if it's critical or not.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So, those officers that are off their shift will also have a radio in case the other officers need help?

MR. PELLETIER: No. If...if it's critical, they can call their phone and see if they could respond. I mean, we're talking critical. I'm talking...like I'm talking a shooting. If it's a loud music, we're not...going to get to it when...as it comes. I mean, it's just...that's just the way it is. And...it...it's --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- that's just the staffing. It's just the nature of it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it. . . .(timer sounds). . . Okay. Yeah. We did have a shooting. Okay, thanks. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Next, I'm going to go...I'm going to switch this out. So, Member Paltin has Police as part of your department [sic]. So, I'm going to start with you, if you don't mind. And then we'll go to Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins, and then Member Kama and Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chief Pelletier. I wanted to know, I saw in your presentation, but what happens in the hiring process when applicants don't progress beyond one of those benchmarks? Like, you know, if...if they got their picture in *The Maui News*, like, as part of a recruit class, and they didn't make their six-month probation or something like that, what...what happens?

MR. PELLETIER: So, great question. Any...any number of reasons could be why they didn't. They could resign, they could have failed out of field training, and then they're no longer an employee. So, they...they...they're no longer there, at that point.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If it's something like, you know, physical fitness test, physical exam, or something like that, is there opportunity to offer them other positions, like...

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. PELLETIER: Yes. Yes. So, depending on what it is, their...their ability, if...if they...let's just say, a physical fitness test or something like that, if...if that were to happen, we could offer them, like, a PSA, Public Safety Aide. That might be an option, dispatch might be an option. If somebody from dispatch fails out, we might offer them a position in records, depending on what works for them and what they want to do. One of the things that is really deceptive with the numbers--and I brought numbers today, and I know I'm going to run out of time on the answer, so if people will indulge me--but I brought you hard numbers because nobody's told this tale yet. By the end of this year, we're going to be completely full of Police Officer II positions. Let me...let me say that again, we're going to be completely full. So, when we're talking about the vacancy, the issue isn't the Maui Police Department, the issue is we're moving faster than DPS and the rest of the system can keep up. I don't have any more positions...I don't have any more positions to fill people if I don't have vacancies. I have to promote for PO IIIs, for sergeants, and lieutenants. So, we're still building the tests for sergeant and lieutenants, but it's taking me six months once I'm asked to do that. It shouldn't take me six months to build a test. So, of the vacancies, the 100 vacancies that we have, 30 of those are PO IIs. So, when I hire PO Is--which I can because of the vacancies--but then after the...after the time frame, they go to PO IIs. And then I don't have the ability to fill them unless I promote. So, we're currently promoting, but we're now at a position where I have to funnel up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you --

MR. PELLETIER: And so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- provide us with the hierarchy? Like if you have a sergeant or a detective, like what is...like Police Officer I is what, six months? After they --

MR. PELLETIER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- pass probation --

MR. PELLETIER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- then they become a Police Officer . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . II. Can you provide us in writing with the hierarchy of like...

MR. PELLETIER: I'll give you this form if you'd like, and this is...but I'm going to have to black out the names of the officers that are here, but I think it's extremely...here's the interesting...here's the interesting thing. I have 31 vacancies for PO II by the end of this year, right...right now with the people we've already hired, but I still have 18 in the pipeline. I only have three vacancies that are available for PO II. So, I'm going to bust it. But then I have 7 PO IIIs in patrol, and I've got 29 PO IIIs throughout the Department. So, Quality Assurance, CORE, Vice--those things, 29, 30 Sergeant vacancies, 8 Lieutenant vacancies, and 2 Captain vacancies.



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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, what is the hierarchy of that from PO I you go to II?

MR. PELLETIER: So, PO I, PO II, detective and sergeant is the...PO III, I'm sorry, PO I, PO II, PO III. Detective and Sergeant is the same, depending if they're supervising a squad or they're a detective. It's just the way we do it. And then it's lieutenant, then it's Captain, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, and myself. So, I think...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I heard the buzzer. Thank you.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Chief, you're going to clean up that form or whatever, you're going to submit it to us?

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah. I'll redact the names and I'll send it to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Staff, we'll get a copy of it. Okay. Can ask them. All right. So, next we're going to go to Member Johnson. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you all for joining us today. Really appreciate it. I know you're super busy, so I'll try to keep my questions succinct. And I...at this time, I only have one. We'll see where this goes. So, in your equipment, portable radios for vehicles, replacing portable radios for half of the Department.

MR. PELLETIER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Why are you replacing only half of the portable radios?

MR. PELLETIER: You know, I really think we should do all of them. I think we're trying to be somewhat fiscally responsible, but the more we looked at this, the Fire Department's probably going to be asking this next year for themselves. Bottom line is, we really should do all of them, so that number would double from the 2 million to the 4, but we're...we're going to need it. So, I think there was an appetite to be somewhat fiscally responsible, but it's pay now or pay later. And I do think we should be really looking to do all of them.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I mean, for me as a guy who's looking outside, that's a big...big chunk of change for portable radios. When you said one is 7,000?

MR. PELLETIER: 7,500. They're currently 5,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What make...why...explain that. Why are they so good? Why are they...why do they...why do you want them so bad?

MR. PELLETIER: Okay. This is 1,500 bucks, and that's just a phone. And I'm not being a jerk when I'm saying this, but that's...that's the price of this. It's 1,500 bucks for a brand new one. This is 7,500, and it goes through the different zones. It can be

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

encrypted. It can have the GPS. The Sergeant can see where his troops are, now can connect to Wi-Fi, can connect to cellular. It didn't fail in the fire, and unfortunately, that's just the price that it is. There's no way around that, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That...that point you make about it not failing in the fire, that's a very important point when you look at the...the cost analysis. Like that's something that is, you know, immeasurable in...in many ways.

MR. PELLETIER: Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You...you think that...okay. So, half of the...half of your Department gets them. The other half, if we have a fire, would you consider them to be at risk?

MR. PELLETIER: I...I...I definitely consider...so the half would equip everybody that would be in patrol and what the problem is, is that's not everybody. So, I do think we would have a one year of a gap, and I don't like that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: I really don't. So, you know, if that's something that the Council would consider, I would...I would humbly request that perhaps we look to get to all of them, and it would simply double that number.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: I think it's 2,070,000, so it'd be 4.14.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Public math. Gotcha.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you, Chief. Those are my questions.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was fast. Very good. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Cook and U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Department. Mahalo for being with us. Mahalo, Chief, for the presentation opening remarks. I will dovetail off of Member Johnson's questions regarding the public radios, portable radios. And so, in your opening remarks, you mentioned that the...this current model is like an iPhone 8, right, and it's being phased out. If only half is replaced, like how...I guess I don't under...like how does the other half...so the new radios...oh, no, they would be replaced

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

next year. So, I guess I don't understand how it would work if half are one model, and half are the other. Like...

MR. PELLETIER: We would buy the same. We would buy the same, but yeah, that...that is a problem. It's...it's...it's like having an NFL team with one's got Nike as a uniform, and then the other one's got Reebok because we're doing Reebok next year, right? I mean, it's a problem because it's not the exact...it'll work on the radio, but the problem is, is they're not going to support it. It won't update like the other ones. It's not going to have the same functionality, and so we do know that we need to get that. In an effort to be fiscally responsible, we try to do that, but you opened...your...your question is right to the heart of it is, it's pay now or pay later. I...I would rather not pay later. I...like again, if you're going to be willing, I do think that's a reasonable request.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Follow-up on that. So, you talked about how the phones are like 1,500. Oftentimes, the older models, you know, over time, when they bring in a new model, become, you know, like 800, or they start having deals on them because they're...you know, heavily discounted because they're the older model, and then the newer model become the \$1,500 or more cost. So, if...as Member Johnson stated, if we were to wait until next year to replace the other half of the radios, do you anticipate them being more than what we're paying this year?

MR. PELLETIER: It could be possible. So, I mean it's totally possible, just like every year these...these...these go up. I mean every...every year...it doesn't get cheaper, and so I think that's a...that's a risk. So...yeah.

MR. MAEDA: Hello?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. MAEDA: Oh, okay. Good morning, Councilmembers. Good morning, Chair. Deputy Chief here. So, to reinforce what the Chief is trying to say, the...because of the radios are being...we're only asking for half, so we're asking for the patrol function to be...have these new radios, and they'll have...they'll be the fully-functioning Motorola radios with the upgrades. The specialized units will not have that. So, they'll still...they'll still be on the same bandwidth. However, if they responded like they did to the fires, we will know where our patrolmen are, but our investigative services guys, we...we won't know where they are. That...that's...that's the difference. And yes, we're going to eventually need all of our...our people outfitted. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Our patrol . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . our patrol function is...is our top priority, so of course, they'll be outfitted first. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Deputy Chief. Mahalo, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question's for Chief Pelletier. The Police Department's budget's approved by...approved by the Police Commission. Did the

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

Mayor's proposed budget incorporate the entire budget that was approved by the Commission? If no, what...what was the difference, and how does that impact the Department?

MR. PELLETIER: Great question. I do appreciate it. In the packet we sent, there's a complete breakdown that you'll have of everything that was changed. And I understand people are fiscally responsible, and sometimes...I get it, and there's not all...you can't get everything sometimes. However, some things that are...that are here, I'd like to at least point out, if I...if I may. We asked for a new fingerprint station for a second examiner for the forensic facility. So, right now, you only have one person that can do that. So, imagine if we want to have two people looking at two different fingerprints. We don't have that capability, or depending on how busy that gets. So, that was taken out. Some...some office furniture that is desperately needed for investigators was...was taken out. This one, really, I think, is big, and I'd like to say why. And I think that Councilmember Paltin will really...it'll resonate with her more than I think anybody else here, although everybody's going to understand it. And it's actually, Chair Sugimura, I think you'll...I think it'll resonate with you when I say this other part on this. We need an armor rescue vehicle on the West Side because we have one way in and one way out. And there's a new...it's been around for a little bit, we don't currently have this particular one, it's by Teradyne. It is IED-proof on the bottom of the shell of this. That's why it'll resonate with Upcountry because we saw IEDs. And if we need to drive a vehicle up and have our bomb techs come out, and God forbid that thing goes up, I need to protect them. And so, this vehicle will break into houses that are on fire. This will smash through certain things. But for the room--and I'm going to get a little tactical and a little Gucci on some tactics here, so just indulge me for a quick second--the proper hostage barricade situation is 360 degrees of containment. And so, if you have a house, and you've got one piece of armor at 6:00, I don't have 360 containment. But if I put a second piece at 12:00, now I've got 360 containment. And if we have something bad happens, and we're doing an after-action, one of the questions that's going to come up is, did you have 360 containment? Right now, we don't have the capability to do that because we've got one piece of armor, and it's in South Maui. West Maui saw the need to do it. And so, I would like to get that other piece of armor, and I'd like to house it on West Maui. That was cut. It's about 350,000. It's on...it's on...it's on the sheet that you've got in your mailbox. But that...that's significant. . . .(timer sounds). . . And if you...if...I don't know if I have to stop talking or you can indulge me, but there's a couple other...couple other things I'd really like to highlight. There's \$56,000 for a Mediburn incinerator. That's to destroy narcotics, like ice and cocaine. So, kind of like to do that. Seized firearm shredding equipment. Right now, I've got a couple people that are beating guns with hammers. That's wrong. For \$100,000, we can get an actual firearm shredder, something that really needs to happen. There was a reduction of body armor by \$15,000. I have a problem with that. I think we should be paying for body armor for our cops. There's some network expansions at Haleakalā with the radio system. It's all on here, but these are...I'm just highlighting for you. There's a full-size van for CORE because CORE really needs to transport sometimes multiple...you know, with the MMU, different things, but there's a van. They could really use that. So, these are...these are there. The rest of them are listed. There's some things with some of the pay, but at least you can see these...these ticket items because I really, with the IEDs, I can see this

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

armored vehicle. We just keep kicking that can down the road, but we had...we had them. I still can't even believe we had them, and I'd like to just share this. The first guy got convicted by the Federal system, thankfully. He's got 24 months, which means in 18 months, he's back out. What do you think he's going to do? So, I'd like to have that piece of equipment in 18 months. Thank you, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Member Kama, then Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you guys for being with us today. I will also tell you, Chair, though, I have a family meeting I need to attend in a little bit. So, I'm going to be excusing myself. I know Corp. Counsel is afterwards, but I did have the opportunity to email them my questions, and they responded, which...and then she basically said on the floor. Before I begin, I would like to honestly publicly thank you for talking to my son when there was that car accident in front of Pā'ia School. I want to commend you on how reachable you were for not just me, but for my son. If you guys don't remember, there was a fatal accident in front of Pā'ia School. It was a Wednesday, so school was let out early, like today, and the body was still there. And as you can imagine, my now seven-year-old had a bunch of unanswered questions, so it meant a lot. Also, I did read the Police Commission's letter to us. And yesterday, we asked for boards and commissions, and I wasn't going to say anything because it wasn't a clarifying question, but hopefully, they're going to be housed at the Haggai Institute so they can have their own space because I don't think Liquor Department's IT is going to be able to accommodate them and everybody else that they have been accommodating. But my question really, I read your guys' answers, is what...how...I've asked you this before, and you basically told me, I cannot really tell you, but I did ask you, how do you get rid of all of the narcotics and all of the weed? You can't just like burn it, so what happens? So, how much does that thing that...that you just mentioned to incinerate the narcotics, how much does that cost?

MR. PELLETIER: \$56,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: \$56,000. Okay. And then, how does a firearm shredder work? So, what do you mean they beat them with hammers? Like is that how they're rendering them useless? Like a sledgehammer?

MR. PELLETIER: I'm...I'm sorry to say that that's all that they have is some hammers, and you can take a gun apart. It's not...it breaks down --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: -- and then you take the broken down parts and you smash them, but that's not really appropriate. It's actually really wrong, and when it came to our attention, we were like find us something. And so, Kat Paschoal, who oversees records, she's amazing, she's like, here's the most effective way we could do it. It's actually manufactured to do

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

that, and you put the pieces in there, and it...it rips the metal apart to where it can't be functional again. Because the last thing you want is a firearm that's been taken to be functional again.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can you recycle the metal?

MR. PELLETIER: I think there's a way to do some of it. Some of it you can't because of the lead and things like that, and some handling. So, I do believe that there's a part of it that...that...that it does happen.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then how do we...going back to my first question, how do we now remove and get...or get rid of the drugs? Like what do we...what do we do now if we don't have this incinerator?

MR. PELLETIER: There is some incinerators in the state, and they're removed that way.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, we have to ship . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . them someplace else?

MR. PELLETIER: Sometimes, and sometimes it's done here, depending on the size and scope. But I can't tell you where those are. And because...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I really want to make a joke about --

MR. PELLETIER: Well...well --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- us moving drugs --

MR. PELLETIER: -- the problem is, is you actually get people...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- throughout the state right now.

MR. PELLETIER: Other states...entire tactical teams of like 50 people move this stuff. It's like in the movies, and so there's a lot of OPSEC that goes in with that. It would not --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: -- be appropriate in this setting.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure. Okay. Yeah, don't answer it because I'm basically envisioning like Con Air or something.

MR. PELLETIER: Well, that's why we're not talking.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: People do crazy stuff.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thanks. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're good? Okay. Very good. And we'll expect you to leave. Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, I'll leave in . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Next, we have Member Kama, and then Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, thank you for being here again, Chief. It's always nice to see you, so I'm hoping that today is even going to be more productive than our usual conversations. But I want to talk to you this morning about your CORE program, and I have three questions. You can either answer them, or you can do it in writing. It doesn't matter to me. But I love your CORE program. I've been on many rides with them. Some of them were utterly disgusting. Some of them were pretty jovial. Some were pretty funny, but all-in-all, the work was very hard and difficult for me to go through some of the things that they went through on my ride-alongs. And thank you for approving the ride-along because now I can ride along whenever I call. They'll say, well...I say, well, Chief said it was okay, although he only said once it was okay. I assumed that it was okay as long as we're here. But...so, here's my question. Given the current workload and the increasing scope of responsibilities that the CORE unit is managing, how would that addition of another officer improve the Department's ability to meet community needs and expand current programs? That's one. Second one...because I'm going to run out of time. What specific challenges or areas of the CORE unit's work are currently being underserved due to limitations in necessary equipment, and how would the addition of a 4x4 vehicle help address these gaps? Third question. How does the CORE's unit effectiveness in addressing community needs reflect on the overall performance of the Maui Police Department, and how could an increase in personnel further enhance the Department's mission of improving public safety and community health? Three questions.

MR. PELLETIER: I am very grateful for the question. I really do appreciate it. I'm going to answer that in one second. I just need to at least recognize that it was very gracious, referenced the...the last Councilmember to say what she did about her son, you know. And that's what we all want to do, is make sure that our children are...are protected and answered.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Absolutely.

MR. PELLETIER: So, thank you for this. If...if you like the ride-alongs, we could do...we could do this a few ways. You can raise your right hand, repeat after me, and I'll swear you in, and we'll just get you on board. So, you let me know if we want to go that route. But, you know, and that goes for everybody here. I think the best way that you guys can see the Department is to see it. And I know that Chair Sugimura is a huge advocate of the dispatchers, and she's in there quite often. And so, I know because she sees it, she's so passionate, and you see it with the CORE. So, we are actually...one of those

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

PO III expansion positions that I just told you, we're in the process of promoting for that person. The test process is going, and we should have that...we should one more later this month. I think May 1st is the anticipated date on that, if I'm not mistaken. I think May 1st. So, we'll have a new person in there May 1. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . The 4x4 vehicle and the van would greatly help because they do go into areas that are not easily accessible --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- and so you've seen those areas --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- and so it would be --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I have.

MR. PELLETIER: -- huge. And we bring --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- the resources and the service providers --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. PELLETIER: -- out there. So, it's a no-brainer. Absolutely do need that. And then I know I have a written correspondence here, and so I'll give that to...to...to Lesley --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: -- so...the Director, and so she could get that to you --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: -- so that you can have a much more in-depth answer on that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. I heard the buzzer, Chair. Wow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So fast.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MR. PELLETIER: It's like a game show.



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

**April 2, 2025**

---

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, Chief. I have the question regarding the fire in 2023, August 8. With summer weather approaching and the potential for fires, how are we more prepared today than we were almost two years ago, especially with regard to communication and coordination?

MR. PELLETIER: You know, Chair, I...I...I have to say...and I'll answer that, but I do need to mention that your leadership--not just during the fires, but since--has been exemplary, and we're better as a...as a community for it. So, mahalo for you for that. One of the things that we did last year, Chief Ventura and I, and our leadership team and the Deputy's been a big part of this, is we...we felt a need. We identified it in our after-action. They identified it, but we felt that command and control--because if it starts at certain levels, really gets that connectivity, that unified command--and so, we have built together a command and control class so that we have connectivity at the basic level on a scene with the Fire Department leadership. So, like your captain level, your battalion chief, and that would be equivalent to about our...our sergeant, lieutenant, maybe captain level. And so, we will be co-teaching this year a...a class, meaning Fire and Police. So, think about that. Fire and Police will be co-teaching to each other on unified command. So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chief.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chief. I get...I get it. So, I'm really happy that there's been this vast improvement and preparation for, you know, potential disasters. Have you ever...and then I really like the idea of your buying updated radios and so forth. What about the...the possibility of buying a satellite? Because, you know, our rural areas are still at risk.

MR. PELLETIER: We're buying Starlinks. Yeah, we...we...we have that in the...in the process, in the pipeline. Just for that very reason.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Because, you know, don't be afraid to try. Take a leap. You'd be surprised how much this Council will support you. Because we believe in innovation, and not, you know, just small little steps, and continuing to put our community at risk. So, just think boldly, and...and believe me, we'll be there for you. Thank you. Thank you, Chief, for your work.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I just have--and you already brought up what I'm going to ask about because you know me so well--911 dispatchers. Before you answer, yesterday we had Personnel here. And thanks to Michele Yoshimura from my office, after the meeting ended, we had a discussion about how can we do this. Immediate answer, right, from Personnel, was change the bargaining unit. That didn't work. You and I both know that. But that is what Personnel thought. But we had a really good meeting after the regular meeting about how to do this. So, if you could check with Personnel, check with Michele Yoshimura, and they kind of walk through steps of how to...you know, how to do this. Because I really want to help the 911 dispatchers. This year, again, in my priority, as the Members all know, I'm going to be putting in some extra funding so that it will be retention until we can solve this. And Members, the reason why I won't give this up is that we're not helping the dispatchers in terms of their retirement, right? We can give them \$1,000 a month, or whatever it is that we can, but it doesn't help them for their future and for their family in a...in a long-term way. So, I'm not going to give up. I'm going to keep on bugging you, and I was really glad to hear from the Director of Personnel as...as she, with her layers--I always call it layers of information on how to think through this, there...there may be something that, you know, we can talk through. So, that was going to be my question, but I kind of answered it myself. You want to say something?

MR. PELLETIER: Well, I appreciate the...the continued support on that, and I think Michele is...is gold, and she doesn't stop, and she continues to fight. But one of the things the Deputy and I...because, you know, we...we sit here and we roundtable this thing, and...and it's...it's beyond frustrating to me that people are okay calling first responders, because that's what they are, clerks, because that's what they're not. And it's wrong, and it needs to end. So, we're thinking--and...and with this is kind of flipping the script, the Deputy's--it's actually Deputy's ideas--see if we can't force them to do a supplemental, which...which is a supplemental agreement on top of their collective bargaining agreement. And just see if they'll honor that, and just see if, hey, we want to pay this wage and make it where it's pensionable, and then make...make the union the bad guy, perhaps, if they say no. You know, why not? I mean, why...you know, when Chair Lee talks about going bold, I...she's speaking my language. You know, I asked everybody to prom last year. If I wasn't married, I think I'd be asking her to marry me with the way she was talking with the go bold. Because for three-and-a-half years, I've been trying to make as much of a splash as we can, but no, it's...we have to go bold. And I like your idea, and I think that a supplemental might be a good, bold splash, but we really need...we really need some legislation to really classify them so that they can get compensated for what they are. But we will not stop fighting, and I appreciate your support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And you know your list that you were talking about in terms of priority that was on the budget? Oh, here it is already. Okay. So, I don't quite understand this, but I'm sure you can explain this to me later. You --

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- passed out what you were going to give to Tamara. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .  
And then from the budget, you were going through individual things that were not included. Can you share that with us also?

MR. PELLETIER: It's already sent. You guys already have this, so I know that it's the weird thing. Oh, it's with...yeah, I have to...you send it to me, and then I send it to them, but I can't give it to you until they give it to you. So, they've got it to give to you.

MS. MILNER: You'll have it today.

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm not sure if we know what that means, but before...before I go to the next round, Members, I just want to say, Chief, that I...I hope your family is fine, and that's all I want to say. I love your wife.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She's very nice in comparison to you, but...just kidding, because I know her from Seabury Hall. Just kidding. And your...your...

MR. PELLETIER: That's all right. There's nine of you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What? What? And your twins, really --

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- amazing kids. So, I just want to say our mahalo to them.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Can you start your second round?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're ready.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, I'm ready.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wait. Wait, wait, wait. You're...you're ruining my system, because Tamara is supposed to start first, right? And then Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Cook. What I'm trying to do is take the second, the...the Committee Chair who has MPD, and to start off there because she must have come up with more questions. And Member Sinenci, Kama, Lee, and then myself, so you go wait. Okay. Member Paltin.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. You know, in the unified command, I was wondering if you could briefly describe for us the evacuation, who...how it gets enacted, and for the various...like, one-size-evacuation doesn't fit all. We got people like MEO paratransit riders, which was one of the significant deaths in the 2023 fire. We got elderly, we got disabled, we got people without vehicles. And so, I was wondering, in the unified command of evacuating, like who calls for it? How is it communicated? Who...and the various levels. Like, you know, people that can't evacuate on their own, do you support like a medical needs registry so that we know like people that are going to need assistance, and if you can describe that for us? Either now or in writing is fine.

MR. PELLETIER: How about I...I'll give some of it now, and then if...if you need more, we can always do more. But I...I think the more unified we are as a command group, the better we're going to be. And let's remember this, incident command is actually in the incident. It's actually in the field. And so, downstairs, that's not incident command. Incident command is out there. And so, as you have incident command, and you've got that group there, and you're unified, that discussion should be happening, and the...and the ability to say, we need to evacuate this area, this area, this area, and make those a priority. I think there's not enough that we can do. I think there can't be enough notifications. So, whether it's cell phones, whether it's reverse 911s, whether it's sirens--whatever...whatever is there. I also know that the County has purchased--I want to say Planning has some software that they're going to be putting in there that you're going to have some alert systems that way. Those different things, because they're not all the same. They're not all the same. And if we prepare for a fire and it's a tsunami, then we screwed up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, is it incident command that calls for the evacuation?

MR. PELLETIER: So...so...so, the incident commander, who's in the field, they're the ones that should be making those immediate calls.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then they are calling to MEMA?

MR. PELLETIER: They...they may be. It also depends on...it...it depends, it's like the earlier comment that I said --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like a flow chart.

MR. PELLETIER: -- is...is I can't...it's not going to fit everything, and no answer I'm going to give you right now is going to be plug and play. But it's just...it's going to depend. But if we do not give the incident commander the ability to run the incident, we are failing them, and they have to be able to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And like from my experience, when I had that training, it was the first officer on the scene is the incident commander until the next higher-up person arrives.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. PELLETIER: Well, then you are spot on, and you remember correctly. So, the first is, and then eventually it's the most competent, capable person that's actually at the incident. So, depending on what...it might not be the highest ranking, and you really shouldn't have the head of an agency necessarily. But you have like whatever that...whether it's a lieutenant, captain, or battalion chief.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and if there's Fire and Police there, how do they determine?

MR. PELLETIER: So, depending on what it is...so if it's a barricade, let's just say it's a hostage rescue, then it's a Police-led. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And so, the incident commander would be Police. If it's a fire, it's Fire-led. And so, the incident commander, they'll establish unified command, is what it would be called, unified command, and the incident commander would be Fire. And then Police will be in the unified command, but they'll be subordinate, they'll be secondary to Fire's needs. They'll be actively fighting the fire, and then Police might be doing the evacs, let's say, or...or blocking the roads, and doing what we can in our support function.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I might just ask that in writing so that we can get more comprehensive answer as well.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah. And I don't know that any writing I'm going to give you is going to solve it all, and that would probably be what I'm going to say. It might be...and I might be just giving you some manuals and some different things because it's...I'm not going to rewrite ICS.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the Starlinks you were talking about, those are Starlink cell phones?

MR. PELLETIER: The...the satellite boosters. Yeah.

MR. MAEDA: We ordered eight of them. We...we're in the...we ordering eight of them already.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There was something in there that was two Starlink cell phones, or was that Fire maybe? It's not...the T-Mobile.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fire. Oh, yeah, can you speak in the mic? Because otherwise...

MR. MAEDA: Sorry. Yeah. So, when the...back when we had the fires, we actually had the...we had the use of, I think, one or two...only one or two Starlinks. So, that was one of the things we identified, that in case communications go down, there was no cell service. So, we...we...in our Fiscal Year '25, we already ordered eight additional Starlinks, and then we have additional things in our budget to order more. Yes, and...and what it is --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's the panels.

MR. MAEDA: -- it's...it's...it's a pack, and it radios up to the satellite and then projects from there. So...yeah.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. MAEDA: Thank you. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, you do not want to send...you do not want us to send that to you in writing? Chair...I mean, Chief?

MR. PELLETIER: You can send it to me. I...I just don't know that I'm...I'll give you...the Starlink one or the ICS one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The ICS one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The ICS one, and then also the part about the medical needs registry. Like, you know, if the incident commander calls for evacuation, and then it goes to where to press the button, if there's going to be sirens, and so on and so forth. And if...if you are in support of a medical needs registry, like to...

MR. PELLETIER: Oh, I'm...I'm...I'm in support of that. I'm in support of anything and everything we can to protect our people, period.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because two fires now, we never evacuate Hale Mahaolu Eono on until, you know, after the fact.

MR. MAEDA: Can I...can I answer that? Okay. So, one of the criticisms that the Police and Fire had was . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . there was no unified command during the...the incident. So, Chief Pelletier, along with Chief Brad Ventura, they came together, and it always existed. During that fire, it was a little bit chaotic, so there was no pre-set unified command. But now, we...we set into protocols that in any major event, especially at a fire, Police and Fire will get together immediately, set up a command incident, and determine whether there needs to be evacuations. So, Fire will determine the evacuation based on the wind and...and the proximity to housing and...and depending what the area is, and we will be in charge of doing the actual evacuation. In the meantime, MEMA is notified, and MEMA sends out messages as well. Now, do we have a registry right now for people that are disabled? No. But I think ultimately, part of the plan is to get those people registered, and get those people...have a priority extraction with them. If we get the second rescue vehicle, that would be the...the use of that...that vehicle, to help extract these people, especially if there's debris on the road.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So, thank you for that. I guess in writing, if...if you know the roles, as you guys see it, of each agency...and then if we ask, you know, the three agencies--Fire, Police, and MEMA--if everybody agrees what each person's role is...like if we ask you what is Fire, Police, and MEMA's role, we ask Fire, we ask MEMA, I just want to make sure everybody's on the same page on what...what they think each other's roles are, and what they think their own roles are, because of August 8th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we'll send that question then. Thank you.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. PELLETIER: Oh, yeah. But let me just, really quick. I...I will give what I think there may be, but at the same time, that's my opinion, I...you know, for what it's worth.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, exactly. So, I would like to know what everybody thinks everybody's roles are, and what they think their own roles are, just so that we know where each agency is coming from, and...and try to get on the same page.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Member Johnson, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Also noting the time, 11:44. I have one set of questions, and this is regarding Moloka'i. So, our Moloka'i officers have been desperately pleading, or asking us for...to relocate them from the old station, which they were supposed to be relocated when the...around the same time that Fire was relocated, the Kaunakakai Station. And we know that it floods during storms, and, you know, the Council did do a site visit, I think, in 2019, but that site to relocate wasn't supported by the community for safety reasons. Do you have any updates on the relocation of the police station? I understand that there have been some progress made.

MR. PELLETIER: Really do appreciate the question. Thank you so much. So, Moloka'i has been ignored for a very long time, and it is in a flood zone, and just so...and I've been there when it's flooded. And just so that the whole room understands this is, you have officers trying to get guns out of the armory, evidence out of the evidence vault, to preserve cases. That's completely unacceptable. It cannot happen. So, General Logan, who just became the Adjutant General, and myself, we just were over there last week. We had contracted--because the Council had approved us to have half-a-million dollars for plans for this--we had them over there, and we looked at the armory that's actually above the flood zone, just below the hospital. And we can do a...the similar lease that they do with HPD, so we will pay basically like a dollar a year for the land, which is nothing. We're not paying for the land. And for \$15 million, we can have between 20 and 25 years a new station that will give a Band-Aid until a permanent station is then located and built. And then for that amount of money, the...the...the community can then repurpose that with the National Guard and the armory as they see fit at that time frame. But for about 4-1/2 to 5 to get us started in...in the upcoming fiscal, we could actually begin this, and we could have a new station in two years to where we...we don't have that problem. And that would be huge. Because the ability to get that problem fixed and...and alleviated is...is tremendous. And so, that number--they just came out within the last...I think even yesterday, there were some updated numbers--but that number, the 15 million has actually got...it's 13 because there's a 2 million contingency in there. But nowhere else are you going to get land for free. Nowhere else are you going to have integrated. And then you want to talk about the last question with unified command. The design will actually have the unified command post in

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

. . .*(timer sounds)*. . . the armory, which will be shared with the...with the military. So, it'll be exceptional.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief, for those details. I plan to add that to the budget as one of my priorities. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for waiting, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I have three questions, but they're all integrated. It's not...it shouldn't even take you very long. So, one...and AI isn't a question, but it's sort of like an aspect, something that I'm asking you and the other departments, how much you're utilizing that as a tool. But neighborhood crime watch programs, how many programs are currently active? Is there a decrease in crime in these neighborhoods? Do the programs have an impact on the Department's operations? So, it's just a facet of this question. And the next one is enforcement of derelict vehicles in the public right-of-way. Will MPD tag a derelict vehicle if it's found that it is being lived in? What County Code is used for tagging derelict vehicles? And what can a vehicle be...and when can a vehicle be re-tagged if it's moved?

MR. PELLETIER: Really appreciate the question. I'm going to do the AI. The other ones are in writing, already submitted. So, in the interest of time, I won't get into that. So, AI cannot...technology and innovation, like Chair Lee said, cannot be emphasized enough. It's actually one of the pillars of 21st Century policing. It's one of the six pillars, right? So, we want to be looking at different technologies. One of the things that got cut from the Feds with the new budget deal, with the new Administration and the way they kind of all did this, and we all know what I'm talking about, is they cut our \$2.5 million for a real-time op center. So, that's a problem because we've been borrowing some cameras for a little bit. The check's going to come due, and they're going to pull some of these cameras. But some of the things that we've solved, and you've heard me mention one of those things when I said IED, you understand? Some...some of those things, we've used that technology for that. Because of that vacuum, we...we...we now don't have that, and we are planning on getting that. So, we may never get that from the Federal Government. And so, we really could use some of these cameras, they're LPR AI cameras. It's through a project called Aware. You can actually put them at the mountains, and they can see anomaly like smoke...they can detect it. And just so you know, violent crime has been gone...for the last three years that we've been tracking it, it's been going down, and the list of the neighborhood programs are in the response, so I won't belabor that fact. But we saw last year a 6 percent reduction in violent crime for the entire County, which is a huge win. Anything reducing violent crime is...is a win. And so, that's...that's the measurable, and that really does matter. So, I don't want to keep talking if I don't...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, what's the ask on the AI?



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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. PELLETIER: \$650,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you done, or...

MR. PELLETIER: I am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You are?

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook, anymore?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm done. And I'm grateful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're done?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you all very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Sinenci, thanks for being patient.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Mahalo, Chair. Chief, we all know that the house...our housing inventory in East Maui is...is scathing (*phonetic*). So, we did put some money for repairs for the police cottages in Hāna. Is there an update on that? If...if you're renovating or repairing those, have you used those funds from last year?

MR. PELLETIER: So, we're in the process of renovating them. That is a priority. One of the things that Councilmember Cook had done last year was the blueprint plan idea, which we really, really, really like, and that's to get approved plans so that we could basically tear them all down and rebuild them, and it would save a lot of time, money, and effort. Because I really think that...we keep putting paint on something that's busted. I think we just need to rip it all down and build it back. But we're in the process of doing the repairs, but at some point, we need to have that conversation. And then possibly purchasing another property there might be a really good option to move people as we're, you know, tearing these things down and doing it, and I know we've had some of those discussions. We just have to identify the right place that'll meet codes, but it's a definite priority.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Yeah. And then our Staff can send you anything that comes up on the market for you guys to consider. Chief, we also...last week, I received a couple calls about Homeland Security being in West Maui and South Maui, and I was just curious for the Department, are they informing the Department of any of their activities with Homeland Security?

MR. PELLETIER: So, Homeland Security was here on Thursday. They left on Friday. We were notified when they came in on Thursday what they were doing. This Administration has established a very good working relationship, not just with our multiple partners in

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

Federal agencies, but as well as with Roots Reborn and the immigration community. It's part of why we created MMAC, the Maui PD Multicultural Advisory Council. I just had a meeting with them yesterday. We do not participate with our Federal partners in immigration enforcement. We care about individuals that are committing violent crime. We do not care about immigration status. We don't ask that, period. If you're a bad guy doing bad things, then you should be worried. If you happen to be not here properly...well, you shouldn't do bad things. If you're here...are here properly, just don't do bad things. And so, you know, we just ask that you be a law-abiding citizen, and...and...and pay your fair share, and do what...I'm trying to hit every political, build it back better, pay your fair share, and let's keep East Maui great. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I think that's everybody, right? So...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, I concur. Thanks, Chief.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. That was good. So, I have no questions. And Members, because we started at 10:00, our timing of our meeting is a little bit different. So, I'm at the very end of round two. You want another round with Police? If we do, it'll be two minutes because I'm trying to get Corp. Counsel here before it becomes 1:00, and I said we would be done with this meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm good.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Paltin, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had a question on...you know, we hire Police Officer Is, and then everyone else will get promoted to those higher positions. And if we have eight lieutenant vacancies, two captains, and like that, there is an overtime category, and that could be used. I...I'm wondering why we have the huge amount of vacancies instead of putting the money that we need for overtime into the overtime category, and less vacancies until we get closer to filling them. And then I guess maybe follow-up in writing about what is the holdup in creating the recruitments. Because like it seems those openings, like Detective or lieutenant or captains, would be kind of standard. It's not like we're creating a County Archeologist, which we've never had before.

MR. PELLETIER: I don't know that you want me to put that in writing because my opinion, and how I'd say it, I don't think it's going to come off really well, but for three-and-a-half years, I can't get a part-time investigator approved is ridiculous. We don't have an issue with recruiting as far as the Police Department. What I was showing you with that number is, we've actually broke the system because we've moved so quick. We have a full-time recruiting center at the mall. We have people in that every single day. Our numbers...the DPS can't keep up with the tests. We should take over our own tests.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are you going to be at the May 15th one-stop shop?

MR. PELLETIER: We'll have some people there. Well, they're actually using our facility. They're actually using our...like the County's using ours because we've got one because we're doing it right. So, I say that because we're...we're there to help, but we're also going to do something like May the force be with you, and do something around that weekend, try to...because this...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does your position descriptions need to go to the Managing Director?

MR. PELLETIER: Well, here's the thing. My...my...the person I work for was there earlier, and so I would mention that maybe if you want-- . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . just indulge me--maybe allow the Police Department--you could do Fire and Liquor--give us five years without some of this oversight in DPS. We could have a DPS liaison, see how effective we are. If we do a great job, maybe that's a model. If we don't, let's go back to this archaic system that doesn't work. But we don't lose anything. But let's stop doing what's the barrier. It shouldn't...it shouldn't take six months to get a sergeant test. And so, that's part of the problem. It shouldn't take me--just hear me out. I've asked for a civilian recruiting position, before I even got the job, that I can't get approved. I can't get it approved. So, something ain't working.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Who...who is not...who is the entity that's not approving it?

MR. PELLETIER: DPS.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I think we might need it in writing, even if it's not flattering, because we can't overcome the blockades if we're not familiar with what they are.

MR. PELLETIER: You shall get whatever you need.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. PELLETIER: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, can we...did you get the question? Maybe we'll...you did? Okay. All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and then I think we're done with this round.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Since we're only having the departments before us once, if there are any Councilmember priorities--you mentioned a priority that the Members have questions about--I...I...I would like for the Members to ask any questions. I indicated that my priority . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . would be to add the funding for a Moloka'i Police Station relocation. So, if Members have any questions, the Department is before us now, and I'd appreciate any of those questions. I don't have

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

any questions regarding your priority, Chair, for dispatchers. Like, I'm...I'm supportive of that. So...but while we have the Department before us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have any comments or questions regarding...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If they have a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- priority. Yeah, if they have a priority for this Department, and I think it would be a good practice moving forward, since we only have the departments before us once, that if Members have a priority that they indicated, you know, at the time --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the department comes before us, so we can ask any follow-up questions that we may have, so that when we do take up the votes --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Deliberation.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- on that, then the folks will have...the Members will have that information. Mahalo, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- one of the priorities is what I spoke to Chief about today, about the CORE program, their one extra expansion position, and the truck that, you know, CORE could use. So, those are my priorities.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...so, Members, that...that's fine. But we are waiting for the second set of questions --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- which we haven't got yet, which I think they might have just gotten because all your questions that were sent to them on Tuesday.

MR. PELLETIER: We can submit it as well. We...we finished it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you finished your second set from the Members?

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah. Yeah. I wanted to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. PELLETIER: -- I wanted to state it was done.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, it is complete. It's just with my office for final review before we transfer it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. MILNER: So, you'll have it this afternoon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, it's been...it's in hiding yet. Soon to come. But...all right, Members. We are...anybody else have anything? Okay. So, we look forward to the Mayor's Office transmitting your answers to the individual Members' questions. Thank you very much. So, thank you. Thank you, Chief.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Deputy Chief --

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and all your staff for being with us. And we're going to do a change-out, and we'll ask Corp. Counsel to join us. Can...can we do like...you want a five-minute break? We haven't had a break yet just because we started at 10:00. Is five minutes enough? You want ten? Five? Okay. We'll come back at 12:05. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS:        12:01 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE:    12:11 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 12:11. We are...we're not at bare quorum, but we're getting there. Member Cook, you left. Or you're going to...you're going to leave at 12:30. Member Johnson is leaving already. He has to go get his car out of the shop so he can go to Hāna. And he said he has no questions for Corp. Counsel, so that's good. Are we at bare quorum? We are, yeah? We are at bare quorum.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee didn't come back, so one...one...two...three...four.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're here. Okay. We're at bare quorum, though, yeah? We're at six? Okay. All right. So, we have until 1:00. I hope we can keep that time schedule. So, we have before us Corp. Counsel, and as you know, their Granicus items are number 11 and County Communication 2. And we are ready. So...

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we're going to get...oh, okay. So, you answered all the questions. Very good. All right. So, for Corp. Counsel. Member U'u-Hodgins has left. Member Sinenci is online. Then Member Kama. Chair Lee has left, I guess. Member Paltin is there. Member Johnson has left. Rawlins-Fernandez, and then...yeah. Good. And then, Member Cook, you're leaving, right? You have to leave at 12:30 or something? No? Okay. All right. So, let's start. Member Sinenci, three minutes for Corp. Counsel.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank...thank you, Chair. We...we didn't prepare any questions for Corporation Counsel, so I'll defer to the other Councilmembers who did send in their questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No questions for Corp. Counsel.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. What positions does the Supervising Law Tech oversee?

MS. TAKAYESU: The Supervising Law Tech oversees the Law Tech Is and one Law Tech II.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if there's no test for legal clerical positions, how is an eligible list created?

MS. KAHUHU: Thank you, Member Paltin. The eligibles list is based on...DPS has some type of ranking, so they look at people's applications, and then they create a ranking, and that's how they give it a percentage. I'm not really sure how that works, but...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Was the Fiscal Year '24 carryover \$342,034?

MS. KAHUHU: For our department? Lesley, do you have that?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Let me double-check the ACFR, and I'll get back to you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then for the internship law clerks, if you could explain that. It shows two are unfunded, two are funded, but only at .3 E/P, and it says like summer. If...if that could just be explained, because I don't understand.

MS. KAHUHU: Thank you, Member Paltin. So, we do have four positions. Two 1.0s are unfunded, and we have two. The .3 are our summer interns, so we bring them in for six weeks. The unfunded ones are for law school graduates, pending their passing of their bar. We're able to bring them in in those unfunded positions because we have a vacancy for a Deputy, if we have a vacancy. And the...the plan is for them to pass the

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

bar, and then move into the vacant Deputy position. So, it's really funded from the vacant Deputy position.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, the Deputy Corp. Counsel position that you...or sorry, not that one. The supervising law technician that was available since July 2024, so it's been vacant for one...almost like...almost the whole fiscal year?

MS. KAHUHU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the 343...position number 34321, Workers' Compensation Specialist I. I had a different position description in the Budget Details. Is that the same one that begins with P00?

MS. KAHUHU: Yes, it does. We submitted that to DPS for creation in September of last year. It took a really long time. I guess they were debating whether it should be a Workers' Compensation Safety Specialist . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . or a Workers' Compensation Specialist. We finally got to meet with them in January, and then they finally completed the creation of the position in...on February 21st. And we put it out immediately for active recruitment. And we are, as of today, still waiting for an eligibles list...although we are aware there are applicants that have applied.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, cool. So, you don't get that applicant list until the position closes?

MS. KAHUHU: Yes. We cannot even ask who's on the list.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I heard the bell, I'll come around again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. KAHUHU: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. On your expansion position, I see equipment for 45,000, page 126. Are you trying to find your own thunder with this equipment?

MS. TAKAYESU: That is for the vehicle for the Investigator. So, our vehicle's so old, the Departments [*sic*] of Highways is like it's not safe for him to drive anymore.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's...let's get him to safety. Okay. I think that's all the...the questions that I have. I was just trying to find that match. And so, there was a savings of 15...no. I'm not going to do public math. There was a savings, and therefore, the 45,000 increase...because that vehicle is estimated to be 60,000. Okay. And then what are you going to do with the vehicle after? What...what is the procedure for the vehicle after?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MS. KAHUHU: Currently, we're working with Public Works Highways. They're putting out an RFP, and we're trying to jump on what's already out there, and hoping to maybe even be able to fund it in FY 2025 if we possibly could, but we're not sure yet. We haven't heard back on the...the bidding process from Public Works Highways, but that's where it is right now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. To dispose of the old vehicle?

MS. KAHUHU: Yeah. I believe they will dispose of it, but purchasing of the new one, they already have an RFP out for another department. So, we were going to jump on that with them to see...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, yeah, I was just wondering about --

MS. KAHUHU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the...how...how...

MS. KAHUHU: The disposal.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. KAHUHU: Oh, I'm sorry. The...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's okay.

MS. KAHUHU: I'm...I'm...it's through Public Works Highways, so I'm not 100 percent sure how it works.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, awesome. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair. That's all.

MS. KAHUHU: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's it? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. So, discussing vacant positions, what would be the Department's...Corp. Counsel's hope and recommendation for Personnel Services to make it...to make it easier for you to accomplish the goal of getting new employees?

MS. TAKAYESU: I...I heard MPD talking about having their own internal recruitment. That would be awesome. It's just very cumbersome, and...you know, I don't want to throw shade on DPS, I'm sure they have their challenges, but it is extremely difficult. I mean, when it takes...when Council approves a position, and it takes almost a year for Personnel to actually approve the position description, it's very frustrating, especially when something like Work Comp Specialist, where we have a real need for people who



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

**April 2, 2025**

---

need to get reimbursed. But short of having our own internal recruitment, I don't know whether it's doing away with MQs, as was also suggested yesterday. I heard about...talking about core, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Competencies.

MS. TAKAYESU: -- core competencies, right? Because we know we have qualified people applying, but they don't meet the MQs, and we're kind of really shocked sometimes about that. But it's a big fix.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, to follow-up on that, since you're Corporation Counsel, and you look out for the County of Maui's legal liability, and giving us guidance on what you can legally do, and what we should avoid, how does that go as far as Personnel Services and the...the rules? Is that something beyond the...who has the magic wand who could modify what you've told us has been repeated by almost every single department? If we could interview the people, it would simplify things. So, from a legal perspective, do you have any guidance?

MS. TAKAYESU: Well, I will say that the civil service is regulated by the HRS, which is State statutes. Our DPS, you know, Director and Assistant Director, the Director is...answers to the Civil Service Commission. So, there is no one person that can, you know, wave a magic wand and make this all better. I think it's a cumbersome system. So, I'd have to look into how legally we can do anything about it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, is it basically a State Legislature...State legislative modification?

MS. TAKAYESU: I think so. And even in terms of bargaining with unions, you know, we want to give our people money, but the other counties might not--for whatever reason, maybe they don't have the money or whatever. But, you know, then our union members have to, you know, suffer. So, yeah, I think it's a legislative fix.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. If you find a workaround, we'd be supportive...I would be supportive. I can only speak for myself. Thank you.

MS. TAKAYESU: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have no questions. And I'm...I'm going to be watching, I guess. Oh, I have...I have a cute story about your car. So, I sat next to...yeah, this car that they want you replace. And...and so, I sat next to Corp. Counsel going to the opening of the Legislature, and she told me this car, she said it's so buss up, there's a bird dropping on it. I said, that's all I need. They cannot even run it. That was her cute story. But I have no questions, but I remember that story. And about your dedicated Staff, I really appreciate that. And about Lydia, I just want you say when I remember her from Maui Land & Pine, and she was doing the same thing in terms of watching, you know, employee, and Work Comp, and all of that. And she was doing it for that whole Maui Pineapple Company, and here you are, sitting in the same kind of

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

responsibility. I just want to say thank you. So, Members, round three [sic], anybody have questions? Member Paltin, two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I think this is round two, but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, round two. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My question is for...in your response, P00502, Deputy Corp. Counsel, is that the same as position ID 33630? And then...so it was an expansion position in the FY '25 Budget, which was filled with three months left to go in the Fiscal Year '25. And so, the two other Deputy Corp. Counsel positions are requesting eight months' funding, but for last Deputy Corp. Counsel, you only were able to utilize three months. So, I just was wondering, what makes you guys so optimistic that you would utilize eight months' funding this fiscal year?

MS. TAKAYESU: Just given the nature of how many applicants we've been receiving, or applications we've been receiving lately, I'm pretty comfortable with the fact that we will be able to hire someone. I don't even think we would...I think we probably can do it within a month or two of getting...of July 1st. We could probably get somebody...the two of them on board by September. So, we might even need ten months' of funding. So, I think eight months is conservative. It was slow. We just were so busy in terms of trying to find the right fit for a Deputy. It wasn't for lack of applications. So, I think we waited. We got someone really who's quality, but I don't have any doubt we'll be able to get somebody on board fairly quickly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then you said those vacancies for the Deputy Corp. Counsels, you're looking to expand. One is for Land Management and one is for Environmental Management.

MS. TAKAYESU: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the Workers' Comp Specialist, you were only able to post it in February of 2025. So, that would have been like four months' funding. Have...and when does the period close, you said?

MS. KAHUHU: I believe it's been continued by DPS until April 15th.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: April 15th. So, that would be the earliest you could start interviews?

MS. KAHUHU: I...I have asked for a list. Even...normally they can provide us names as they receive them and qualify them. So, I'm just waiting for that. And my most recent correspondence was this morning, asking on the status of the eligibles list.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then for the Investigator V position that you expanded, you just hired on November 20...November 19th, 2024, but then the next month, you lost your other Investigator V position?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MS. KAHUHU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you don't know that they have applicants that have put in for that position?

MS. KAHUHU: We have put in a requisition, which starts the process. The Department will put in the requisition. They'll go through the tasks of posting it and then receiving applications. So, that's where the length of time takes. But...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it wasn't...it wasn't posted . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . when it was vacated on the 1st?

MS. KAHUHU: No. Not immediately, because we had our new investigator.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the person retired? Or...

MS. TAKAYESU: No, he went to Fire. Fire stole him.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I guess what I don't understand is, did they give you a two-weeks' notice, and that two-weeks' notice is not enough time to ask for it to be posted, to be filled? Or, I mean, you knew you were going to be losing someone, but it hasn't been posted yet.

MS. TAKAYESU: Correct.

MS. KAHUHU: I think...I think in that matter, we had a great list when we hired our...our new investigator, and we had another applicant from that list who we really wanted to...he...and I think we're still possibly interested in him, we'll see if his name comes back up on the list. He was from out of state, and so there would have been some time to...so, I think we just...because our new investigator is pretty awesome, we felt okay just continuing with him to see what happens with that applicant. But we've since put in the requisition to just get a new list, and we'll...we'll just interview and see what happens.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess the part I don't understand is, you hired someone 11 days before the person...other person vacated the same position, and you couldn't just hire two people because you didn't know that the other person was going to vacate the position in 11 days later, or...

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah, we didn't get the full two-weeks' notice. The position opened up, it was a timing thing. It was fine, I mean, we didn't have any objection to it. It was for...you know, it worked for his benefit, so it was fine with us. But yeah, we didn't have the two-weeks' notice.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, shoot. Because if you did have the two-weeks' notice, you could have hired two right there?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah. But --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Damn.

MS. TAKAYESU: -- it...it's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's a shame.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're saying you're fine? All right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm done for this round.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next. Okay. Anybody else have any questions? No? Not for Member Cook, not for...okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez is fine, and Member Kama's fine, I'm fine. Member Sinenci, you have a question. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Real quick, just a follow-up on Member Cook's question about recruitment. Is the Personnel Department doing the screening for you prior to...for your vacancies, or are they sending the applications directly to the Department?

MS. TAKAYESU: Lisa can correct me if I'm wrong, but they screen for minimum qualifications. So, we do not see anybody that doesn't meet Personnel's standard of minimum qualifications in that sense.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, you...

MS. TAKAYESU: For civil service, correct. For the...the Corporation Counsels are much easier to recruit for...the Deputies, sorry...not for me.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So you're...you're not...if...if they...if they don't qualify by the civil service standards by DPS, then you don't...you don't get any of those applications?

MS. TAKAYESU: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have any questions? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Besides having a Deputy Corporation Counsel specifically for land management, how concerned are you? Like I was watching the news last night, and they had, you know, wildfire risk in areas in red, and there's plenty areas on Maui, and look like maybe East End of Moloka'i, all of Lāna'i, and like that. And then our unmanaged County-owned properties being that, I think, HECO's...or no, not HECO, KS' portion was like close to a billion dollars because it started on their land. We got

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

mile marker 13.5 that's loaded with problems, Cut Mountain area at the southern terminus of the bypass, and that's just West Maui. I think those areas are near to where fires started in 2018 and got right up to the edge of Lāhainā, up through Kaua'ula Valley. So, beyond getting the Deputy Corp. Counsel in charge of land management, what kind of advice are you giving the County on these unmanaged lands that have had fires in the past that we know are a significant risk to our firefighters? Like what advice is being given to the Administration on how we proceed with the unmanaged County lands that we are aware pose a significant threat to life and property?

MS. TAKAYESU: Well, we advise the Fire Department. And so, I know that we have Code enforcement. I know that our deputies have been very responsive to Fire's concerns about unmanaged property, absent owners. We've advised...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is the County's own property under Parks and Rec though.

MS. TAKAYESU: Right, but they still present...if they present unmanaged vegetation, Fire is still interested in trying to mitigate that. So, as far as our advice is, we work with the Fire Department on that, even on County-owned properties. Regardless of ownership, we try to advise them best ways to go ahead and manage the vegetation. But in terms of advice, I think that might be something we can talk about offline.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because, you know, after the fire on August 8th, after the fire in 2018, it's been the what are you doing? What are you doing to stop this from happening again? And so, that's the question. You know, we've had fires start at mile marker 13.5. We've had it start at Cut Mountain at the terminus of the bypass. You know, even to some extent, the property in Wailuku, how it's every time, you know . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . multiple evacuations. So, from the public perspective, when they ask what are we doing, I'm...I'm not sure because it keeps happening.

MS. DEJARDINS: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please.

MS. DESJARDINS: It's a really good question. And part of...in trying to answer the questions that we just posted, I think that may have been one of your questions about County liability. One of the goals or hopes of our Department is that a lot of times we are not pulled in until late in the game. And that's for a variety of reasons. Because as you know, our Department doesn't go out looking for issues, and then drawing attention to them. My hope is by having a Deputy who is exclusively working on land management issues in conjunction with a land manager from the Department of Finance, we will be brought into the conversation earlier, and be able to do a number of things. One is identify, say, privately-owned parcels, which are a nuisance over and over again because we do see those in our Department, say, for example, through the fire Department, and be able to assess, for example, is that a...is that a parcel that we probably have an interest in acquiring as a County to...in order to make it not only less of a risk, but maybe we can use it to a better use? But then some of these parcels are not in the best interest of the County to obtain. We can't obtain all the nuisance properties, nor should

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

we. But we can certainly then have somebody who's more focused on looking at enforcement mechanisms and ways to...to get in there earlier and define that earlier, rather than waiting until the public is telling us it's a problem. Because right now, we are so stretched thin, and I...and I want you say we are completely full. All of our Deputy positions are full. But as the County grows, and more departments are online, and more boards and commissions, our Department gets more overused. And this land management focus is something that I think we've all understood is, it's a long time coming for a variety of reasons, and you've raised some very good ones. Liability is a big one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And I think you answered it for privately-owned lands, but what happens when the nuisance is County-owned unmanaged lands? And it doesn't seem like...regardless of who the department it's under, or who the jurisdictions have to either remove toxic stuff, or possibly people, or whatever, I don't know who is assigned to lead that effort. And I guess maybe the Land Management Administrator, but then if it's under Finance, how does it coordinate with all the departments? Because usually, that's a function of Management.

MS. DESJARDINS: So, again, really good question. And this has been my sort of drive for a while, and that is that under the Charter, Department of Finance is kind of in charge of land management, in a sense, from the administrative point of view. But we know that the inventory covers all kinds of departments. But my vision is, is that by first of all, establishing a really good inventory of what we have, what is it zoned, what are the best uses for that property, we can start to identify and laser in earlier on those nuisance properties. But our Department, like I said, does not get involved in that, usually until a notice of violation is going out, or perhaps the public contacts us because they've attempted to contact the other departments, and they're overworked. So, by getting in earlier and having somebody focusing on that, my hope is, is that we have a better understanding of the big picture. But it's a very complicated picture because you have Open Space, you have Parks and Rec, but they're under the same department, and yet Open Space really isn't what they're used to dealing with. So, there's a lot of things that need to get cleaned up here that I think might help with our liabilities.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if you needed more than the eight-months' funding and you have those other vacancies, you can just pull from that monies if you wanted to hire someone right away July 1st?

MS. KAHUHU: Yes, we could manage it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I was wondering if you could clarify when you say the Deputy Corp. Counsels are easier to hire because you don't have to go through Personnel, how is the minimum qualifications verified? Is it just that they pass the bar exam? And then from there, you go on what fits for your needs?

MS. TAKAYESU: No, we look at their resumes. We look at, you know, when they passed the bar, what they've been doing since they passed the bar, where they've worked. Are they in-state? Do they have housing here? So, we look at a variety of things. And of course,

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

we talk to them. We check their references. So, we do everything. It's like core competency, right? We're looking at the whole picture, not just, okay, they passed the bar, so they can come work.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Personnel doesn't need to touch that at all?

MS. TAKAYESU: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's just you have a hiring team for that?

MS. TAKAYESU: Generally, it's myself, our First Deputy. And depending if it's on the litigation side, we'll have our Litigation Supervisor. If it's on the counseling and drafting side, we'll have our Counseling and Drafting Supervisor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the two expansion deputies are which side?

MS. TAKAYESU: They would be on the counseling and drafting side.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Members, we are at 12:40, and we're trying to end by 1:00, if we could. Any last questions for Corp. Counsel? I'm going to excuse them, and proceed on with what we had planned. None? Oh, you have a question. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good job, everyone. Thank you. No questions.

MS. TAKEYESU: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, nice. Okay. So, while they are moving on, I am...I'm going to say that, Members, as you know, you have been compiling your...your own priorities. And when you talk to the departments, I'm going to guess that you are asking them questions that are relevant to what your priorities may be, or in the residency area, or whatever it could be. So, thank you for that. It's...I do like what I see, and everyone is probably focused on where we need to be in terms of the Budget. As you know, we had asked this past Monday which departments you may not want to hear from based upon their answering the questions. And tomorrow, we have the East Maui Water Authority, and their...their department came up as not needing to meet with them. Did we get their questions and response? We haven't received their...we haven't received their response yet to the Members' questions, but they have answered the first question, which is the general questions that we did. Do you...do you all want them to still come tomorrow? They're on...we start at 10:00 tomorrow. You're fine with East Maui Water Authority coming forward?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'm fine with not hearing them, but --

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- emphasizing that we would like all the questions answered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. Okay. Other Members, are you fine? Okay. So, no East Maui Water Authority tomorrow. Member Paltin, Member Kama, and Member Sinenci? Member Sinenci, you're...okay. So, three of you are saying no need, but we have to get their responses. Member...Member Kama, you're fine? So, tomorrow, we're going to then...Member Paltin, you're the only one. What are you...what is your feeling about East Maui Water Authority?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No need.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, tomorrow then, at 10:00, we have Parks and Recs, Water Supply, and then we are going to eliminate the East Maui Water Authority. And please remember to ask them for their responses. Okay. So, same question, I'm going to continue on. I know you didn't ask about this, but for next week Monday, we have the Fire and Public Safety, and that was one of them that you all said we don't need to hear from them, providing we get their response from. Yeah. Was Fire not one of them? Oh, was Liquor and...oh, Prosecuting Attorney, sorry. Okay. Liquor and Prosecuting Attorney are actually on the 8th. So, we're going to get their responses. I think we already got from Prosecuting Attorney their response to your questions. And we haven't yet heard from Liquor...not yet? Did they come through? We'll check. Okay. So, they're on the 8th. So, we'll...we'll visit that again. I...I would be surprised if we don't get from Liquor because they were the first ones that responded to the initial questions. Okay. That's that. So, tomorrow, you got the change, and you'll notify the department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The 7th seems a little bit heavy with Fire, MEMA, Planning, Ag. So, if we don't finish, like, at 4:30 or something, because CWRM is in Lāhainā that night, can...can some of them carry over to the 8th if we don't have Liquor and Prosecuting Attorney?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we're already figuring out how can we switch around the calendar. We'll...we'll let you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we haven't got them from both? Is Lesley still here? Do you have responses on your desk that you haven't transmitted to us?



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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Those are not among the responses I've received, but I know they are working on them, and we will get them to you ASAP.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, what responses do you have then? Do you remember?

MS. MILNER: I have Planning-1, Ag-1. I believe I'm getting DEM-1 today. 'Ōiwi was just transmitted. I have PD-2. I don't remember the rest, but they should...the majority should be transmitted this afternoon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Getting there. Well, it's kind of a lot because we did send, you know, your questions that were due on Monday. We sent it over to them, so appreciate that. Now, what I wanted to go over...do you have any more questions regarding the calendar? Okay. What I wanted to go over is basically the discussion on the real property tax rates, the range...and you passed out, Pauline, to everybody, the range? They already have it? Okay. So, I have two on my desk. I want to make sure I have the correct one. It's a one-pager reso?

MS. MARTINS: Yes, it's two pages. I stamped it on the bottom.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I see it, I see the stamp. All right. So, this is what every...this was all due on Monday at 4:30, and this is a compilation of that. I wondered if anybody has any comments before we submit it to be filed with the Clerk's Office. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, Chair. Will you repeat that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, we had asked that all the Members submit their recommended range of this, right, on Monday. And so, this is a compilation of what the Members who complied with, or who...who submitted, I should say. And I wanted to just open for discussion what the Members will say before we take it to the next step. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, you said this is a compilation, and there isn't any variations. So, was your...or the team's process to look at whoever's Tier III was the highest, and Tier I was the lowest, and put those? Because it's just...it...it only has one number. Or what was the process?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What am I...I'm looking at the wrong...can I have a copy?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're talking about the range of rates, yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I am.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the...the...the document that I have...okay. I see. It says, Received by BFED Committee 4/2/2025. And the tiers go...Owner-Occupied, Tier I goes to 600,000 to more than 4.5 million. Tier II is 600 to --

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- more than 4.5. And the last one is the same, right? But you're questioning on the Non-Owner Occupant?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Rates. I'm talking about the rates. I'm not talking about the thresholds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, rates.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm talking about the range of rates. So, I understand that. So, there's the tier thresholds, which is what you just read. And there's the rates, which...which you didn't read, for the two threes...three tiers. My question is, since we don't have what each Councilmember may have proposed--I don't know who sent you stuff--was the process to choose on this document to go with the lowest on the threshold, the lowest on the tier, and then the highest on the threshold and the highest on the tier, regardless of classification?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...go ahead.

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. So, what Staff did is we went through each proposal and...and looked at what the Members were proposing as it relates to both tiers and...and rates. And...and so, we...we attempted to make sure that both ranges, for the tiers and for the rates, captured the Members' proposed lowest and the proposed highest. So, some Members, they might not see the...exactly the rates that they proposed, but that's because the...the...the range that we had there is already there. I...I will want to note, though, that...apologies, we did make one small error, I think, as it relates to Commercial. The low should be \$3 instead of \$4. So...so, we'll make that correction for the...for the rates.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Which one? What did you say?

MR. KRUEGER: Yeah, for...for Commercial, for all three tiers, we'll set the low as three. So, apologies, that was an error on Staff's side.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, what did you say Commercial should be? I'm sorry.

MR. KRUEGER: So, right now, for all three Commercial tiers, the low...the low end of the range is \$4. A Member proposed \$3, so it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: -- should be 3.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It should be 3.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

MR. KRUEGER: So, apologies for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, Members? Member Cook, you look like you're going to say something.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, basically, this is for a point of reference, and we're going to go over this in the future?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It has to be posted so that it can become, you know, public information. Like, when we...when we take up this, right, whatever it is, when we...when we have the public hearing, then this will be what we use to talk from. And then when we do finalize our budget, we'll be using this. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, the tricky part about posting the range is that if your proposal, when we do take up the rates, are outside the parameters in which we've posted the ranges, then we can't consider it without posting the range again, and generally, the timeline is too tight.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. So, that happened to me last year --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- when I wanted to lower bed and breakfast to 3 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bed and breakfast.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and that was the issue.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, as long as it's within the range, it's adjustable.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...right. And using your example, if it's below the lowest that we post, then we can't consider it. Or if it's above the highest, then we can't consider it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, put on your mic.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: If we're not...if...not exceeding or changing from the lowest to the highest, we are going to collectively identify what --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- the rates are?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you all very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So that last year was a situation that you ran into, as well as Member Johnson. So, we tried to adjust, really, Member Johnson's putting in tiers for agriculture. Yeah, we all remember that. And then Member Cook ran into that situation when we were actually discussing the rates for bed and breakfast, of which I remember Tom Croly was very grateful that you tried to, you know, hear his testimony, but we couldn't do anything because we were fixed on that. All right, Members. So, the discussion today is, anybody have any suggestions for this? We got the one changed from James regarding the 4 to \$3 in Commercial. Anything else? Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I wanted to say that, you know, when you set the rates, you should go as low as you can, and set the high rates as high as you want, so there's lots of flexibility that you can choose from. And we can have those discussions when we actually come to that time in our budget. But give yourself flexibility. That's why I put the penny over there, just in case, right? And I didn't care about the high end, but whatever you all decide is okay, but go high. Anyway, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect segue into what I was going to say, Member Kama. Mahalo for that setup right there. So, for Tier III, Owner-Occupied, I wanted us to increase it from 7 to 10, and then all the B, D, E, F...so Non-Owner Occupied, Hotel/Resort, Timeshare, Short-Term Rental, the highest on...the highest rate be 25. And then I wanted to propose for Hotel/Resort and Timeshare two tiers, below 100 million and above 100 million thresholds, with the same rates...rate ranges.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You got that?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Question, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, you're adding...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can...can you speak here? Yeah, go ahead.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Members, proposing to add a tier for Timeshare?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Hotel, I thought it was only Hotel.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Timeshare as well. So, Member Cook was correct, Hotel and Resort, and for Timeshare, Tier I, II, below 100 million and above 100 million. And when we get to voting, we can, you know, not do tiers as well. But in...in order to consider tiers, we have to put it on this reso today, for posting tomorrow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Question for Corp. Counsel. Or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, they're online.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- our attorneys, or somebody --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There's Kristina right there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that knows lawyer stuff. Oh, Ms. Toshikiyo. You know, for the hotels and timeshares, as we're tiering it, or whatever, is...is it by ownership? Like, I think most timeshares, maybe they own one unit, possibly three. But when we tax timeshares, we only tax the individual, not the property as a whole. And then for Hotel-zoned properties, some of the short-term rentals are on Hotel-zoned properties. Because...is it because a hotel is 20 units or more? And if an individual doesn't own 20 units, then they won't get the Hotel tax? And does definition of Hotel come into play, that they have to have a 24/7 front desk? Is that any part of it? Like, if we're tiering it at 100 million, is there an individual that owns 100 million worth of timeshares?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Toshikiyo?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Sorry, thanks. That was a lot of questions. I can...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Only because you're my favorite Corp. Counsel.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: I know that a lot of...right. So, a lot of...several of the hotels, some of them are condominiumized as well, so that's something to also play into. They may have a variety of TMKs on, so there's multiple parcels that make up maybe one hotel. So, there...I think that's...we've discussed that before on how the...the hotel and resorts

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

are...are different, and why...that's why there hasn't been tiers because then...like how do you value? Because they're being valued as the property as a whole versus splitting them up into multiple parcels. So, I mean, that's kind of the similar situation for the TMKs. And as for Hotels, for the classifications of the 3.48, I believe it's a room count and the number of employees. I don't believe that there's a requirement of a 24/7 desk in the Hotel classification.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if somebody owns like, say, 18 short-term rentals on one property, then they would be charged the STR tax rate.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: They...they own individual properties on one property, or like if it's condominiumized, or...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Individual units on one Hotel-zoned lot less than 20, is the taxation going to be then Short-Term Rental? If they own 20 or more, the taxation is Hotel? Is that how that works?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: I would have to check with Real Property Tax. But a lot of the multiple short-term rentals are charged a Short-Term Rental rate for each individual unit.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Regardless of the zoning.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yeah, I'm trying to think of . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Well, for...I mean, the zoning comes into play because then they get taxed at their...or they are classified at their highest and best use. So, like, for instance, a Hotel-zoned property that doesn't qualify for a lot of the exemptions, if the highest and best use in the hotels is transient vacation use, then they would be taxed at TVR/STRH.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Unless owner-occupied.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Unless owner-occupied, long-term rental, or they qualify for some sort of exemption.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...so, for timeshares, how...how is that fractional ownership? It's...timeshares are taxed by the entire property because it's all fractional ownership, so there's an over...overriding situation. Like if you have, I don't know, like KOR, or Ironwood Estates, or whatever it is, it's taxed as the property as a whole because each unit is fractional ownership?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: I'll have to double-check. But when we have done the...the only times I see the taxed ones is...some timeshares, is when they go to the Real Property Tax Board of Review, and each individual unit comes over as a separate case, separate appeal. But typically, they'll appeal the...the management role to the appeals. I'd have to confirm that and get back to you on how that's handled.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Do we need that in writing, Chair?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You guys got it? You don't need me to repeat anything, right?

MR. KRUEGER: Could...could you repeat it one more time, just for clarity? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Kristina...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering how the taxation works for Hotel and Timeshare based on the ownership. Like for...for Timeshare, it's fractional ownership, and so how the taxation is done on a fractional ownership, whether it's by unit, by fractional ownership, or by property as a whole. And...and kind of same thing for Hotel-zoned units, if it's by unit or property as a whole. Because then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the tiers would really matter. Like, I mean, for Timeshare, it would be property as a whole, but for Hotel, if one room is a...oh, Ms. Martin, hi. Maybe she wants to help us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, finish your statement.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For each hotel room unit, it could be taxed as a short-term rental, and then it wouldn't be in the Hotel category until it reaches 20 units, is the question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Toshikiyo, or did we see our Director?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was for James to write down.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's your question. I see Marcy Martin popped up. You got it? Okay. So, Ms. Toshikiyo or Director Martin, one of you want to chime in?

MS. MARTIN: Okay. Thank you, Chair. This is Marcy Martin, the Director of Finance, and I did just jump on. So, the question is, where is the cutoff for the Hotel class; is that right? In terms of --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: -- the rooms? So, Maui County Code 3.48.305(B)(7), if it has eight or more lodging or dwelling units, and employs more than 20 full-time persons, it is classified as Hotel and Resort. So, Hotel operations that don't meet that criteria are in the TVR class.

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, to clarify, if...if an individual owns seven units, then they would go into the Short-Term Rental class, even if all the seven units are on the same property?

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: Yes. So, this portion of the Code reads properties, not parcels, so it's...an operation that has eight or more lodging units is classified as Hotel and Resort.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And how do they calculate the more than 20 employees? Does that include marketing and like, you know, VRBO staff and stuff like that? How are the employees enumerated?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. So, when we have a property that has less than eight units, we send them a survey and ask them how many full-time persons they employ.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. So, self-report. Okay. Got it. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I have a question for Ms. Martin. If you have an 80-unit condominium that's currently being used as a TVR, and it's rezoned as a Hotel, how would that be taxed? And would they include like landscapers and pool people and anybody that worked for that building maintenance?

MS. MARTIN: So, because those are individually owned, so in other words, they're different owners, it's...it's not operated as a Hotel. So, if it's an 80-unit condominium that's operated as a condominium project with multiple owners, they would all be in the TVR STRH property. If it was a hotel operation, say like Kea Lani, where it was one owner and they operated as a hotel, but they had 80 CPR units, then they would be classified as Hotel.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, it wouldn't matter what the zoning is, it's what the use is. If it was zoned Hotel, but it was 80 units, they're all TVRs, they all became TVRs, they would all be taxed as a TVR?

MS. MARTIN: Yes. They're taxed on the entitlements that they have from the County. So, right now we have Apartment-zoned units that have the entitlement to do transient vacation rentals, so they are classified as TVR. And then we have the entitlement to do short-term rentals is inherent in the Hotel zoning. So, those are also classified as TVR.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you fine? Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.



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

**April 2, 2025**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And then I...I see Member Sinenci just also rose...rose...raised --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci after.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- yeah, his hand. Mahalo, Director Martin. I'm so sorry. Mahalo for jumping on. So sorry for bombarding you with text...text questions. Are...are...you...so, I did a quick sampling on mauipropertytax.com, you know. So, like Wailea Resorts, 15 acres, 231 million; Kea Lani, 20 acres, 452 million; Hotel Moloka'i, 2.5 acres, 429,000; Hotel Lāna'i, 12 acres, 2.2 million. Just to kind of get a sample for what would make sense for thresholds. Are you concerned that if we were to create tiers at Hotel/Resort on the classifications for Hotel/Resort and Timeshare, that properties may condominiumize?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, right now, we do have a few Hotel properties that are condominiumized, and I don't know the value levels, but Kea Lani is one of them, Andaz, Ritz-Carlton. So, those...everyone is assessed for the tiers per parcel. So, if a tier structure was created...for example, some of their lower-value properties would have a different tax rate than their higher-value properties...TMKs on that one parcel. So, in theory, a property could condominiumize and create, you know, 1,000 units, and then the pieces would be lower value than the whole for Hotels. You know, if you were concerned about the smaller hotels being in the same class as the larger hotels, we may want to look at the definition in 3.48.305 that I just read, but that would be for the following year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then Timeshare's same concern, because you said a Hotel/Resort.

MS. MARTIN: Oh, yes. Thank you. So, Timeshares, I'll give you an example, would be Nanea is, I think, one TMK, and it's next door to Kā'anapali Ocean Resort and Kā'anapali Ocean Resort North, and those are condominiumized. So, as a total value, Nanea is going to have a really high value compared to the individual condominium units of the Timeshare properties that are condominiumized. Again, I think WorldMark and Nanea aren't condominiumized, and I think the rest of them are, but...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director Martin. And I'll explain the thought process because we...we did have this discussion in years past, and I...I never requested valuations to kind of make this determination. I was encouraged by folks in Tier III to...to charge a higher rate, that it's become an incentive for people to buy property here, you know, like multimillion-dollar properties here, because our property taxes are so low. But in looking at how we charge those individual properties, and how we charge hotels, it didn't seem equitable to charge, you know, a Tier III Non-Owner-Occupied higher than Hotel, which we do now. And so, I was looking at

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

ways to be able to address that inequity in our property taxes...but we can look at it some more. And the...so, the posted resolution is due tomorrow, and if we were to put tiers on it, so the proposed tier for Hotel/Resort and Timeshare that I stated was less than 100 million and more than 100 million, so just two tiers, but I...I, you know, share the concern of condominiumization. Director Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. So, you know, if you put it on the resolution, then you can request kind of a study to see what is in the...in the tiers, and then come after certification on April 17th, you can take a deeper dive.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Okay. And then, Chair, for Agriculture, if Tier III, the parameters are 8.5...I guess since we have Director...that's okay. I withdraw the question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, are you all feeling okay with where we are with this discussion? Can we...we have to file tomorrow, so we got to finish this by tomorrow. Do you want to take this up again tomorrow, or are you fine with this? There's not everybody here too. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry, Member Sinenci. Sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci, then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Yeah, we proposed a fourth tier for Non-Owner Occupied and Short-Term Rentals, but Mr. Krueger said that we weren't able to. He did include our tax rate for the...within the third tier, but I was wondering if we could...and I know Member Rawlins-Fernandez talked about raising, if we could increase the Tier III to 10 million for Non-Owner Occupied, as well as short-term rental homes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're saying on tier...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Because it looks...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that what you said? Tier III up to...so 600 to more than 10 million, is that what you just said?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And for...and for Short-Term Rentals up to 10 million, since Tier II goes up to 7.5 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That way we can go ahead and...and capture more of the luxury homes. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you on that. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I wanted to go to the Commercialized Residential on the Tier I, and change that rate of \$3 to 1 cents to make it equal to Non-Owner Occupied, up to Owner Occupied, Non-Owner Occupied, Apartment, and Long-Term Rental. And so, just to put a penny over there where it says Tier I, \$3. And we can...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: On the Commercialized Residential, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So you're saying you want the Commercialized Residential, which is Bed and Breakfast, the first rate to be similar to what's at Owner-Occupied --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- as well as...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: For consistency.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But Long-Term...Long-Term goes to 1 cent to \$8 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- on that one.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: At least we'll have a discussion about that when we come to the time and place.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you want it to go 1 cents to \$3, is that what you're saying?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, no, just remove the \$3, put 1 cent, leave the \$9 there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see what you're saying. I see. Okay. Got it.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. Just...just to clarify, is the change only for the first tier of Commercialized Residential, or should changes be made to the other two tiers as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you want it to be consistent with Owner-Occupied, Member Kama?

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It's fine. It's fine, the other tiers. I'm okay with the other tiers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, the second tier would be \$3 to 9?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And the last...the third tier would be 3 to 12?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Anybody else have any comments? Oh, Member Sinenci, you're...you...you got to express your concerns, right? Okay. You're fine. I'm going to take like a three-minute recess.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What time tomorrow does it need to be posted, 12:00, or 4:30, or...

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. We'll check real quick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then roughly, we could try look at the certifications from last year to see the spread, the tier spread. So, I mean, if...if the posting is not due until 4:30, I wouldn't mind an opportunity to revisit --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To review it. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if necessary.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: The Clerk's Office has requested that we provide them the resolution by noon tomorrow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Noon tomorrow. Okay. So, tomorrow...let's see, we're going to go to Hāna today, and then come back at 10:00 tomorrow for the...when we start our meeting. And we can start off with this, I guess, yeah? Okay. So, let's...let's pick up this conversation, and we have to meet that deadline. I don't know...and we're not doing East Maui Water

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

Authority, so that'll...we'll have some time, extra time, and have Parks and Water after the discussion for real property tax ranges. Okay? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, when you go to Hāna, could you take pictures for me of you-know-what?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it the cows, right, on the side of the road?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, not that one? Oh, that's always very interesting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What kine toilet paper they get.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, that's because she was at the Pukalani Hannibal Tavares Community Center, and she was doing a photo inventory of the bathroom there, and trying to compare it to what's in West Maui. So, I will do that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We have...we have toilet paper rolls, but we do have Porta-Potties.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So funny.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They told us the rolls was too expensive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So funny.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We get the squares.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we are a little bit past the 1:00 time, Members. I'm going to defer this discussion and pick it up tomorrow morning, and...and ask that we look at what the certification was for last year, Member Paltin, and then we can also talk to Director Martin, and...and then we'll just take it from there, right? You guys are fine? Yeah? And you'll have whatever was recommended on another present...

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. We'll prepare a further revised reso for the Committee's consideration tomorrow morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good discussion. Okay, Members. So, I'm going to defer this item...all the items.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: GJ, AL, NUH)**

**ACTION: DEFER.**

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

**April 2, 2025**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And this meeting is now...do I need to do anything else? No. This meeting is now adjourned. . . .(*gavel*). . .

**ADJOURN: 1:18 p.m.**

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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

**April 2, 2025**

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 70 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 28th day of April 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



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Daniel Schoenbeck