

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

October 24, 2025

**Committee  
Report No.** \_\_\_\_\_

Honorable Chair and Members  
of the County Council  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, having met on October 7, 2025, makes reference to Resolution 25-184, entitled "AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF *CHRISTOPHER SALEM v. COUNTY OF MAUI, ET AL.*, CIVIL 2CCV-21-0000048(2)."

Resolution 25-184's purpose is to authorize settlement of the claim, filed on February 18, 2021, and amended on November 9, 2021, under terms discussed in an executive meeting.

By correspondence dated September 17, 2025, the Department of the Corporation Counsel requested consideration of Resolution 25-184.

Your Committee notes Subsection 3.16.020(B), Maui County Code, requires Council authorization for any settlement of claims or civil litigation in excess of \$25,000.

A Deputy Corporation Counsel provided a brief update on the status of the court proceedings. The claim alleges breach of contract, tortious injury, and unlawful termination, and seeks special, general, and punitive damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief. He noted that a settlement conference is scheduled for November 11, 2025.

The Special Counsel requested an executive meeting to discuss confidential information related to the claim.

Your Committee voted to convene an executive meeting, closed to the public, to consult with legal counsel in accordance with Sections 92-5(a)(4) and 92-5(a)(8), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

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Following the executive meeting, your Committee reconvened in open session.

Based on information received in executive session and the recommendation of Special Counsel, your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend adoption of Resolution 25-184. Committee Chair U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and members Cook, Johnson, Kama, Lee, and Sugimura voted “aye.” Committee members Rawlins-Fernandez and Sinenci were excused.

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution 25-184, attached, entitled “AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF *CHRISTOPHER SALEM v. COUNTY OF MAUI, ET AL.*, CIVIL 2CCV-21-0000048(2),” be ADOPTED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of the Council.



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NOHELANI U‘U-HODGINS, Chair

# Resolution

No. 25-184

AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF *CHRISTOPHER SALEM v. COUNTY OF MAUI, ET AL.*, CIVIL 2CCV-21-0000048(2)

WHEREAS, Plaintiff Christopher Salem filed a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit in the State of Hawaii on February 18, 2021, Civil Case 2CCV-21-0000048(2) (“Court”), and a First Amended Complaint on November 9, 2021, against the County of Maui, Michael P. Victorino, individually and in his official capacity, and Michele McLean, in her official capacity as Director of the Department of Planning, claiming breach of contract, tortious injury, and unlawful termination, and seeking special, general, and punitive damages, and declaratory and injunctive relief; and

WHEREAS, the Second Circuit Court, by order dated November 8, 2023 in *Christopher Salem v. County of Maui, et al.*, substituted Richard T. Bissen, Jr. in his official capacity for Michael P. Victorino in his official capacity, and Kathleen Aoki in her official capacity as Director of the Department of Planning for Michele C. McLean in her official capacity, and by order dated March 6, 2024 substituted Kate Blystone in her official capacity as Director of the Department of Planning for Kathleen Aoki; and

WHEREAS, the Second Circuit Court ordered a Court conducted a settlement conference in *Christopher Salem v. County of Maui, et al.* that was ultimately scheduled for February 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Council, at its December 1, 2023, meeting approved Resolution 23-227 that granted Special Counsel for the County of Maui, Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda, LLP, authority to settle *Christopher Salem v. County of Maui, et al.* under the terms set forth in a November 28, 2023, executive meeting of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui and Plaintiff Christopher Salem participated in the Second Circuit Court settlement conference on February 9, 2024, which was unsuccessful; and

**Resolution No. 25-184**

WHEREAS, Plaintiff Christopher Salem sent Special Counsel for the County of Maui, Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda, LLP, a written settlement demand dated March 21, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Council, at its September 27, 2024, meeting approved Resolution 24-81 that granted Special Counsel for the County of Maui, Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda, LLP, authority to settle Christopher Salem v. County of Maui, et al. under the terms set forth in a September 10, 2024 executive meeting of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Second Circuit Court, by order dated October 21, 2024, granted the County of Maui's motion for summary judgment in favor of the County on all claims raised in Count III of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint in Christopher Salem v. County of Maui, et al.; and

WHEREAS, the Second Circuit Court scheduled a June 23, 2025, jury trial on the claims remaining in Plaintiff Christopher Salem's First Amended Complaint in Christopher Salem v. County of Maui, et al.; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2025, the County served Plaintiff Christopher Salem with a Hawaii Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 68 Offer of Settlement; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff Christopher Salem sent Special Counsel for the County of Maui, Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda, LLP, a written settlement demand dated June 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2025, the Second Circuit Court continued the June 23, 2025, jury trial in Christopher Salem v. County of Maui, et al. to a date to be determined and ordered the parties to another Court conducted settlement conference to be held on November 11, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui, to avoid incurring further expenses and the uncertainty of a judicial determination of the parties' respective rights and liabilities, has sought to attempt to reach a resolution of this case by way of a negotiated settlement, Offer of Judgment, or Offer of Settlement; and

WHEREAS, Special Counsel for the County of Maui, Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda, LLP has requested authority to settle this case under the terms set forth in an executive meeting before the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee; and

**Resolution No. 25-184**

WHEREAS, the County of Maui, to avoid incurring further expenses and the uncertainty of a judicial determination of the parties' respective rights and liabilities, will attempt to reach a resolution of this case by way of a negotiated settlement, Offer of Judgment, or Offer of Settlement; and

WHEREAS, having reviewed the facts and circumstances regarding this case and being advised of attempts to reach resolution of this case by way of a negotiated settlement, Offer of Judgment, or Offer of Settlement by Special Counsel for the County of Maui, Kobayashi, Sugita & Goda LLP, the Council wishes to grant settlement authority to Special Counsel for the County; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby approves settlement of this case under the terms set forth in an executive meeting before the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee;
2. That it hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute a Release and Settlement Agreement on behalf of the County in this case;
3. That it hereby authorizes the Director of Finance of the County of Maui to satisfy said settlement of this case; and
4. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Director of Finance, the Corporation Counsel, and Kobayashi Sugita & Goda, LLP.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

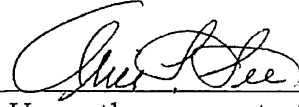


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Gores", is written over a horizontal line.

JOHN J. GORES

Department of the Corporation Counsel  
County of Maui

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "The Mayor", written above a horizontal line.

Upon the request of the Mayor.