

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

MINUTES

August 5, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:03 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (arrived at 10:27 a.m.)
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (left at 9:50 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Lenora Dinneen, 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, Lanai Residency Area Office
Clyde “Buddy” Almeida, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
John Pelletier, Chief, Department of Police
Wade Maeda, Deputy Chief, Department of Police
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Cynthia M. Razo-Porter, Director, Department of Personnel Services
Marcy Martin, Director, Department of Finance
Maria Zielinski, Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director
Tiare Horner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor
Patrick McCall, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

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

August 5, 2025

Lisa Almeida, Park Permits Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation
Kekai Robinson, Deputy Director, Department of 'Ōiwi Resources
Daniel Shupack, Capital Improvement Program Coordinator, Department of
Management

OTHERS: Jasee Law
Curt de Crinis, Managing Director, Columbia Capital Management, LLC
Daryl Fujiwara, President, Festivals of Aloha, Inc.
Jayden Isobe
Emily Bartow
Vanessa Joy Domingo
James Langford
Others (7)

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. What a happy morning we're having so far. And I just want to welcome all of you to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee meeting. Today is August the 5th, and it is 9:04 a.m. Welcome. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of this Committee. And I'd like to welcome everybody, and let you know that this meeting is being conducted in accordance to the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Chamber, Members, please identify who is with you by name if anyone is in the room, vehicle, or workplace. And minors do not need to be identified. But at this point, all minors are back in school, I bet. So, good morning, everybody. And Vice-Chair Kama, good morning.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka...aloha kakahiaka, and malo e lelei to everyone in *Akakū* land. I'm excited to be here this morning. It's been a while since I've been in the Chambers, but excited to be back. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Welcome. Yeah, we have a big day with you this afternoon too, with HLU. Good morning, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning. And malo e lelei. That's from the Tongan language. Tongan Island in South Pacific. And they have about 104,000 people. Of course, half of them live on Maui now. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But...but we...of course, they're all part of our 'ohana now. Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Good morning, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka, and malo e lelei kākou.

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. And we have Member Johnson online.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers over at the Lāna'i District Office. I'm alone in my workspace. And happy mornings, Councilmember Sugimura. I'm here for it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We need more happy mornings.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, thank you for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Then we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Is she here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's excused.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She's excused. Member Sinenci, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, malo e lelei. Here at my home office, I'm here by myself. And there are no testifiers in Hāna, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good morning. Am I missing anybody? Member Rawlins-Fernandez is excused. Member U'u-Hodgins is excused. Member Cook is coming in probably closer to 10:00, so we'll greet him at the appropriate time. Also joining us from the Office of the Mayor, we have Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff, virtually. Lesley Milner, she's here down with us. Good morning. Department of Finance, Marcy Martin, online. Maria Zielinski, who's in the Chambers, good morning. Department of Management, Josiah Nishita, who will be here for the next two items after this. And Department of Parks and Recreation, we have Pat...Patrick McCall, Director. Department of Personnel Services is Cynthia Razo-Porter, Director. And from the Police Department, we have Chief here today.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Which we were not expecting you, so that's what I was like so exciting. You can update us on all the fire and helicopter things that you're having at the appropriate time. And then we also have Deputy Director Wade Maeda. Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo, thank you very much for being here in person. We appreciate you. Other resources, we have Curt de Crinis, Managing Director, Columbia Capital Management, LLC. I don't see...oh, I do see him. He's here.

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

August 5, 2025

Good...good morning. And Daryl Fujiwara, who's the President and Director for the Festivals of Aloha, Inc., to talk about the Maui Fair. Committee Staff, Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk; Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney, good morning; Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst; James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst; Pauline Martin, Senior Committee Secretary. And Members, if you want to...or public, you see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting. We have three items on the agenda. BFED-5, which is Bill 93 (2025), Amending the Fiscal Year '25 Budget, Department of Police, Administration Program and Technical Aid and Support Services Program; BFED-20(9), bond issuance...County issuance for...Bond Issuance for Calendar Year '25, it's a Rule 7(B) item; and BFED-20(14) (2025), Maui County Fair, Rule 7(B). So, at this time...do we have anybody here for testimony? We have no testifiers. Okay. Do...can you do a last call?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. I'll just do a last call for anybody wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, here he comes, running.

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, there's an individual who's indicating they want to testify in the Chamber.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody who wants to testify, when you get to the podium, please state your name, and say what item you're going to be testifying on.

MR. LAW: Ohayou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And --

MR. LAW: Jasee Law. Yeah, you can skip . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- oral testimony is limited to three minutes and you have 30 seconds to complete if you are not done. And you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. And the first testifier is Jasee Law. Please proceed.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF MEETING . . .

MR. LAW: Aloha kakahiaka, aloha kākou, aloha *Akakū*. I was out there in the lobby. I was having a hard time hearing you guys talking real low. So, that's why I thought I almost missed the testimony part. And yeah, I realize it's coming up again, and I just wanted to make sure I got here on time. And I'm sorry I didn't shave, but it's kind of tough out there. So, I wanted to say thank you for the Police. I support this agenda item. And we need more assistance with the Police Department. In my case, in particular, up in Kula, in our neighborhood, Luna Ho'omalū, there's bullies on the streets, and there's bullies on the Internet. So, thank you guys for working for the County of Maui.

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Thank you. Any more testifiers?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, proceeding with last call. If there's anybody else who wants to testify at the beginning of the meeting, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. Here's a countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one else has identified themselves as wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. With your permission, I'd like to close public testimony for the beginning of the meeting. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And receive written testimony. All right. So...okay.

**ITEM 5: BILL 93 (2025), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026
BUDGET: DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, ADMINISTRATION
PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES
PROGRAM**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to...we're going to continue on now with our agenda. And we're going to be taking up Bill 93, which is Department of Police Administration Program and Technical and Support Services Program. And the reason that we were so happily starting this meeting was we actually have Chief here today. So, Chief Pelletier, if you could give us a little update about our beloved helicopter...because you helped us Upcountry, and now...and you helped West Maui. Please proceed, and then we'll start with the item.

MR. PELLETIER: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MR. PELLETIER: No, thank you very much. I...I appreciate it, Chair. It means a lot. But I think what's phenomenal, and it's...it's an honor to come in front of the Council today, and it's kind of unique in front of the BFED Committee as well. Because without the Council's support in doing this in the speed and manner of which we...we did, we would not have had the opportunity to have used the police helicopter to support the fire mission like we...we have. And in the last week, that we've used it three times...specifically, up in Olinda, Upcountry to fight that fire last week; we used it in Moloka'i over the weekend; and then just yesterday out in Lahaina, we were able to use it. And you'll never get credit for what you prevent. You'll never get credit for what you prevent. But let's imagine if we did not have it, and let's go back last week. We were in a red flag warning situation, Upcountry, and because of the speed of us being able to use Air 50 Hekili to be able to use that airship, we were able to help prevent the spread

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

August 5, 2025

of that fire. Because of the speed that we're able to use it yesterday, we were able to help prevent that fire. And we're talking about a fire in a baseyard with old oil that burns in such a manner that it's very difficult. And so, it's just a win for the County, and it's a win for the leadership of this Council, for this...for the...for the management team, really, for...for...for the leadership of the Finance. And then, you know, for the Police Department to come in and...and we used...we used the...the Fire Department's after-action as part of the justification, and then we codified that on our own, and we released our...our final after-action last week. It's showing that what we're doing is working. You know, it...it...it really shows that the partnership that we have...if we're transparent, and we say, hey, here's the problems, and help us solve it together. And...and I have said, I expect Fire to use the helicopter more than we'll ever use it. But the beauty is...is...but the County's using it, and...and they're using it to...to do good things. And so, I'm just really grateful to the Council. I'm grateful to the community. And...and now, the community is actually seeing us bear the fruit of...of having the tools and equipment to...to make this the safest community possible. So, thank you for allowing me to just update. And...and I do appreciate the leadership, you know, here. And this is a very simple move that we're going to get into. I'll have the...the Deputy Chief kind of talk about some of the...the...just the simple moves...because he does run the day-to-day operations. We are robbing Peter to pay Paul on this. We're making one move. But it's not an investigator for us, it's an investigator for the Police Commission. And so, I will turn it over to the Deputy Chief to allow him to explain that, and then maybe I'll just kind of come back on it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MAEDA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. Yeah. So, because there's a need for the Police Commission to have their own investigator...oh, let me back up a second. So, historically, in Maui County, the Police has never had their...the Maui Police Commission has never had an investigator assigned to them. So, whenever a complaint would come out...would come to the Police Commission, it would have to be outsourced. Sometimes it took months. Sometimes it took years. Sometimes it never got investigated, which was...which is a travesty. And it's...it's an important reporting method because a lot of times, people don't want to come to the police and report it to our Internal Affairs. So, this is another avenue where they can investigate it independently, bring the investigation to a conclusion, and then present it to the Chief for action. So, what we want to do is, we want to move one of our dispatch...vacant dispatch positions over to convert it into the Police Commission Investigator V position. Now, we've gotten a lot of flak recently about why are we cutting dispatcher positions, but the County should know that we've never had 100 percent fillage of...of our dispatchers. Right now, we have 25 vacancies for our ESD Is and ESD IIs. On top of that, we have four supervisor positions. Now, I want to ensure the County that should we be able to fill these positions in the future, and if we do need that position back, we will convert another position to put that position back. So, we'll never shortfall our dispatchers. We just...just because that's the easiest vacancy to convert, we decided to...to do that at this time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

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

August 5, 2025

MR. PELLETIER: If I could just circle back around. We didn't want to come and ask for, hey, let's do an additional funded position. Well, we don't need to do that right now. We want to be operationally- and fiscally-responsible, and we're not going to fill that position in the foreseeable future. And something that we found out as we were doing the job, and going through some...some of the operational backchecks and balances that we do, there are six dispatch positions and one supervisor that were funded approximately ten years ago that have never been filled, and they were funded by AMR. And so, I want you to think about that. We have a supervisor and six dispatch positions because we are dispatching a for-profit company, and they're getting by with simply paying us for unfunded positions to do their job. They're not paying for infrastructure. They're not paying for the new CAD RMS. They're not paying for housing. They're not paying for insurance. They're not...so just...I don't know that they're paying their fair share. And when this fall comes around, and we have to sign for two years from now--because it's a couple years out--we're going to have a much more interesting conversation. Because I don't know that we're going to keep doing business the way that we're doing. Because I don't think it's fair for Maui County to be on that end. So, when we look at those numbers, those numbers are inflated for a for-profit positions, and so we're not...we're not going to continue to...to maintain that. And, you know, the Deputy mentioned we took some flak. We don't...we...we're running one of the finest public safety organizations in America. We certainly are doing a lot to lead this in the State as far as law enforcement. We don't got time for likes and views, if you understand what I'm saying. We don't got time for that. I feel like Jesse "The Body" Ventura from Predator. I ain't got time to bleed. You know, I don't got time for bullies and different things like that, and I don't think this Council does either. You know, we've got...you know, we're in...we're here to provide an exceptional service for the residents and visitors that come here, and so we're going...we're going to make sure we're fiscally-responsible. We feel like this is the right move to do under the...under the circumstances. And Councilmember Sugimura, she has really helped us in the last couple months. Really, we've got a plan with DPS. We've got a plan with HGEA. We've got a plan to really look at the job description and classification for the dispatchers to bring it more current. It's been over 12 years since it was last done, which is not the job they're doing, and so we feel we've got a good solution as we move forward, and we'll continue to press that and continue to argue for their first responder status. And so, we don't take it lightly that that's a position we're converting, but I feel like...just like the Deputy said, I think it's the right thing to do for right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Makes sense.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Lesley Milner, do you have anything that you would like to contribute to this discussion?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I think the Chief and Deputy Chief covered the majority, but just to get into the nuts and bolts a little bit. We're moving one position from the

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

August 5, 2025

Technical and Support Services Program to the Administration Program to create this investigator position for the commission. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Do we have Cynthia, Director from Personnel, on the line? Oh, she is. Okay. Director Porter, do you have anything that you would like to contribute to this conversation?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Hi. Good morning, BFED Committee and Members. We shared the PD, an Investigator V PD, with the commission. It's been several months now. We understand that the reorg has been submitted, so I think they have everything they need to execute this request from the commission. It's just getting the position in the right...the EP in the right place and the funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that's exactly what we are doing today? So, this will then help --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- them solidify next moves? Is that what you're saying?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Exactly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. That's it. So, now, Members, anybody have questions? We have to open up for public testimony again, right? Okay. Do we have anybody here to testify on this item?

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 5 . . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we currently don't have any individual signed up to testify on Bill 93, so we'll do a last call. If there is anybody who would like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify on this item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. With your permission, Members, I'd like to close public testimony on this item, and receive any written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 5 . . .

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. All right. Now we'll go to questions. We'll start off with Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I don't have any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions on this particular subject, but, you know, we will be working with you on civil service reform --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- with Member Paltin as Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I got questions. So, an Investigator V is the same pay as a dispatcher, like 57,000 a year?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. No, the pay is different. But because of other vacancies in that area, we feel that the amount being transferred will be sufficient to cover it for a portion of the year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, great. And then is this going to report...this position is...like what is the chain of command for this position? Would it be under the Chair of the Maui Police Commission, or how...how does...what is the chain of command?

MR. PELLETIER: That...that is correct. They...they work for the Police Commission, and they'll do the investigation for the Police Commission. And just like the Deputy had said, and that...and this is how it was being done...there's an investigator in Corp. Counsel, maybe there's an investigator in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and then they had investigators at HPD. So, in the past, they were farming complaints to those various things. So, you have the Honolulu Police Department investigating complaints from the public for Maui County. Hmm. That doesn't add up. And so, this is just righting the ship.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would you call it a civil position or a sworn position?

MR. PELLETIER: It's not a sworn position, no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: It'll be a civil position.

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

August 5, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then what would be the relationship of the investigator position to like Internal Affairs?

MR. PELLETIER: Totally separate, totally bifurcated, completely removed. We don't cross streams, so to speak...a little Ghostbuster reference. But we don't...but we just...you keep it bifurcated because it's just...it's a different mechanism, it's a different process. In all honesty, the fact that we have a Police Commission is, in my opinion, the highest level of public transparency that there is in policing. You have the...you have civilian oversight over the Police Department, and that's the complaint process, and then that's the investigation process for that complaint process.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Has the minimum qualifications and position description of this position already been created?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then...so, the Police Commission will fill out the JP...job performance report on the individual?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: And then they would be...they'd be assigned to the Deputy Chief . . .*(inaudible)*. . . through Workday purposes and stuff like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And so, powers, duties, and functions also have been created?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, what kind of authorities would they have in their investigative capacity?

MR. PELLETIER: It would be no different than Prosecutor investigations, no different than the Corp. Counsel investigations. They would be able to pull reports, go through different...you know, confidential reports as far as like police reports, body camera. That would be set aside for them so that they'd be tagged, and we would have an audit of when they viewed it because you can't just let that go out, but then they'd be able to create . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . a document.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I heard the bell. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson, followed by Member Cook . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Sorry. My mic's not on. Member Johnson? Yeah.

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

August 5, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I heard that. Thank you, Chair. It's always good to have the Chief, Deputy Chief in the Chambers. I appreciate you guys. Your no . . . *(inaudible)*. . . is sorely...sorely needed, and I really appreciate it. So, I'll jump right into my questions. Chief, you touched on it a little bit. So, is that investigator a police officer?

MR. PELLETIER: No. They are absolutely not a police officer.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That's what I wanted to clarify on that. Having an investigator--and Deputy Chief touched on it a little bit--would increase the number of complaints that they could handle. Is there a capacity, like they can do five complaints a year, or is there whatever comes? I don't know how many complaints they're receiving, and how many this position will be able to take on.

MR. PELLETIER: Sure. I mean that's the...you know, I'd love...I'd love for them to actually do nothing. I mean I'll be honest with you, I'd love for...I'd love --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. PELLETIER: -- us to have no complaints, but that's not realistic.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: There's...there's about a half dozen that are in the pipeline, that there is currently nobody to do that investigation on, and so they're simply stalling and waiting for...for this to get in there, and those are...those are outdated ones. You know, I think every year, it just depends, and then there's certain time frames --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MR. PELLETIER: -- and...and things kick in. You have "X" amount of days to file a complaint. And so, if you wanted an honest average of maybe what it looks like per year, you're looking at somewhere between six and ten per year is what the Police Commission kind of gets as an average. And that would be appropriate for a position...one position.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I guess what I'm getting to, and you kind of touched on it, is, is one enough, right? And the way you describe, you know, average six a year, in my opinion, it sounds like one is, but I'd like to hear you, Chief.

MR. PELLETIER: I...I think one's enough. If we start to see that there's more, there's a model already in the State. There's...HPD has a model with a supervisor, and I think a half a dozen investigators that work for them. We're not the size and scope of...of HPD, so I don't think that that's the problem. And again, this hasn't been done, and we've really been band-aiding it, so I think one is a really good place --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

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

August 5, 2025

MR. PELLETIER: -- to...to go.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I think at the end of the day, if...you know, as this goes through, and we have an investigator and they investigate, is there a period where the...and maybe it's ongoing, but maybe the Department wants to reflect on, you know, what's happening? Why are we getting so many, or why are we getting so few? Or, you know, like, maybe there's a period where you can reflect on, with the help of this investigator, and just overall, your Department, we want to have...like you said, we want to have zero, but maybe this investigator will help with some...you know, help make that zero.

MR. PELLETIER: You know, if you'd let me...I don't know that you asked a question, but if you let me just say a response to you, I think you'll be very happy with this. When the Deputy Chief and I together as our team--because the Deputy Chief came on in...in...in 2022 with me in that role--we looked at . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . am I allowed to answer, or no?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. PELLETIER: We looked at the past five years of complaints...because they have to purge them at a certain time. And so, as they went through the audit and they purged, you looked at the complaints that had come in five years ago, and it...the file cabinet was, let's just say, two feet long. Well, for the last five years, up until about '21, you started to see it shrink, and then in '22, you really saw a huge shrink, and then '23, you saw a shrink, and '24, you saw a shrink. And the reason being is, we're being transparent. We're holding people accountable. We're...we're...we're very clear with what the expectation of the County is. And so, we want to...we want to reduce those, and the best way we can reduce those is to be legitimate and transparent, and really apply 21st Century policing. And the more we're having this discussion, I think, the healthier that it is. And I...and I think some municipalities, they don't have that, and that's why you get some of these problems. And I think body cameras and other things that we've been releasing, when appropriate, I think we start to see the picture. But to your point, I love the, hey, we'll come back and assess if we need more, we need...however we do this. But I think if we get the jumping off of the one position to begin with, we'll have a good barometer. And realistically, maybe two years, we'll have a good barometer at that point.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Thanks...thanks for your response, Chief. I...it's good to hear that, that the complaints are going down because we know we want our police to be at the highest standard we can. So, that's good to hear, and I appreciate that. Thank you for your responses. Thank you, Chair. No further questions.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook is not here yet, and Member Sinenci, your three minutes.

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

August 5, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, mahalo, Chair. My question was answered. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Does anybody have any more questions for Police? None. Oh, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. I just wanted to know procedurally. So, somebody would file a complaint with the Police Commission. Not every complaint that gets filed with the Police Commission would engage the investigator. How would that be determined if the investigator is...services engaged?

MR. PELLETIER: So, ultimately, it would be up to the commission, and I...and I hate to speak as if...because I'm not their agent in the sense, and they're not like...right, we have to stay a little bifurcated as far as that goes, but I am their employee, although not their agent, and so there's a certain criteria. Is it within their kuleana? Is it meet within the certain time frame? If they give a complaint, let's say it's a year-and-a-half old, they're not going to investigate that, and then...because the SHOPO contract doesn't allow us to have complaints outside of a year. But then they have a 60-day window, but they can also make a complaint to Internal Affairs as well, and we would investigate those separately. So, there is that mechanism, and they'll...they'll vote to see if they want it to proceed, if it's a...like a civil suit. Well, because it's a civil suit, they're not going to do an investigation. So, there'll be...and it's...and it's within the rules, and it's spelled out very clearly of what the criteria's going to be.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, we pass...say we pass this bill today, it goes first and second reading. How far out do you anticipate somebody being hired?

MR. PELLETIER: As soon as it gets finalized and we're good to go, I...I...I believe that the Police Commission's ready to post. They might even have the thing written. They've...they've actually started to look at doing an RFP to try to get some of these backlog cases, but we actually believe it's going to be quicker for the real mechanism, what we're doing today, to...to go forward. I know they're chomping at the bit. This is something they've wanted for probably four years.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And what is the salary range of this position?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I will defer to the Personnel Director online.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Porter...Director? You hear...

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Hi. Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Good morning.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, the...the salary range, I don't have it in front of me, but if we're doing it based on the SR-24, it would fall into the B-13 salary range. It kind of sounds like

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

August 5, 2025

it's a position that's outside of civil service, and so that becomes kind of a...you know, it's flexible within the salary range.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Miss...Director Razo-Porter, are you...so you guys aren't going to do the interviews? You'll post the recruitment, but you won't do the interviews if it's outside of civil service? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well, we don't...so we can recruit for it, yes, but we don't...we don't interview for those types of positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It would be the Police Commission that's hiring that person.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, you just would hand over the list?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else? If not, I have a question. All right. So, does the reallocation...it kind of falls into exactly what Member Paltin's talking about. Does the reallocation or reclassification trigger any civil service or union issues? Director? Oh.

MR. MAEDA: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do you have it?

MR. MAEDA: Chair Sugimura, yeah, I'll answer that. Yeah. So, the position, although it does fall outside of the civil service, kind of that gray area, the...SHOPO is being consulted too because their membership will be affected by an investigator interviewing them. So, they have been consulted as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Director, you want to add to that?

MR. PELLETIER: I just want to confirm.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So...

MR. PELLETIER: Oh, was somebody else?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, go ahead.

MR. PELLETIER: I'm sorry.

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead. Go ahead.

MR. PELLETIER: Director Razo, go ahead.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No, I was just going to add that we haven't seen...we've shared the PD with the Police Commission. We understand that the reorg has been submitted, but we haven't actually seen what it looks like from the Police Commission. So, right now, it's a draft. So, we will still have to, you know, review it, classify it, if that's, you know, what it looks like in the end. But yes, we have an Investigator V recruitment ongoing right now, so we hope to get this completed as soon as all of those documents are provided and submitted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I'm not clear because I thought that by doing this, this is the final elements that you would need to get this position finalized. You still have lots more work ahead?

MR. PELLETIER: I think...

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I don't think so.

MR. PELLETIER: No, no. If...if I may, I...the work is really done. We just need this to actually, you know, theoretically pull the trigger and move it through the process. The job description's done, the classification's done, the recruiting's done. We just have to put it in the right funding stream in order to actually do the hiring. And then as Councilmember Paltin had...had kind of stated, yes, it would be the...the Police Commission that would do the interviews themselves. We would not be doing those. But this would be the last step.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's what I just wanted clarified. Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thanks, Chair. Sorry, just to answer Councilmember Paltin's earlier question. So, this shouldn't count toward your three minutes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. MILNER: SR-22 salary range is approximately 65,600 to 93,500...that's with a little rounding. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. All right. So I don't have any more questions. Members, anybody else have questions on this? It's pretty clear cut. All right. So, at this time, I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 93 (2025), entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR '26 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM AND TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM," incorporating any nonsubstantive revisions.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So moved.

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We're here to support you, and thank you very much for being here, Chief, with exciting news.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, appreciate that a lot. All right. So, now we're going to change to the next item. Thank you very much for joining us here and contributing to the happy meeting. Thank you. So, next we have Bill 93, Amending the Fiscal Year '25 [sic] Budget: Depart...oh, sorry, that's...that's what we just did. Wrong notes.

ITEM 20(9): COUNTY BOND ISSUANCE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next we have bond issuance. Okay. All right. So, next we have BFED-20(9) of talking about County Bond Issuance for Calendar Year '25. It's a Rule 7(B), and we have Josiah Nishita joining us here in the front. And this item, again, is a 7(B), which will be for discussion and information only. And Members, at our July 1st meeting, the Administration announced plans to offer approximately \$301.8 million in bonds through a competitive sale on July 23rd. And today, the plan is for the Committee to review the outcome of the sale, including investor responses and interest rates--which we're very interested in--and the County's bond rating. So, joining us today, we have Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, thank you very much; Marcy Martin, I think, is online; Maria Zielinski is here in person, Deputy Director of Finance; Budget Director Lesley Milner; and Curt de Crinis, Managing Director, Columbia Capital Management, LLC, the County's municipal advisor. I'll be asking for some opening comments, and I'll be opening for public testimony. So, Mr. Nishita, would you like to proceed with opening comments?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank...thank you, Chair, thank you, Members, for allowing us to be here today. Just wanted to express our sincere appreciation to the Council for working so collaboratively with us over the years in the budget process and, you know, I think we've talked about this before with the bond rating agencies. One of the key things that I...I took away through our rating agency presentations was the, you know, consistent trust in the County's ability to be able to assess additional taxes and collect additional taxes as needed. So, both the...the willingness and ability has been demonstrated over the years, and that has, you know, put us in a good position in terms of our, you know, I guess, risk...or credit risk outlook. I also want to express sincere appreciation to our...our whole team--Department of Finance, our budget team, all of our Staff from, you know, the departments, and...and Management, and...and also our consultants that really helped to kind of put everything together. You know, given it's a tough market out there, given a lot of the uncertainty being created, sometimes self-inflicted by...
...*(laughing)*... by...by our own partners, but...you know, I think we...I would say that we had a very successful, you know, bond rating, as well as bond sales. So, I'll turn it over to our Deputy Director of Finance for further comments, but appreciate the opportunity to be here today, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Yeah, please.

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

August 5, 2025

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. We have provided to the Council--or the BFED Committee--a summary, which actually was provided by Columbia Capital, that gives you kind of a summary of all of the...the bond issuance itself. But just to kind of go over it very quickly, we issued bonds in the amount of 300,160,000. It included a premium of 20,894,700. So, the net proceeds from our bond issuance was actually \$321,054,700. And you see that on that schedule that we attach with our response. Delivery is actually going to be next week, August 13th. It's a 20-year bond, so it'll be due September 2000...2045, sorry. This was sold via competitive bid. We did receive six bidders. Bank of America was actually the one that won with...and winning would be the lowest bid, if you will, at 4.144 percent. I should mention that the six bidders, we were actually kind of pleasantly surprised by. We...we...I don't know that we expected that many, so that was...that was very...that was a very good, I think, signal as to how Maui County is viewed. I should mention, though, there's a...there was a narrow spread between all six bidders. So, it was only a difference of 3.6 basis points. So, you'll actually see on that...that spreadsheet that we had provided to you, you'll see the highest...the lowest was 4.144, the highest was 4.180. So, that's the difference there is the 3.6 basis points. Our municipal advisor will talk a little bit about how that equates to money. It's quite significant. I should mention, just...you know, just as an aside, in the past, you may know that we've used negotiated...the previous administrations used negotiated bids or negotiated sales, and Wells Fargo was actually our...our underwriter at the time. And you can see, Wells Fargo is of...one of the six bids, but they were actually the second-highest bid, meaning the second-least favorable. So, just interesting, doesn't know...you know, hard to say, but I think it kind of...the competitive bid, it underscores how good the competitive bid...bidding process is very transparent because, you know, you have to choose which...the lowest one. I should mention from the proceeds, and that also is in the package that we sent to you, of the \$321,055,000, that underwriter's cost was 327,000. Again, that's on the sheet. And the issuance cost were 728,000. That includes the rating fees. It includes legal, fiscal, our fiscal agent, and other miscellaneous costs. So, when you take those out, our net is actually \$320 million, and...and that's what we had to use. And I'll address that in...in just a moment. As Managing Director indicated, we've got...we had favorable ratings--actually, no change--AA+ on Standard & Poor's and Fitch, Moody's was AA2. So, no changes. But I should mention that the reports, which...I know typically, when we look, we just want to see what the number...what the rating is, and that's kind of where we all go. But the reports themselves are very interesting because they were very, very positive. So, I would encourage, if you haven't read them, to look at those narratives. It really kind of tells you, as...as the Managing Director indicated, the confidence they have. And...and, you know, the bottom line is the credit rating agencies want to know that they're not going to lose any money, that...that there's no risk out there, or very little. They want to minimize risk. And those reports actually underscore that. So, I think that was a very...you know, that kind of tells you how they view the County of Maui. Let me just see here. Per the summary of that...the bond sale that you have here, you will see that the interest--and that's on the first upper right-hand corner--you'll see that the interest, which is due in March of 2026, is 8,188,817. We actually, from '26 Budget--just so you have a comparison--is we actually had in our budget interest of 13.2 million, and principal of 10.1. So, the budget actually...for 2026, actually included 23.3 million for

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

August 5, 2025

this...for this bond. We only are paying for 2026 one...one interest payment, and principal is not paid for this fiscal year. So, there's more than sufficient funds. That's kind of where I wanted to go with that. Next year, our next fiscal year, 2027, the debt service will be about 23 million. And again, if you look at that...that schedule that you were provided, you'll see the debt service is 2020...\$22,995,963.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I was just going to ask.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we didn't get what you're talking about.

MS. ZIELINSKI: I'm sorry?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We didn't get...

MS. ZIELINSKI: You didn't receive it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. ZIELINSKI: It was part of the attachments? No?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're talking...you're telling us new information.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I was just going to ask. I can...I could look at Tamara's face and read that.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Oh, my apologies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I refreshed my browser choke times.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, me too.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah. Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: Chair...and I'm sorry. It might have been my fault because I had a big stack of documents on my desk. But I did sign it before coming down here. And Finance transmitted it to me electronically. So, we can make sure to transmit that to BFED.

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: Because I have it in my email now. So, we'll send that over.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have it in your email, that means what?

MR. NISHITA: I don't know if Finance prepared a separate summary, but the official documentation to Council, I just signed this morning. And...yeah. We...I'll...I'll sign for Mayor...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: I'm sorry. What was that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Were you a little busy yesterday or something?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Just a little.

MS. ZIELINSKI: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. NISHITA: But yeah, I'll...I'll get this over to BFED Committee Staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I was listening to you. And I'm just looking at Tamara. And I can tell she's...where is this document? So, we haven't received it yet, right? So, confirmation of the problem.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Okay. My apologies.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We just got it.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah. We...we assumed that you folks had it. So, actually, to be honest, we had this...we had it ready. But we were waiting for our official statement, that big thick thing, which obviously you haven't seen either. But that was finalized. And we wanted to wait until everything was in one package. Otherwise, it would have been preliminary. So, we purposely waited until yesterday to send everything. But we had it ready last week.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: So, again, my apologies for that. So, you will see it on the schedule. But the bottom line is, going forward, this...this Fiscal Year '26, you'll see the only debt service we have is 8.2 million, just to round it off. But then after that, it's about...runs about 23 million every year until maturity. So...but again, as I said, budget-wise, we're fine.

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

August 5, 2025

And, you know, 2027, we'll make sure we have a sufficient amount. From the proceeds, the 320 million, \$124.3 million was actually reimbursement for the disbursements already made. Again, I...I know you don't have that, but that's that sheet you typically have seen in the past. And it has...you know, that's issued by Finance, where we show all our CIP projects. And that actually hasn't changed, except we updated it to the most recent. So, we've...we've spent \$124.3 million in CIP that's earmarked for this bond issuance. 144.8 million is actually in encumbrances. That money...the money from the bond issuance will be used for the \$144.8 million. And again, that's on that schedule that has all the CIP. And I should mention, Dan Shupack's on the call as well...monitoring the call as well, so if there's any CIP questions. And then for Fiscal '26 projects, we...we took \$50.9 million. And that hasn't changed from the last time we met with you folks. And that all adds up to \$320 million. And again, it was based on what was viewed as priority and likelihood...greatest likelihood of the projects being done. Obviously, we didn't want to get into it where we had projects that we...we put money down for, we were using for bond, and then it's not going to happen for many reasons. So, that's...that was the...that was how it was prioritized. The last thing I should mention...and this actually isn't on any schedule, but I just will mention because I know there was a question the last time, the arbitrage yield for the bond sale was calculated by...by the municipal advisors at 4.034 percent. So, that compares to our actual...again, keep in mind our bond issuance is 4.144. So, what that basically means, and this is a calculated number, it's...it's kind of, you know, they take the present value of cash flows, so it's...it's...it's kind of a...it's not something that I know I would probably be able to do. But the arbitrage yield basically represents the maximum investment rate that we can have that we won't have to have any rebates. In other words, what we're allowed for tax-exempt bond proceeds allowed by the IRS. So, where I'm trying to get to here is that with a 4.034 percent as an arbitrage yield, when we get back those proceeds for the bonds, then we're going to invest them. Our treasury folks are going to invest them. Right now, treasury bills are running in the 3s--3.96, 3.89--those kinds of numbers. So, that tells you that it's very unlikely we're going to have any arbitrage issues right now. Of course, this is a 20-year bond, so, you know, hard to say. But for right now, we don't see any arbitrage issues for that because we're not making more than what we're...we're paying out, or what the cost of the...the bonds are. That's pretty much it, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Our municipal advisor, Curt de Crinis, will actually have additional --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- information. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. de Crinis?

MR. DE CRINIS: Thank you, Maria. Curt de Crinis here at Columbia Capital Management. We served as a municipal advisor to the County on this bond issue. And Maria covered a number of things I was going to mention, but just to quickly add some more color to

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

August 5, 2025

the discussion. As Maria said, the County did receive six bids, and the...the, you know, the spread was very tight between the bids, which is a good indication of getting...that there was a very serious attempt by all the underwriters to buy the deal because otherwise, it would have been a wider spread in the bids. You know, just to put some numbers on it, the...the difference between the high bid and the low bid averaged about \$4,300 a year in interest expense, so that's on 320 million. So, that's how close the bids were. So, that's how close J.P. Morgan was in their underwriting group to Bank of America in their underwriting group. And Wells Fargo, as she mentioned, was about three basis points back. Each basis point on this...on a deal of this size, of 320 million, is...is worth about \$250,000 in present value. So, there's...there's real money at stake in saving even...even one basis point, which is 1/100 of 1 percent, but it's...it all adds up into real dollars. So, during the week of August [sic] 21 through 25, which is the week that Maui sold its bonds, \$9.5 billion of municipal bonds sold nationally...2 point....2 billion was competitive, so 22 percent sold competitive. Of the AA or better GO issues, 17 sold competitive, 15 were negotiated. So, of the dollar volume, 40 percent were competitive. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Point of information, if I can clarify, you said the week of August 21 to 25, is that last...

MR. DE CRINIS: I'm sorry, July. I'm sorry, I meant July.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. DE CRINIS: Excuse me, I misspoke...July. Compared to the AA or better GO issues, the big ones that sold during that week...Denton, Texas sold the same day, 232 million. Maui was lower in interest rate by about 12 basis points to that issue. There was also a couple other deals in Texas, over \$200 million. San Antonio Unified School District, there's another school district issue where Maui was better than those deals. On...they...I was not quite as good as...as a bond issue that sold in California, but California and New York, with high tax rates...high state tax income rates, generally trade a little better, and there's a bigger investor pool for those...those issuances. During the week prior to the issue, you know, we at...at Columbia Capital, we you know, talked to a lot of the bidders--Jeffries, Fidelity, Morgan Stanley, Raymond James, Wells Fargo--we spoke to just, you know, everybody we thought might be interested in bidding. So, there was, you know, a fair amount of discussion going on there to make sure they had everything they needed, and they were ready to bid. The issue was...was bid on a web platform called Parity, and that's a platform that is both used in competitive and negotiated sales nationally, and almost all active underwriters subscribe to it. So, that's...that's how the bidding process goes. So, it's very transparent. Every underwriter knows about it. Everyone can participate. The...the bond official statement and notice of sale were widely distributed. We even...there was even an article about the Maui sale in the national Bond Buyer. So, investor interest was pretty strong. Everyone was aware of it. That's part of making sure you get good bids. It is worth noting that the City and County of Honolulu did sell 696 million in GO bonds the week prior. So, same bond rating as Maui, AA+. By comparison, depending on...there were six series in the Honolulu deal, but by comparison, Maui's interest rates were, on average, the same, or

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

August 5, 2025

slightly lower, and Maui's underwriting costs were lower. And what's also notable is, during that week between when Honolulu sold and Maui sold, interest rates actually went up about six basis points, five to six basis points. So, rates were a little bit higher when Maui sold, but Maui still did the same or better. So, I think that's a good indication that Maui got a very good deal. So, I think it's a fair assessment that, you know, the competitive sale process did work, and it's not at all clear that Maui would have done better on a negotiated basis. So, some comments on competitive versus negotiated sales. I know that was asked at prior meetings. You know, both approaches are valid and advisable, depending on the circumstances. The County carefully considered both, so it wasn't just...we didn't go in with...with a pre-set idea of how these bonds would be sold. In my 40 years in municipal bond business, I've advised on, you know, hundreds of deals, and many have been competitive, but most...most have been negotiated. So...but overall, highly-rated, straightforward GO bonds, like Maui's, competitive sale is an excellent choice. It's also recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association, and also the SEC is now suggesting that competitive sales, you know, should be considered more often for...you know, because in...in many cases, you do end up the same or better. And I think in this case, it was the right move, and, you know, Maui has sold bonds competitively in the past, in 2012, '14, '15, and '18. Those were all...also competitive sales, which...with many, many bids. So, it's been, you know, a good process. Also, it's administratively easier. There was no rating or underwriting trips needed, or no costs incurred. It's highly transparent, so, you know, there's no special underwriting relationships. The low bid wins, and, you know, Maui taxpayers, in my opinion, win, me being one. So, if there's any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I like that last statement. All right. Ms. Milner, do you have any comments?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I think, you know, they covered the meat and potatoes of it, as it were, . . . *(laughing)*. . . and got into the details. I will just say, you know, as Managing Director said, being involved in this process, and being involved in the rating agency presentations, and hearing some of the comments they had, which were overwhelmingly positive, really made me feel very good about the current standing of Maui County...and then when the bids came in, that was reflected. So, I enjoyed being a part of the process, and happy to answer any questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, at this time, Members, I'm going to...we're...we're at bare quorum, by the way, so I'm going to open up for public testimony.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there's currently no individuals signed up to testify on this item. If there's anyone who'd like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. Chair, there's an individual approaching the podium.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mr. Jasee Law.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 20(9) . . .

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

August 5, 2025

MR. LAW: Aloha kākou. I wore the right color shirt today. ‘Ōma‘oma‘o, green. Thank you guys for taking care of the County’s money. I get the gist of it. I’m not a bean counter. And I’ve been trying to find out more information about bonds from the Finance Department on the 2nd Floor, but they got locked doors, and they don’t answer too many questions. I’ll keep on trying. I’ll keep on knocking. And thank you for...that was a brilliant presentation, Finance Director Zielinski and Budget Director Milner, and other limahana. I noticed in the...the press packet that some of the money was going to be for the Halau of ‘Ōiwi Art and Cultural Center, so that was a big plus. And as you were presenting, I was noticing...I didn’t...I didn’t see a page in there where they...all the bidders, as they were called, for the bonds. But it’s...I got three of them, J.P. Morgan, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo. They all sound like Western banks, and I was wondering, was this put on the world market, or just the western currency market? A little history lesson for the uneducated. Walter Murray Gibson, which was Kalakaua’s most influential minister, probably the treasury, suggested to put out some Hawaiian currency. They were using mostly American currency back then, but they got money from all over the world in the bank on Fort Street there in Honolulu. And Sanford Dole, W.R. Castle, and W.O. Smith sued the Hawaiian Kingdom government to prevent Claus Spreckels from getting gold bonds. So, anybody that’s interested, check that out, figure out what that’s all about. But I’m just suggesting that we kind of keep our minds open to the world economy and not just the American economy, especially since the administration over there seems to be trying to collect all the money for themselves. And please remember Queen Lili‘uokalani. And I’ll save the rest of my time for the Hawaiians.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. All right. So, Members, there’s...last call?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there’s no one else who signed up to testify on this item, so we’ll do last call at this time. If there’s anybody who’d like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now by using the raise-hand function on Teams, or by identifying yourself in the Chamber. We’ll do a countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one has identified themselves as wishing to testify on this item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, let’s see. Members, I am going to take us to 10:30, and then we’ll take a break. Is that all right? So, I’m going to close public testimony with your permission. Open...I mean, keep written testimony flowing.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 20(9) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And at this time, then, I’d like to open up for Members’ questions regarding what the...regarding bonds. So, we’ll just go down the row here with Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, before...before we start that, are we going to get the spreadsheet or something?

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, did it get sent to us?

MR. NISHITA: I just signed it about a few minutes ago, and I just emailed it about like 30 seconds ago. So, hopefully, Staff received it, and can provide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: But I sent it to BFED Committee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, it sounds like it's an important document. You...Pauline, do you have it? And could you make copies of it and give it to us, and send it online to Member Sinenci and Member Johnson, as well as the public? What shall we do? Shall we take a little break?

MS. MARTINS: I don't see it yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we don't have it yet. Oh, you have it? Oh, is that the whole document?

MR. NISHITA: She needs it electronically.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. We need the whole document.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, Chair. Maybe if we can just take a short recess, and then we'll work it out with BFED Committee to get it to everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, I'm going to take a ten-minute recess. So, we'll come back at 10:15. Hopefully, we can get this handled. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:05 a.m.
RECONVENE: 10:27 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is...what time do I have? It's 10:27. Thank you for the break. We took a little longer. We wanted to get the documents from the Administration which talks about this bond issuance. And the summary, we are...it is now...we are...we have it in our hands. A document dated August the 4th, signed off by our Managing Director. And we officially have it in-hand. The total document is about 300 pages, so they just gave us a summary of whatever it is. So, the...the document, which looks like a book, that we're going to have it also from the Administration actually is what the

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

August 5, 2025

bidders received in terms of, you know, Maui County and whatever. So, it was that document plus the summary. So, Members...Member Johnson and Member Sinenci, did you get the document in your inbox? Or it should be on Granicus. It's not...

MS. MARTINS: It's in Granicus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's in Granicus. Okay. Can you pull up Granicus? Okay. All right. So, I'm going to continue on with the discussion. Now that we have the documents, Members, you want to look at it a little bit before we start with a three-minute question per Member? So, the reason why I wanted to have this was so that we can now hear the outcome of what happened with the bond when it went out to bid. And I guess you heard from all the resources that were pretty, you know, detailed in their answers. But the document that you received today, you may have more questions. So, if we don't get to it, we can always send the Administration questions in writing. Sorry that you're only getting it now, but I guess Mr. Nishita was busy yesterday, a little. Thank you for all that you do for the County. I'm going to start off with questions. Member Kama, and just go down the row. So, Member Kama, you first.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Okay. So, this is Bond 101, I guess, for me, or Bond 100. But...so, there are six people that actually bid, right, on these bonds? So, how does their bidding on these bonds benefit our...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Who wants to take that?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I'll start, and if anybody else wants to jump in. I mean...so, I'll answer that kind of in two parts. One is, the number of bidders, as Deputy Director of Finance had indicated, is a good sign for the County. One, indicating kind of strong interest in the County's bonds being issued, as well as kind of like a strong sense of, you know, trust in the...in the County's ability to...to repay those bonds. It also allows us to have the ability to make sure we're getting the best deal open on the market. The more bidders, the better. It's just as if...you know, you ask Council Services to go procure something for you, and then, you know, they issue an RFP, and you get a bunch of bidders in. The more bidders that you get, then the more certainty you can have that you're getting the best deal on the market. So, you know, I think we're hopeful we would get three or so, and getting this amount is really a good sign for us, and ensures we're getting a really good deal. I think the other piece, too, is, you know, getting the bonds actually bought from the County enables us to get cash in that we can then invest into CIP projects, and other things around our community that are, you know, sorely needed. So, as the Council goes through and approves, you know, the fiscal year budgets, or budget amendments for projects in your districts, you know, this funding helps to provide that ability to proceed on with the project.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh. So, they're investing in us.

MR. NISHITA: Yes.

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

August 5, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's what it is. So, out of all...all these six guys, they're not...are they the guys that actually get the bid, or is it just a few of these? And who's going to choose, and have they been chosen yet?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. In a competitive sale, the lowest bidder would get the...the bid. And, you know, generally--and Curt can probably speak to this more--I think generally, they end up repackaging and...and reselling kind of bonds in the open market following that, but yeah, the lowest bidder would be the one getting the bid.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, who's the lowest bidder on this?

MR. DE CRINIS: Yeah, I can add to that. Bank of America, it was the low bidder in this case at a 4.144 percent true interest cost. That was their bid. So, what they're bidding on is the interest cost that the County of Maui is going to pay plus their fee. So, those two things combined are...become the true interest cost to the County. So, that's what they're bidding on. And what they do when they buy these securities...because they're buying bonds from the County, and they're instantly . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . reselling those bonds to investors. So, they have a...their investor base, and Bank of America didn't bid this alone. They had another firm in there called Stifel. And so, they were...you know, as soon as they knew they won the award, they were on the phone trying to resell those bonds to, you know, mutual funds, individuals, insurance companies, banks...you know, all types of people around the country and in Hawai'i. So, that's what they were...you know, that's...that's their business to buy and then resell the bonds.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: How safe is that for us?

MR. DE CRINIS: Well, you're...you're the one...they're loaning you the money.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MR. DE CRINIS: So, they're the ones with the risk. . . *(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. . . *(laughing)*. . . Okay. I get that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, they're going to...we're going to pay...have to pay them back then, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. DE CRINIS: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's like a charge card.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, next...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee's not here. So, Member Paltin, then we'll go to Member Johnson, and...oh, I'm sorry. Member Cook, welcome to the meeting. You came in during our...during our break.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. And it's still good morning. Thank you for your patience with me this morning. I had another meeting, but I'm glad to be here now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Welcome. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: There...there are currently no testifiers in the Kihei Office. You should come check out our new office, it's epic. Bye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let us know when you have the party. Just kidding. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. What is the reoffering premium about?

MR. DE CRINIS: When you say reoffering premium, do you mean that...whether there's a premium...the premium on the bonds? Is that what you mean?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. I mean the...the line that says reoffering premium \$20,894,700.56.

MR. DE CRINIS: Yeah. Okay. Yes. That is when...that's the premium that the County received on the 300,160,000 in bonds that it sold. So, it got \$321,000,000 for those bonds. And that premium...premium is created by...this gets...kind of get us into fairly technical discussion, but when the bidders are bidding this, whether it's competitive or negotiated, what investors get...because each year, there's a different amount of principal comes due, like a mortgage, and each principal amount has a different interest rate. And some are...bid it with a...like a 4 percent interest rate, or a 5 percent interest rate, or a 4-1/2 percent interest rate...they're all different. And if the...if the yield, which is what the investor gets...because if you're an investor, you buy the bond, and it may have a 4 percent coupon, which is what the County's paying, but you may...because...because the interest rate is...the market interest rate is 3-3/4, you may

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

August 5, 2025

pay a premium as an investor to buy that 4 percent payment every year the County's going to make. And so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was the other thing I didn't understand. If the true interest cost is 4.144 percent, the total interest on 300.1 is like 12-something million. How is the...the interest 178,757,498? You said the principal has varying interest. How is that determined?

MR. DE CRINIS: Oh, that's the blended interest of all the different maturities. So, if you take all the interest rates on the 20 years of bonds, and you...and...and...and then you add it all up, that's where you get the total interest.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, like past years before this particular bond issuance, or...

MR. DE CRINIS: No, just on this bond issue.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. DE CRINIS: This is only...this only has to do with this bond issue.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the different interest rates, how...how is that determined? It's based on what Bank of America packages to another investor?

MR. DE CRINIS: No, it's...it's...it's what they bid to buy the bonds from the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's based on their bid?

MR. DE CRINIS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, how does the...the bid, how does it relate to the true interest cost of 4.144?

MR. DE CRINIS: Well, because when you add up . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . all the interest, and you add their underwriting fee into it, the present value of all the interest that's paid, plus the...the...the bid, the underwriting fee that they bid, becomes the true interest cost. This is like the internal rate of return of all those payments over 20 years, discounted back, it becomes 4.144 percent. That's just the math of it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, next we have Member Johnson, followed by Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I have no questions at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook?

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

August 5, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, I'm curious. When selling \$300 million worth of bonds, how does the mechanics work...and you're educating me, thank you for this. How does the mechanics work as far as getting this capital from the various lenders? Where does it go? What's...what's the like holding pattern for it while it's being expended over time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Deputy Director?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Chair, thank you. Yes. Basically what happens is, is when we close...well, the actual date of the...of the...the delivery is August 13th. On August 13th, that's when we'll actually get 321,054,700. Also concurrently, what will happen is the...the use of those funds, the underwriter fee and the cost of issuance, the credit rating agencies, all of that will be deducted from that...that amount. Then that...the net amount, which we will actually get, which is \$320 million, will go into our...will go into our...our fiscal agent--I think it's New York Mellon--and that goes into our account. And then from there, we'll do various...various transactions. The first will be that...as you know, we had some CIP that we had...we had put...we had paid for already. And we said, we're earmarking this for bonds, but we didn't have a bond issuance yet. So, that's actually...I think when I mentioned it, I know you weren't there, was actually reimbursement. So, we've spent \$124.3 million for CIP that was earmarked for bonds. So, right off the bat, when we get that \$320 million and it goes into our account, we're going to be taking 124.3, and we're going to reimburse ourselves. So, that'll be right off the bat, that 124.3. We also, though, have 144.8 million of encumbrances from Fiscal '25 and previous that are monies that are CIP that's, you know, in process or whatever. That'll stay invested, at least initially, until we need the money. And that's where Treasury does their thing. We also, in this 320 million, have 50.9 million of Fiscal '26 projects that we've earmarked. That'll also be in...stay invested. It'll stay with the County, okay, until we actually need the money. So, that's where we'll actually invest it, and it will earn interest. Okay. The interest, though, will very likely be less than what we're paying for it, just the way the Treasury bills are right now. But that's kind of what happens. But it all happens on August 13th...or it should. . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, thank you. You know what? That was a very comprehensive explanation. I appreciate it. So, basically, we are...it's going to be in a fund that we're collecting interest on that we have access to. And...

MS. ZIELINSKI: And it's very specific how we use it. We can't just say, oh, let's pay for --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

MS. ZIELINSKI: -- you know, operating. It has to be specific for bonds because this is tax-free money.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah.

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

August 5, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. I'm looking at...and thank you for the presentation. I'm just looking...can you explain...on page 13, I'm looking at Table 3, about the...the debt service. As Councilmembers, as we go through each year's budget, would this be part of...the debt service is always part of our annual budget sessions. Can you explain the table --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- on page 14 [sic]?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. Yes, debt service is always included in the fiscal year budget as a line item under Countywide costs. We did an estimate this year based on a possible interest rate and possible payment schedule, and we'll continue to include the payments going forward based on the interest rate table, as well as interest from our other bonds from previous fiscal years. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Milner. And then...so, this loan, I guess, is...is...and...and we did see the...the list of the CIP projects that it's funding. So, as we, Councilmembers, go through the budget, and if we're adding any CIPs, does that...is that new...does that come off of...not this bond? How does that work?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. If in future fiscal years, the Councilmembers add bonded CIP projects, those will be included in a future bond issuance, not in the current bond issuance. Bonds need to be utilized...75 percent of them need to be utilized within two [sic] years. So, any future bond projects that you add would be included in a future bond float. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then so --

MS. MILNER: Sorry, Chair. Three years, not two.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- if we...oh. What's that?

MS. MILNER: Sorry, I misspoke. The funds need to be utilized within three years, not two years.

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

August 5, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, within three years. Okay. Thank you, Ms. Milner. And then...so, if we're...because I do see a couple, you know, projects in East Maui. So, if we're...we're adding...those projects have already been funded. If we're adding more to the...more projects to CIP projects, then we're just creating another bond account?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. Yes, it would probably operate like Deputy Director Zielinski said earlier, where it would work on a reimbursement basis until the next bond float. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Oh.

MR. NISHITA: And Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Managing Director?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. If I may, just to make sure Members understand too, everything that's listed on here, Council has already approved. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, we're not...we're not, you know, picking projects or doing things that Council already hasn't seen. All these projects you have reviewed and approved already through either like a bond bill, through an amendment, or through the FY budgets. So, yeah, just to make sure everybody understands that. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks for this clarification. We would never think you would try to slip a fast one on us.

MR. NISHITA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more questions? You're...are you done, Mister...Member Sinenci? Okay, you are. All right. Second round. Anybody have questions for second round? No? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess, you know, the principal at the bottom of the summary on the July 31st thing is 300,160,000, and then the interest at the bottom is 178,757,498. So, I mean, it...it's just so weird to me that the true interest cost is 4.144 percent because that seems like close to 60 percent of the total bond float.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody want to talk about the math?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, go ahead.

MS. ZIELINSKI: I'll start it, and then I'll ask municipal advisor. But the one thing...it is confusing. I totally agree with you. But one of the factors you have to put...take into consideration is, we have a bond issuance of 316...300,160,000, but we got 321 million

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

August 5, 2025

because of the premium. So, that's kind of part of that calculation. You see what I'm saying? So, that premium...and this is where...you know, this is way over my head as far as how to calculate, and I know that's where our municipal advisor knows. But when they do the calculations in coupons, they determine the coupon rate for every single year. And those coupon rates can be different. Most of the time, it's...on this one, I see it's mostly 5 percent...we can share this with you, but it's 5 percent. But then it can get reduced to 2 point something. But again, you have to keep in mind, we're getting \$320 million, but our bonds are only...we're showing a face value of 300,160,000. So, all of that is calculating in, and that's how you're getting that interest rate, that total calculated interest rate of 4.144. I know I'm really simplifying it, but that's how...in my mind, that's how I...I, you know, I can kind of see that. I'm going...I'm going to punt to our municipal advisor at this point.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. de Crinis?

MR. DE CRINIS: Thank you. The interest, it's like...it's like a mortgage, right? So, every year, as you can see, as you're paying back the principal, the interest expense goes down. So, if you took...you know, if you...if you look at \$8,188,017, that's...that's six months' worth of interest, you know, and you're...and that's what you're paying on the 321 million. Actually, because that's a net proceeds you're getting. It doesn't work out exactly that way, but it's...it's...if you divide that in, it's 4...4 point-something percent. So, it's...it's...it's very much like...like a mortgage in the sense that, you know, your...what the...the interest rate you're paying is...is a percent. The...the interest is...is based on the interest rate times the amount of money you're getting each year. And so, as you're paying that principal down, the interest expense goes down at the same time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And...and to clarify, on August 13th, we're going to get the full 320 million, and then this year...next year, we're paying 8.18 million on that debt, and then the next year after that, we're paying close to 23 million, and so on and so forth?

MR. DE CRINIS: Well, the first year you're paying...in 2027, you're paying 8.33 million toward the principal, and then each year thereafter, you're paying down that principal amount, which, as you're paying investors back, those investors are paid off, and the remaining investors are the only ones you have to pay interest to.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...so, the ones that get paid off, like, say, in 2027, two years later, that's when their bond matures, is like two years or something?

MR. DE CRINIS: Yes. Yes, there's a bond maturity every year . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . so investors are getting paid back every year. And...and once they're paid back, there's no more interest because they've got their money back.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. All right. Anybody else have any more questions regarding this? All right. So, it looks like we are done with this item. I want to thank you very

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

August 5, 2025

much for coming to share and educate and tell us, you know, about your successes. It was pretty exciting because we got a call from Managing Director, very excited about the results, and so we wanted to share it with the County Council as well as the community. So, keep up your good work. I guess it's a reflection on good management. Thank you, Budget Director, also, for all your hard work with the budget; Managing Director; Curt de Crinis, good to see you here; and Deputy Director. So, this item will be deferred, so you can come back and tell us more about your successes at another meeting.

MS. ZIELINSKI: . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: AL, KRF, NUH).

ACTION: DEFER.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. I'm going to go on to the last item on the agenda. Thank you. Really appreciate it. Are you going to really give us a 300-page document?

MS. ZIELINSKI: We'll resend it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You did send it? Okay.

MS. ZIELINSKI: I don't know if we did or not, but I think we did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, this is bond. This is bond.

ITEM 20(14): 2025 MAUI COUNTY FAIR

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The last item...it is 10:50, and the last item...do you want...Parks Department, you want to come down here? So, Managing Director, Ms. Milner. Parks Department, I see Director McCall and Lisa Alameida [sic]. Daryl Fujiwara from Maui Fair, if you want to come and sit down with us? Thank you. So, the final item on our agenda is a 7(B) item, which is the 2025 Maui County Fair. Earlier this year, the Council appropriated 1.5 million to support the event's return, and the Mayor has since announced the fair will be held October 2nd to the 5th at the War Memorial Complex. And here with us today is Managing Director, Josiah Nishita; Director McCall, Parks and Recreation; I also see Lisa Alameida [sic] from Parks and Rec; Budget Director Lesley Milner. Do we have Chief of Staff here with us also? I don't see her. Is...is Cynthia Lallo going to be on-call?

MR. NISHITA: Chair, and if...if we do need Cynthia on, I'll bring her on, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: -- I'm here to respond for Mayor's Office, too, if needed.

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay

MR. NISHITA: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And from the Festivals of Aloha President and Director, we have Daryl Fujiwara, who is also coordinating the Maui Fair. So, at this time, I'd like to ask for opening comments from our Managing Director, and then we can...you can then direct who you want to speak from your Administration, then we'll hear from Daryl Fujiwara. So, Managing Director, you're up again.

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank...thank you, Chair. Appreciate, once again, allowing us to...to be here. You know, this event is so huge and important for our community to be able to bring people together. We're just so appreciative of the Council's support, and support of the funding requests as well to help make this happen, and I can tell you that so many community members have already reached out, and are completely just overjoyed at the prospect of being able to have a fair again. And I think, you know, starting to see things happen out there in the community has really put people more on notice, too, that...you know, bringing that hope alive that this can actually happen. So, we really appreciate all the support. Daryl and his team have been doing a fantastic job, a lot of work, taking on the lion's share of helping to put this together. A lot of our County agencies and departments, especially our Department of Parks and Recreation, have been a huge resource in this, helping to kind of bend over backwards as we all learn this from a new perspective for the first time, really trying to, you know, help host and put this on for our community. So, I do know, I'm sure over time, we're going to end up, you know, reflecting on this after. and making changes for the next round and whatnot, and improvements, but we really appreciate all your guys' patience as we help try to put together such a huge event for our community for the first time. I think, Chair, I'll...I'll pass it over to Daryl for kind of our opening presentation, and then we do have the Department of Parks and Recreation here available, too, if they want to provide any opening comments, or for questions when that arises.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Do you have a PowerPoint presentation?

MR. FUJIWARA: I do, and I'm going to share it so everybody else in...in the world can see it. I'm so sorry. I'm a Mac person. . . .(laughing). . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .(laughing). . .

MR. FUJIWARA: Sorry. But good morning. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Committee Members, for being here this morning. And we're going to go right into it. So, the Maui County Fair, we are scheduled to be at the War Memorial Special Events Complex from October 2nd to the 5th. And it's been a huge learning lesson for...for my team and I, and I'm sure for the County as well. Sorry. Okay. It's a little...

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

August 5, 2025

MS. SZABO: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. FUJIWARA: Oh. Down there. Okay. Okay. Learning. The schedule, we are opening with our parade on Thursday, October 2nd. And that begins at 4:30. The street will close around 4:15 to close down Kaahumanu Avenue, and the fair will run until 11:00 p.m. We have two typos here. That is 12:00 a.m. For Friday and Saturday, we will be running from...sorry, from Friday 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., and then Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. We are looking to do special fair on the Friday. We are still coordinating those elements with all of the different organizations right now, and we're hoping to have more information in the coming weeks. On Saturday, we're inviting Lānaʻi to come to the parade...or to the...the fair, and we've worked out our ferry with Expeditions, and we'll be creating the programming to get everybody here in the following weeks to come as well. We are still working on Molokaʻi's ferry. There are a few logistical challenges that we're dealing with, but I'm fairly certain we'll be able to get that going. Sharing some of the scope of work here alongside the map, and Councilmembers present have a printed copy, so you can kind of zoom in. We're keeping the same layout and footprint as we have previously done for all the other fairs, and one of the biggest differences here, though, is that the...the gymnasium is under construction still. And so, all of those programmatic things--the...the art, the horticulture, and the homemaking--we will be moving to another site and activating. We're currently working with Queen Kaʻahumanu Shopping Center to house these things, as...and it kind of works out because they are a shuttling base and parking base for us, and one of the only free parking that we're offering. There's others as well, and we'll go through that. Rides, E.K. Fernandez, like I said, they have been amazing at...and really, really coming in strong to come back to Maui and support us. We're working with Young Brothers to ship over all of the rides. If you've driven past the complex right now, you'll see that there's two skeletons up right now, and that was from E.K. Fernandez because of their...their work...their current workload, plus the...their half crew that they still have. They had to come in a little earlier to do our tenting, so that's the vendor tent and the entertainment tent that you see. We are currently working with the...the...the budget that was appropriated. Seems like it is...is working really well for this movement, and so we're excited, like I said, to have all the rides. Mayor's Office released the rides after a few comments have been collected throughout the community, and we've heard them. And so, to ease some of the...the questions about, oh, is there rides or not, we...we have a full list of the rides on our social media, as well as in the press release from the County Comms Department. Entertainment has...is slowly going. We are...we should have a schedule in the next couple of weeks to share with everybody that's highlighting all of our local talent, and different genres of music, of course, and some fun programming that we've come to know and...and kind of expect. So, to ease those expectations, we're trying to make sure we have them all there. In the last couple of fairs, we've had these big LED screens that kind of help with promotion of all the different activities that are happening. You know, I...I think that's been a challenge in the past, is just making sure everybody knows, like, all the fun things that are happening kind of like concurrently, right? And so, we're hoping that this kind of signage will help to continue to help guide people to what is really happening throughout the fair. Our food vendors, this is the heaviest lift of the whole fair. And we

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

August 5, 2025

have gotten great numbers from our initial ask, which was about 169 different organizations, nonprofits, that have been interested in participating. We sent out the applications, and we are still waiting to hear back from a lot of them, but they're filling up just as quickly as we had anticipated with those numbers coming in. Our products and services are at 347 interested, with very minimal spaces, and so our team and our committee is working to make sure we highlight the best of Maui County as preferred. But of course, if there's something even cooler that's from O'ahu or something, we're also considering that as well, just because we want to bring new and fun things to...to Maui. The food booth, in terms of cost, after our crew and our carpenters had taken a look at the old booths, it doesn't seem that any of them are salvageable, and that was not an anticipated cost in our budget. And so, that...we're working to fundraise for them, but I can share some brief numbers with you. Just for the...the booths, it's coming out to about \$340,000, that's for 44 of those units. And the electrical to hook them all up and get everything together is looking at \$180,000. So, most...almost 500K that we're needing to fundraise and bring up to make sure we're able to afford all of this amazing fun. The grounds infrastructure and...and everything about the fair has been almost like a puzzle, and we're piecing things slowly together...or now, in the next couple of weeks, it'll be kind of hyped up, but connecting to power, getting the lighting, the plumbing together, waste management, our portable luas. So, in terms of cost, a lot of these have all gone up like exponentially. And I'll share for the porta-potties, you know, we went out to bid with every single company on Maui, and everyone turned us down immediately. Luckily, Sherri Grimes is still a part of our...our planning committee, and she went back to the old vendor, and was able to work out a contract, but that cost...or that contract is coming with a nice price tag of \$66,000 for the portable potties, and that's to drop them, that's to clean them and manage them every day. And so, you know, one of the hardest jobs of the fair, obviously. And so, I'm like I'm not doing it. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing). . .

MR. FUJIWARA: Pay them what they need to to make it happen. So, just in terms of cost, yes, we are looking at a lot of bigger numbers, as we had discussed earlier. Safety, we...you know, safety first whenever coordinating an event. And so, we've taken strides to...to make sure we're having a very comprehensive safety plan moving forward, and we've involved all of the main agencies. And, you know, we...we started off with what we've always done. And what we've sat through in the last two meetings is this growing, growing number of concerns that we're trying to address, down to our layout and our...and our footprint. But there's also newer agencies that we didn't have in 2019, like MEMA. And so, to collect all of their...their...their mana'o on all of the safety things moving forward, we're taking very seriously. We'll have a fire truck on site, and of course, the lost keiki booth, we are trying to always activate to make sure kids are registered and...as they come in to make sure we're keeping them safe. Access for all was one of the questions that we received from the Committee, and so I wanted to kind of go through that. We are working for the...towards doing a special fair on Friday daytime. ADA parking and loading areas. We're...we have a wonderful chairperson who's returning to us from previous years. We have an ADA section, of course, for entertainment. The first aid trailer is ADA-accessible. And then, of course, getting

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

August 5, 2025

Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi to come over. We want to make sure everyone in Maui County is included. Parking and shuttles. We are adding that Kaʻahumanu route, Queen Kaʻahumanu Center. I didn't realize that they didn't have a route, and so in addition to the Keōpūolani run, we are adding the Queen Kaʻahumanu Shopping Center. And for Wailuku this year, we will be activating the Wailuku Garage. And shout out to the Department of Transportation. I told them of our initial plans to move it, the parking there, and they were...they sent me this huge proposal on like where the stop should be, and...like they were so awesome. Like they did all the heavy lifting for it, and kudos to them. They've just been awesome to work with as well. And of course, when utilizing that...the parking structure, it's free after 4:30 with your...your license, and then throughout the day, I believe it's like a dollar or so. So, if you come in in the daytime, you know, you'll still pay a little bit, but not as much as the other parking areas, I would say. We're calling all of the different contests and things Local Excellence because we want to highlight all the different talents that we have throughout Maui County. And so, this year, we're working on our student contests, in addition to doing visual arts. We are going to coordinate e-sports at the Baldwin Gym on Saturday, and then on Sunday, we are going to be doing a first, which is a digital media contest on the Sunday. And that's become really big throughout the world now, digital media, and our Maui middle schoolers, elementary school, and high school are award-winning videographers and photographers. And so, to be able to highlight those talents, and give them opportunities to practice before they go away to all the big competitions...because there isn't a lot of opportunities to practice in a real-life scenario for those competitions here. So, just giving that to Maui County, I think, will be a great asset. For community, we are, of course, highlighting our livestock. Recently, we had a little...we're having a little movement in that area. Ohana Bursey (*phonetic*) will now be taking on the livestock. They have been longstanding...I believe they said that they've done it over 20 years now in partnership with 4-H, so they're kind of heading that tent. We're still working on homemakers. We've made contact with orchids and the different horticulture. We're working with the Department of Ag right now to see how they can help to assist and organize that area. And then, of course, our live contests. We are planning to bring back Healthy Baby. It's been awhile...I know. So, I've been running...so I didn't realize I knew a lot of winning happy babies --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(*laughing*). . .

MR. FUJIWARA: -- but a lot of them are like are you going to have it? I was 1993. I'm like, whoa, okay, okay. So, we're...in addition to all of you receiving, yes, I am receiving lots of excitement from the community for all of our wonderful events to come here at the Maui County Fair. Parade, like I had mentioned, we met with UHMC. They are just as excited as us to come, and they've allowed us full rein...or access to the college, you know, with the full support of the Chancellor to help make the parade happen. In our interest forms that we initially sent out, we received 97 organizations, and we only have 100 slots. So, in terms of safety, and the spacing for the parade start, we may need to get a little creative...but of course, safety first. And so, we are getting ready to launch that application soon. And we'll...we'll need to vet everybody, of course, to make sure that we have the right amount of walkers in between the decorated vehicles and floats. We do have some challenges at the university. A major area where they had staging is

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

August 5, 2025

now for photovoltaic solar panels, right, in that big field. And so, like I said, just making sure we have enough staging area for everyone. But we're excited for that, and a lot of people are apparently, so yay for the parade to kick us off. Funding, of course, we're...we're grateful for the 1.5 million, that really is helping us to get off the ground and lay infrastructure, you know, clean up and set things in place that, you know, have kind of weathered and aged. We want to mahalo, of course, the County agencies that have come in. The Parks Department has been amazing in supporting us through all of this, and helping us to navigate and get things going, as well as Public Works. They have done so much already, too, and we're grateful to them. And just fairly recently, we finally got our sponsorship package out, and we've already heard from three of them, so we're slowly--hopefully, in the next four weeks--ramping up, and we'll be able to meet all of our budgetary needs. And yes, we've already actively started utilizing our website for information, and all other social media channels on Facebook and Instagram if you guys are interested, or need or have questions. We have our contact information on the website as well. And that's it. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay. Managing Director?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. And if...I think the only other things I would add is a lot of the, you know, infrastructure and kind of like physical assets that Daryl talked about, what we've had...or heard from a lot of community organizations is that they used to borrow those things from the Fair Alliance previously. And so, getting those things kind of, you know, refurbished or...or built anew will be able to help community organizations outside the fair, too. I also just wanted to highlight our appreciation to, you know, the members of the Maui Fair Alliance and other organizations. All of us, I think, have been dusting off the cobwebs, figuratively and literally . . .*(laughing)*. . . on all of this, and a lot has changed, even as recent as six years ago. And so, you know, it has been taking a lot of work and effort. Not only we have kind of a new team in place to get it up and going, but also, just a lot of the changes and cost escalations that have occurred. Chair, just for the Committee's consideration, I believe it will make the...I...I know we submitted it already, so I'm assuming it will get posted on the August 12th agenda, but we will ask for Council's consideration of floor action on that agenda for the permit and issuance of longer than five consecutive days. That will be on your August 12th agenda. And...and then finally, for me, you may have read it in the...the *Hawaii Journalism Initiative* article, but the thing that really struck me, which I'm sure hits all of you at home too, is, I thought my kids were all going to be proud of..yeah, happy that the fair was coming back, and proud that their dad was somehow associated with it coming back, and all of them said, what's the fair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. NISHITA: And so, that's when I realized that...you know, my oldest is ten, and so he was only four...really like three or four when the fair last came, and my youngest one wasn't even born. So, you know, I think for a lot of members of our community, it's kind of reinvigorating those kind of traditions and bringing the community back together that is making so many people so excited to have this happen. And so, we just really

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

August 5, 2025

appreciate all your guys' support for that. I don't believe Parks has any opening comments, but we're here for questions after testimony. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wait, does...does Parks have anything to add, Director?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you, Chair. The only thing we'd say, we understand that this is basically a new event, and...and therefore, in our plans, we've just taken, you know, contingencies into account, and we'll be flexible, and we'll work...because things that were in existence in 2019 are no longer in existence. Therefore, we will continue to work with Daryl and his organization, and try to make this a positive event for the community.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So, Ms. Alameida [sic], do you have anything to add? No? Okay. Ms. Milner, anything to add? *(pause)*

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, microphone difficulties. Yes, as was stated earlier, this was a \$1-1/2 million dollar grant that was added to the Fiscal Year '25 Budget. Those funds were encumbered by the end of the fiscal year. And just want to thank the Council for their support in getting that amendment through the process, and enabling us to move forward. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, at this time, public testimony. I think I see...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes. We don't have any individuals signed up, but there is an individual approaching the podium.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 20(14) . . .

MR. LAW: Aloha kakahiaka. Jasee Law. Aloha, Daryl. So, one of the reasons I got into politics was this guy, he was the mayor of Fredericksburg, Virginia, his name was Bill Beck. And one of the sayings I always attribute to him is, whenever I told him...I said that's not fair, he would say, the fair left in September. So, I think he would be glad that the fair is back again. And one of my questions for somebody--I reckon that 'Ōiwi Resources guys are probably watching--so, this kind of...I always go back to the Hawaiian thing, and you kind of look Hawaiian, so I'm putting my trust in you. But I was hoping that we have some...like a lot of like Hawaiian stuff there. I don't even know what that means, but hopefully the Director of 'Ōiwi Resources and the people there can get some of the games and stuff that they play. I know the Hawaiians like games. And speaking of fun and games, if you guys are hiring a clown, I need a job.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Okay. Any...you want to...last call?

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

August 5, 2025

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, yes, proceeding with last call. If there is anyone else who would like to testify on this item, please identify yourself now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a countdown...three, two, one. Chair, no one else has identified themselves as wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Now the fun begins. With your permission, I'm going to close public testimony. We'll receive written testimony, Members.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 20(14) . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I want to thank the Parks Department for expeditiously, I think it is, answering our questions that we sent to you. And all of you got printed copies, or you should have it with...sent to you by email for other Members...or is it on Granicus already? It's on Granicus. Yeah. Okay. It's on Granicus. So, before I turn it over to the Members for three minutes each, I just want to say that when I was before...my other life, I used to do the Healthy Baby Contest. So, I'm so glad that you're going to bring it back. And I have another story that I actually told *Maui News* when I got interviewed about this fair, is that one of the winners was Judge Bissen's grandson. And when he came--you remember, Daryl--when he came on stage, he was...he had this ukulele, he was playing the uke...and I...and then he was copying his grandpa, right? The...the Mayor at that time was...I guess he was...maybe he was a judge, but his grandson was imitating him. It was such a precious...who knew, right? Here we are sitting, years later, and I don't know how old his grandson is, but he was one of the Healthy Baby winners. And I, too, run into...to the contestants that are, you know, winners at some time. In fact, somebody just graduated from high school, and is going off to college. So, I'm glad the tradition will continue. And the Maui Classic Cruisers want to be in the parade, so add that to your list...all the, you know, antique cars. And I have been getting calls, as I'm sure all of you have. I'm going to open it up with Member Paltin...because you have to ask about your smoke meat booth. That came up in February, so just wondering if you're ready.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're not ready, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I was wondering, what's...what's the...is there the Department of Finance involved in this at all?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does 13.40.190(A)(7) [sic] still apply for smoke meat?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing). . .

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

August 5, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the other foods.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What does that mean, 13 point...I'm sorry, one of the...one of the resource?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's see, let me pull it up. 13.04A.420 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Maui County Code.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- says that any temporary refreshment concessions may be authorized in accordance with Section 3.40.190(A)(7) of this Code by the Director of Finance in conjunction with a permit issued pursuant to this chapter for the use of parks and recreational facilities, which are not designated as permanent refreshment concessions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Speaking your song. Go ahead, Ms. Alameida [sic].

MS. ALMEIDA: Thank you, Chair. That section of the Code is something we apply to league use, and so for special events, which the County Fair qualifies as, it would be separate. So, it's just food vendors.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we don't need to deal with Finance at all?

MS. ALMEIDA: Not for the food concession portion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What is the event section under?

MS. ALMEIDA: The event section is under the permit required, and then rule promulgation sections. And unfortunately, I don't have that part of 13.04A memorized, but we have the rules of practice and procedure, which is our administrative rules for permitting. That is also on the County website on the Parks page.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The rule...the administrative rules?

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. ALMEIDA: And typically, we just collect Department of Health permits, as well as Fire Department review.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are they still having to bid for a booth?

MS. ALMEIDA: That application process is all being handled through the Maui Fair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then has the Fire Department brought up any...what...like what are the major obstacles to meeting, I guess, Fire Code requirements?

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

August 5, 2025

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you, Chair, for the question, and Member Paltin. Some of the...the challenges right now are, I would...I would say just making sure that the booths are safe for accessibility, and for whatever purposes are going to be in there. And so, it's kind of like a moving target, where...where we get the initial, you know, I want to say, permit to start building, and then they come back again once we have our vendors in place. And they...each of them apply for a permit for the gas . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . or whatever they're going to do in the booths, and so it's a running process for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. The bell rang, but maybe my next round, I would be asking if...if Maui Huliau or the...it'll be a zero-waste event.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama, and then we'll go to Member Johnson, Member Cook --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so, Daryl, can you kind of lay out what the special fair day is going to...how does that all come together, knowing that you got acquainted with schools, or programs, and Arc of Maui, and things like that?

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you, Chair, for the question, and Councilmember Kama. From my knowledge, we work with the DOE and various programs on Maui that take care of our kūpuna and special needs. And they coordinate transportation, and then they arrive with support. And we'll also have ground support to help all of the participants that come. It's a huge lift, we need lots of volunteers for it. And the programming throughout the day is, they're generally put into kind of groups, and they're shifted from area to area. And so, you know, they're at games, and then rides--certain rides are open, and certain games are open--and then they move over to entertainment. And then from entertainment, they're served lunch, and then from there, they depart. And then we reopen the fair for the public at 5:00.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. So, what is...what are the hours for the special fair?

MR. FUJIWARA: I believe it's from 10:00 to about 1:00.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, if you don't have a child that's in a program or in a school, but it's an adult that stays at home, how do those...how do those...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can speak into your mic.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I'm sorry. So, how do those adults get plugged in?

MR. FUJIWARA: Hmm. Great question. Thank you, Chair, for the question. We don't have...I don't have a mechanism right now --

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

August 5, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay.

MR. FUJIWARA: -- but I'm sure that the old committee members that are returning to help us have all of those things in place. And it...it has become a challenge from the 2019, from what I understand, that there was a lot of...a lot of people that came. And so, to be able to man all of it, to...like I said, the...that's become one of our challenges. So...but just managing that number. and how...how people are selected were definitely taken into consideration. So, thank you.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Johnson, followed by Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Oh, it's so exciting to hear the progress on the fair, and thank you guys for all your hard work. I really appreciate that you have secured a ferry, you know, Expeditions Ferry. So, when they arrive in Mā'alaea, it would be great to have a shuttle to take them to the fair. Please consider that. I know MEO has been doing it for years, so maybe a partnership with MEO could be...could really help you on that. In my notes, I wrote, what do live contests win? Because I can make a really good chili, so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- but I can't compete if it's a money thing because if we're putting money in it, it would be...look bad if I won the chili...I'm just saying, I could win. But anyways --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- I don't want to...I don't want to win a cash prize, and then I have to go before the Board of Ethics. So, what do you win in these things?

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you for the question, Chair. That's a great question, and we haven't hit that area yet. But of course, with things growing in terms of cost, I'm sure we'll take that into consideration for the prizes. I do want to circle back, though, on...for the ferry rides. We are including shuttles to and from.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's wonderful.

MR. FUJIWARA: And so, when we package all of this for Lāna'i and Moloka'i, they'll be able to board the shuttle...board the ferry, get on a shuttle, be transported to the fair, and then they'll be given a time frame when to return, and get them back in the same day.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You...you thought of everything, Mr. Fujiwara, thank you for that. My last question is probably for Mr. Nishita. You know, when I was...when I did...when I went to Hiroshima Prefecture, Fukuyama City, the sister city relationship

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

August 5, 2025

was really strong. I really felt a good relationship is...is formed with our sister cities, and they mentioned they came to the Maui Fair years ago. So, I'm curious if the Administration would reach out to all the sister cities. Because this is a great event, and the fact that we're starting it up again...I wonder if you guys are considering inviting the sister cities.

MR. FUJIWARA: I'll take that question, Chair. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. FUJIWARA: We have been actually working very closely and talking with Stephanie Ohigashi, who's kind of really heavy-handed in our sister cities program. And she's already kind of reached out to some of them, and a lot of them have actually reached out to her, too, to come and join us in the parade. So, there's active movement for that --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MR. FUJIWARA: -- Councilmember Johnson. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I'm very aware of her heavy hands.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, that's wonderful. Those were all my questions, Chair. I can't wait for this to happen. And of course, I was just joking around, but I still make a good chili.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't forget to use your onions that you grow on your farm.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Secret ingredient.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, secret ingredient. Okay. Next we have Member Cook, followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you all for being here. Thank you, Daryl, for your efforts. My question...regarding the food booths, so those are all going to be made....renew, basically. I mean, I put the St. Anthony...I assisted --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- in putting the St. Anthony candy apple booth together --

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aw.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- like three years, and it was old then, and that was a while ago. So, what's the plan for...like thumbnail sketch, the materials, the manufacturing, and where does it get stored? I assume that all of these will be reused, so actually, the costs this year will be amortized over future years as part of helping you with your justification on why it's so expensive this time. So, fill me in on the food booth costs.

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you, Chair, for the question. Food booths, we're...we've been working with the Carpenters Union, and they have recommended a carpenter to kind of head all of this, and he's...we finally got our draft plans together. And it was really hard to find a drafter in this environment right now, and that's been one of our biggest delays, and...and we understand why, too. And so, just...I wanted him to be creative and make something cool and fun, but because of time constraints, we're returning back to the same blueprint for those food booths. And I believe most of the sourcing for the materials will come from local businesses that he's used. I...I guess I can share, one of his main is HPM, and so we'll be utilizing that business for a lot of the materials. And then the roofing, I believe, comes from the Big Island, so we'll be getting those components in in the next couple of weeks to have the build-out.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Where does it get stored in the meantime? That's a major effort, not just to...I mean, it could almost be fabricated over there and assembled.

MR. FUJIWARA: We are...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't know how you're going to do it, but...

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you. Yes. Yeah. So, the...the active building will go right onto the field, and then for storage at the end, we're working on that as well, to find an area suitable for it that we're able to access it. And like Managing Director shared, we want to be able to share it with the community when they need it throughout the year as well, and building capacity.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then the electrical, that cost, is that renting generators, renting cables, and contracting somebody to put it all together, or is that purchasing materials that would be reused also?

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you for the question, Chair. Councilmember Cook, the...that bid includes a lot of new materials...boards, and wires, and stuff. A lot of it didn't survive in the container that we had it hou...the Maui Alliance had it housed in. And in that field, there's a lot of challenges. There's mongoose, and yellow jackets, and spiders, and all kinds of things that got...kind of got into it already that we're finding. And so, . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . we're working to figure out...yeah. But most of the...most of that bid, yes, is manpower, and the new materials that'll cost for the food booths, in addition to wiring...rewiring all the lighting, rewiring the...the tents to have electrical as well as lighting. It's a huge undertaking. And, you know, the War Memorial Special Events Complex has kind of been wired just for this event, and so there are...there are things

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

August 5, 2025

buried, and like...and things that we...they utilize in order to keep...or to get electric to where it needs to be. And so, updating all of that is part of this...that bid, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, some of the infrastructure's there. I guess if...if...if I may comment, Chair...because I know the bell rang. What I see occurring for this, since there's a long-time delay, and the...and...and having to basically redo the booths, and redo all of that, if we, as a community, have a commitment that we're going to basically plan on and implement future fairs, then this cost overruns and the excessive...the extra costs that we're incurring from this time will be worth it because we'll be amortizing it in the future, but...potentially, but it just depends. So, that's kind of a sticky part that we'll just have to work through. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Your building experience always helps, lays a perspective. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Department, Staff, and Mr. Fujiwara, for your . . .*(inaudible)*. . . in this, and bringing back the...the Maui County Fair. As a special needs teacher for 20 years, I'm excited that you've carved out some time for special needs to make them...just have that time of fun and games with them. Also, you know, carving out some time for our kūpuna, Moloka'i and Lāna'i. My question is...and...and I'm supportive of overall general mental health for...for our Maui County people. So, was there any discussions or consideration for maybe some of our fire survivors, that they have some special time as well?

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you, Chair, for the question. Member Sinenci, that is an active, ongoing conversation, and we are getting...we are working on that in the next couple of weeks on how we can help to care for them as well, and bringing them in into the fair. But at this time, I don't have any solid plans to share with you folks.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for...for working on that. I appreciate it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Good question. All right. Members, anybody else have another question? If not, I'm going to defer this. Oh, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering, too, about the insurance. Is it like a blanket insurance policy, or like does each booth or whatever vendor need to get their own insurance, and what is the limits? Like I think I had heard like that some of the folks at States had to get a \$2 million insurance, but they only had the 1 million, and then the Mayor said like sometimes you can get an overall event insurance and split the cost amongst everyone. So, like what is the plan on that?

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you for the question, Chair. Member Paltin, we are utilizing the same insurer that the fair has always used, and E.K. Fernandez also uses this. And it's actually hard to insure a fair nowadays. And so, there's only a few companies that actually do it, and so...is what I have found. And so, at the request of the County of Maui, they have requested to have a \$10 million policy in place, which...to

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

August 5, 2025

the...the fair insurance company, they...they said that is very normal. And it's a blanket policy, and so every aspect and every vendor that is...or...and vendor, too, that participates in the fair, whether they're a food vendor or a parade participant, they...it is required for them to buy into this policy to be covered. And it's...I believe the cost is \$85, and so that's added on in their booth fees and their . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the whole five, or so many...

MR. FUJIWARA: Yes --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that's cool.

MR. FUJIWARA: -- to cover the...the entirety of the event.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there a different rate for like food booths, or like clothing booths, or rides?

MR. FUJIWARA: From what I understand, that the \$85 is the...the blanket policy that we share with all of the different vendors and aspects of the fair, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the zero-waste question, like in the food area, like I don't know if everyone is using compostable stuff or what, but, you know, like how Ho'omaui does it, where like --

MR. FUJIWARA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you put all your food waste separately, is that going to be part of it? Like...and then are we giving the slop to the pig farmers, or like what's the plan there?

MR. FUJIWARA: Chair, thank you for the question. We are...we have considered it, but it is very costly, and from what my experience is working with Maui Huliau with the Ag Fest, it's very hard for them to man...find the manpower for. We are looking to partner with recycling businesses to help us, and then, of course, the oil that is generated from all of the cooking is also being taken to biodiesel facilities. And...but overall, for food waste and for the plating, we're still working on, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And probably last question, what is the entrance fee? So, if people can...

MR. FUJIWARA: We're keeping the same admission, so 10 for adults and . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . 5 for children.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. My only disclaimer is shucks, I'm going to be out of the country, so I'm going to miss the Maui Fair.

MR. FUJIWARA: Where you going?

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

August 5, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aotearoa.

MR. FUJIWARA: Oh, I like come too.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I got to chaperone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How fun. Okay. Member Kama, you have a question? Oh, and then Member Cook.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: You know, I remember on Sundays . . .*(inaudible)*. . . On Sundays, the last day of the fair, they used to have...or Saturday and Sunday, the wristband, where you could buy a band and for "X" amount of dollars, you can ride it between this time and that time, and that the rides were...are you guys...did you guys remember that, or contemplate that, or just too much work?

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you, Chair, for the question. We are working on that still. E.K. Fernandez has recently moved to a phone app for all of their rides, and so we're working to actively make sure people are ready with their app. And so, it's gone out with the County Comms press release with all of the rides to go and download, get familiar with it, and parents and adults will be able to charge accordingly through their phones. We also will be working on cards as well for people who don't have phone access, or that have cash, is what I believe E.K. Fernandez is planning. For the bands, we don't have any active plans right now to have that because of the...the new system, but --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. FUJIWARA: -- it's definitely in the works. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I had a question like on the vendors. What's the fee going to be, and has it gone up much over from the past years?

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you, Chair, for the question. The vendor fee did go up a little bit because of some of the newer costs that came with it. We fit all of the booths with like convention spacing things, and so that kind of went up a little bit. I believe the vendor fee is about...a little less than \$2,000, I think, for the four days.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then basically, they have access to...they put their own booths together, or somebody else putting together? They...they don't have to put the booth...clarify that. Like they're getting the functionality of the booth with electricity,

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

August 5, 2025

with what they need. They're going to come and stock it and leave? What do they have to do?

MR. FUJIWARA: Thank you for the question. Sorry. Yeah. So, those...all the booths come with tables and chairs, I believe, and electrical, as requested. If I'm not mistaken, all of them will have access to electrical, but the full build-out, with whatever else they're bringing beyond the tables and chairs, is on the vendor, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, 2,000 bucks, plus they put it together?

MR. FUJIWARA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So...and then Parks, this is a...you're...you're really involved in this, so sort of like almost getting dragged along in it. What are your biggest challenges, and how can we help?

MR. MCCALL: I'd love to say I have a great answer for that, but right now, we are dealing with the changes that have occurred, again, and so is the organization putting it on. The work line is no longer in existence, and they used to carry a big load in this, some of that work. So, we will be doing...you know, as...in the responses that I gave to you guys, we will be doing a lot of pre-work fair...pre...pre-fair work...I'm sorry, pre-fair work during, you know, that time period, getting ready as much as they can give us the information on. And then during the fair, our response is just maintaining our...our current facilities. And our...some of our tradespeople will react to emergencies if they occur during the fair. And then, of course, post-fair is the fixing everything back up. And there are going to be a few...things have changed. We've put in an automatic irrigation system on what's traditionally known . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . as the food...the pool fields, Little League 4 and 5 there, and so that's been installed in the meantime, so we'll see how that is affected and...and, you know, what we'll need to be doing. But we believe we've made as many early adjustments, both financially and schedule-wise, that can be...and again, as I stated in the opening, we're going to be flexible as we go into this, and...and kind of have to adapt as we go along.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks. Is this extra challenging with War Memorial being...going under construction during this?

MR. MCCALL: Yes. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: We...we will be...we have met with the construction folk, and we'll have more meetings this week in regards to the impacts.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Will there be a fee to the County, possibly, for a delay to construction due to interrupting their schedule, or are they working with us?

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

August 5, 2025

MR. MCCALL: That is the meeting coming up earlier this week. I don't have a final answer for that, but there is a possibility, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then, Chair, if I may. For Managing Director, the...for Public Works, for all the different permit reviews and stuff, I mean, I'll...I'll just quote...I remember going in to getting permits, and the...and the...on the wall it said, "Poor planning on your part doesn't constitute an emergency on my part."

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So...and...and that's not being critical of anybody or anything, it's just sort of like the way things occur, and evolve, and happen. And all of a sudden, it's like the...the crunch. The other thing that they used to tell me is, Tom, everybody's in a hurry, everything's important. So, I'm just understanding why they're not just jumping up and down and going like, yeah, we can help you, but I'm hoping that the Administration can do something really nice for Public Works, and all the people doing the reviews to one, encourage them to prioritize it for the community; and two, reward them for their extra efforts. So, that's not really a question, it's just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: A hope.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- a hope.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you all for your efforts. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. I guess nobody else has any more questions. So, with your permission, Members, I'm going to defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: AL, KRF, NUH)

ACTION: DEFER.

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

August 5, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sure we're going to hear more about the fair. And Daryl, if there's anything coming up that, you know, we can help you with, please let us know. There's...there's nine willing bodies here from all over the County. And I want to thank you and your team for everything that you're doing. And thank you, Managing Director. This is kind of amazing, you know, that it's actually happening with the County kind of taking the lead, yeah? Whereas before, it was Sherri Grimes and her team, so I'm glad they're still helping. Thank you, everybody, for being here, and I'm going to defer this. And right now, it's 11:44, and this meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 11:44 a.m.

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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

August 5, 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 52 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 9th day of September 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck