

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

February 6, 2024

Online Only via Teams

RECONVENE: 9:08 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (in 9:16 a.m.)
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (out 10:48 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (in 9:41 a.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: James Krueger, Senior Committee Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Analyst (back up)
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional staff

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tom Cook:

Jared Agtunong
Stacy Takahashi

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Kate Griffiths
Axel Beers

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tasha Kama:

Davideane Kama-Sickels
Evan Dust
Nayleen Kama

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Alice L. Lee:

Michele McLean

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Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:
Angela Lucero

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:
Sarah Sexton

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:
Dawn Lono
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Michele Yoshimura
Jordan Helle

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins:
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Residency Area Office (RAO):
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lanai Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka'i Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haiku-Paia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Maria Zielinski, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor (BFED-75, -63, and -72)
Lesley Milner, Budget Specialist, Office of the Mayor (BFED-75, -63, and -72)
Cynthia Lallo, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor (BFED-63)
Luana Mahi, Economic Development Director, Office of the Mayor (BFED-72)
Laksmi Abraham, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor (BFED-70)
Jolie Jenkins, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor (BFED-70)
Marc Takamori, Director, Department of Transportation (BFED-75)
Kauanoë Batangan, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation (BFED-75)
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Blair Beekman (BFED-70)
Others (7)

Resource Personnel
Michael Reyes

PRESS: Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome back to the recessed meeting. Today is February 6, 2024, and it's now 9:08. Thank you for letting us start a little late. We're having some technical difficulties as we figure our way out and in this new Teams platform. So thank you, everybody, for being here. Again, this is the recessed meeting. I am your Chair. And, as you know, this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder, when your name is called out, please let us know who is with you, and not including minors. So Member Kama said that she'll be coming a little late. I'm just going to go down the list. Next, we have Member Cook. Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning. Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Morning. And Member Johnson? There you are, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers, Committee Members. I'm alone in my office on the Island of Lānaʻi, and I'm here ready to work. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No testifiers. Probably.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: There's no testifiers here at the Lānaʻi District Office. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, the morning greeting if you wish, is ohayo gozaimasu.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I can relate to that. Ohayo gozaimasu.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And I'm here with all of you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No minors. And somebody else who can relate to that is Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou and ohayo gozaimasu, minasan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. From her mother...her mother is from Japan. Yeah. What did she say? Oh, Hilo. Member Rawlins-Fernandez is going to be a little late, but she will be here. Member Sinenci, good morning. Ohayo gozaimasu.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Ohayo gozaimasu, Chair, and aloha kakahiaka. I'm here at my home office by myself, happy to join this morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. And next we have Member Uʻu-Hodgins, your grandmother can say this well.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: She can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Ohayo gozaimasu, everyone. Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. So remember, this is a recessed meeting, so we're going to continue on with this agenda. We have...Members, we have Maria Zielinski in the audience, and other members. I'm not going to announce everybody again. But I am going to start off with saying that we have Department of Transportation, Marc Takamori, Director, and Kauano Batangan, Deputy Director, here to take up the first item. I did read off all the items that we had on our agenda yesterday, so I'm not going to read the full title. But what we are going to cover today is the remaining balance of the nine items that we had on our full agenda. So thanks yesterday for working so hard for getting to...getting through all those five items. And here we are with the last four, which is BFED-75 regarding the Transportation Baseyard Facility. And so that's why we have Mr. Takamori and Mr. Batangan here ready to be our resource. BFED-63, 136, which is the East Maui Water Authority, and we have Member Sinenci standing by to talk more about this. BFED-72, Bill 8, which is regarding the Environmental Fund, which we're--transfer of funds from OED into the YMCA. I have two items on that one agenda. And BFED-70, which is Bill 6, which is the IGA, Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Broadband. So that what...that is what we need to complete. Do we have any testifiers signed up? You want to do a call and then...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we currently don't have anyone who has indicated that they'd like to testify on our remaining items. That would be BFED-75, BFED-63, BFED-72, and BFED-70. But we'll do a last call if...in case anybody does want to testify at this time before the Committee jumps into those items; three--in Teams you can click the raise-your-hand button if you wish to testify on any of these items. We'll do the countdown; three, two, one. Chair, no one has indicated that they'd like to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Okay, with your permission, Members, I'm going to close public testimony for the beginning of this meeting and start off with our BFED-75 agenda.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see Maria Zielinski, as well as Ms. Milner. Do you want to come down and be here for the remainder of...almost the remainder of the meeting? I guess the last item would not be Budget Office.

ITEM 75: BILL 13 (2024) AND BILL 14 (2024), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (WAILUKU-KAHULUI COMMUNITY PLAN AREA, TRANSPORTATION BASEYARD FACILITY) (BILL 13 (2024); BILL 14 (2024))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time, the sixth item is Bill 13 and 14 (2024), which amends Fiscal Year '24 Budget and the Fiscal Year '24 General Obligations Bond Authorization Ordinance, respectfully, to add \$2,020,000 in bond funding for the Department of Transportation, Transportation Baseyard Facility project. Members, I have corresponded with the Department of Transportation relating to this request, and my letter is...my letter to the Director, as well as the...as well as their response is in Granicus 4 and 5, for your information. And to assist us with this item, we have Director of Transportation Marc Takamori, Director Zielinski, and as well as Lesley Milner, who's a Budget Specialist. So at this time, I'd like to open up with comments from Director Takamori, and he can introduce Kauanoe.

MR. TAKAMORI: Good morning, Committee Chair Sugimura, and Committee Members. Ohayo gozaimasu. I am Marc Takamori. I'm the Director for the County Department of Transportation, and with me is my Deputy Kauanoe Batangan. And he will be providing opening comments.

MR. BATANGAN: Aloha gozaimasu, Chair, Members. Kauanoe Batangan, Deputy Director that's here to present opening remarks for the Department. So as you know, the Council allocated funds for the Department to purchase land on which we could build a baseyard. This baseyard is necessary for the Department to meet its goal of decarbonizing our transit fleet. The current operations are being conducted at our contractor's baseyards. So it's difficult for the Department to purchase and install charging infrastructure and putting them on private land. So we need this in order to move forward with decarbonizing our transit fleet. The purchasing sales agreement closed at the end of November of last year, and so we ran out of time before the end of the calendar year to, then, put out an RFP for the design and engineering of the baseyard and enter into contract. So we're asking for the Council to reallocate the funds that were appropriated in last fiscal year and move them into this current one. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. So just a side note, Kauanoe Batangan lived in Japan, and he speaks Japanese. Next, we have the Budget Office.

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MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. I don't have anything else to add to what Transportation covered. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nice to see you here, Ms. Zielinski.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, same here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I know yesterday you were busy. Okay. At this time, then, we'll take public testimony in case we have anybody that wants to testify. Ms. Apo, nobody signed up?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, Staff has not received any request for testimony. At this time, if anyone would like to testify, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button or following the prompts via phone. Last call for testimony, three, two, one. Chair, seeing no individuals wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. At this time, too, I'd like to welcome Vice-Chair of this Committee Tasha Kama. Good morning.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning, Chair. Good morning. I apologize for being tardy. Good morning to everyone in the Chambers, and everybody there in Teams land. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, our new platform. Very good, thank you for being here. And, I guess, Keani will be joining us next. So at this time, then, I would like to close public testimony and ask for any written testimony if, you know, people want to. So with your permission, Members, say yes.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

...CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. All right. So now we have questions or deliberations. Members, you have any questions for Department of Transportation or the Budget Office? Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair, I know that--and mahalo, Deputy Batangan and Director. I know that you guys are...plans have gone through or maybe not. Just curious if the State had any properties nearby...close by that could have been alternatives?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

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MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember. So we did look at other properties. The only ones nearby were in a tsunami zone, so we didn't feel that that was appropriate for the...the County's baseyard. We felt it would be better to purchase our own land and build a dedicated facility in a different area than what was available through the State.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: *(Audio interference)*... Oh, that was...those were the State properties within the...at the dead zone, inundation zone?

MR. BATANGAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Sinenci. Anybody else have questions for the Department? Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Since this is for decarbonization, is it principally electrification of vehicles? And is...what's a...how is it working with Maui Electric to be able to get that infrastructure to the property?

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember. So we would be putting our baseyard on the property. So it would be the offices for the Department. It would be maintenance facilities as well as the charging infrastructure for us to decarbonize our fleet. We have kind of had conversations with Hawaiian Electric, not on...not as advanced as your question is the best way I can say it. Just because we don't have a firm design yet, we wouldn't know what to ask for. But they are aware that we're looking to in...install charging infrastructure. The Department has looked at both battery electric and hydrogen. And we have had initial conversations with Hawaiian Electric as well, just to see if there was a possibility of putting hydrogen electric fueling on their land. I think they would prefer if we did it on ours, but the conversation is ongoing. In either case, we are looking at two types of technology, both battery electric and hydrogen. And we would want the design and engineering to be able to accommodate both, since it would make sense for us to have some diversity in our transit fleet.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. That's exciting. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have any more questions? Ms. Paltin? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just was wondering if the landowner was okay with this new...new time schedule, and they're still in it?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department. Oh.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. So the County is in contract to purchase the land. The time schedule was affected because we had to negotiate the...the timeline for improvements to the property, as well as the subdivision process. But, yes, the...the landowner...or I guess the seller, now, is aware of our timeline, and it's because we worked with them that the timeline has shifted.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But the...the price is still the same?

MR. BATANGAN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No other questions. I just got a text from OED, Luana Mahi, that she doesn't have access to Teams. Can somebody help her with that? When the item comes up, yeah? Okay. Okay. Luana, they'll help you if you're listening. No other questions? Okay. Very good. So at this time, then, I will make my recommendation passing of Bill 13, A Bill For An Ordinance Amending The Fiscal Year '24 Budget For The County Of Maui, Revenues; Capital Improvement Projects, Department of Parks and Recreation--oh, wait, is this correct? This supposed to be DOT. Sorry, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Bills 13 and 14.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah. Wait, I had the...I had the wrong motion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, move to pass Bills 13 and 14 on first reading.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Bill 13 and 14 on first --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's easy.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more discussion?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair. Apologies. Staff would just request that if it's okay with the body, permission to conduct nonsubstantive revisions on both bills.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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MR. KRUEGER: And for Bill 14, including to the bill title for clarity.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want me to read the bill title, 14? Is that what you just said?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, I...I...I think it...I think the motion is sufficient. It's clear that the body is recommending passage on first reading of both Bills 13 and 14.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So move? All right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No discussion. Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say, aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion carries. Who's not here is Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Eight to...eight ayes and one excused.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FIRST READING** of Bill 13 (2024) and Bill 14 (2024) by C.R.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's it. Thank you. Go to work.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you very much.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Invite us to the groundbreaking. Thank you very much. I'll take a short two-minute recess. So come back at 9:25. Okay, thanks. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 9:23 a.m.
RECONVENE: 9:29 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Okay. Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:29. Thank you for giving us that short recess so we could change out our resources.

**ITEM 63: BILL 136 (2023), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024
BUDGET: OFFICE OF THE MAYOR (ADMINISTRATION
PROGRAM); AND EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY
(BILL 136 (2023))**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we are now on BFED-63, which is Bill 136, which is regarding the East Maui Water Authority. And we have from us...we have before us Maria Zielinski and Lesley Milner. And this is our next item, which is...which is regarding...amends Fiscal Year '24 Budget by transferring \$223,290 in salaries from the Office of the Mayor, Administration Program to a new appropriation for the East Maui Water Authority, which will have three EPs, which is personnel. Members, I have corresponded with the Budget Director relating to this request. My letter to the Budget Director and her response are available in Granicus for your review. The Budget Director's response is item 6 in Granicus. There's also a response from the Director of Water Supply, which is item 5. To assist us with this item, we have before us Office of the...the Mayor, Cynthia Lallo, as well as we have--are...are both of you coming up? Cynthia Lallo, are you coming up? Oh, it's not necessary. Okay. Then we have Budget Director Zielinski, as well as Budget Specialist, Ms. Milner. I'll ask for opening comments. Please proceed.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. Bill 136 is basically moving funding of the 223...yeah, I got the exact amount, 223,290 I believe it is. Two...yeah, 223,290 from the Office of the Mayor's Department to a separate department, the East Maui Water Authority. Initially...initially, when we crafted the budget, we had that East Maui Water Authority under the Office of the Mayor. However, as...as you know, the Charter specifically indicated that we would have to set up a new department. So as a result of that, we did make this budget amendment that reflects it and...and pulls out that 223,290. And that is a...basically provides for three positions in the...in that...that new department. Thus far, there have been no expenditures. But this...this budget amendment will be, basically, moving the money from the off...Mayor of...Mayor's Department salaries to this new department. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MS. ZIELINSKI: Oh, actually, I was just going to see if Budget Specialist Milner would like to add anything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, just briefly to address some of what you asked about in your letter. The Council did appropriate 20,000 in the B, C account for the East Maui Water Authority. That remains dedicated to the East Maui Water Authority under Office of the Mayor. Currently, we're moving just the positions, as no hires have been made yet. But that money is available and will not be expended on anything other than the East Maui Water Authority if it is needed before the end of this fiscal year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So I'm going to open it up for public testimony. Do we have anybody signed up?

MS. APO-TAKAYAMA: Chair, Staff has not received any request for testimony on this item. If anyone would like to testify, please raise your hand by clicking the raise-your-hand button or following the prompts via phone. Last call for testimony; three, two, one. Chair, seeing no individuals wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So at this time I'm going to close public testimony and receive written testimony with your approval, Members?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And so we'll go on to any deliberations. Does anybody have questions for...well, let's get Member Sinenci. You want to say a few words about this? This was your bill.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo to the Administration. I understand and I can support their moving these positions out of the Administration's Office because it was created by a Charter amendment. And I did want to thank you, Chair, for...for calling this up timely...on a timely manner. We're at the cusp of history here. We've been working closely with Ms. Vicens. And...and we've got everybody's oath of offices and their financial disclosure forms, so we'll...we're almost ready. We been hearing a lot of expenditures going out, including today and yesterday, maintenance and increase building supplies. So hopefully this can help bring in some revenues. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Sinenci. So I think you're talking about the...the Water Authority getting that group all set to help you, right? Okay. So

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anybody else have any questions during this deliberation for the Budget Office?
Oh, okay. This is going to be a amazingly fast meeting. So at this time, then, the three --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair. Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. I'm sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...thank you. So what we're doing here is just authorizing the...the...the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Position.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- the removal of the funding that is currently in the Mayor's budget--that's where we put it, right? And now, because we're creating an authority, we have to now create the structure for the authority to be a part of and, therefore, that is why we have the...a Director of the Authority, an EA, and so that they can actually function and support the nominees to the East Maui Water Authority so that they can continue the work that the Charter has deemed them to do. That's what we're doing right now, today, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The three positions, yeah --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- from the --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Because...so it's...I think...so at some later time, are we going to talk about those three positions? Because I think doing...establishing the...the framework, right, the...the structure is...is key. But I think those positions are even more key in terms of understanding water. You know, unless you follow the water issue all the way back from the early 1970s, right, even up to today, and how things have...and...and...and who has been impacted by all of this, you really need to have some pretty knowledgeable people, you know, who are in this, right, because they're going to be taking direction from the nominees, right, the...the East Maui Water Authority? So I just want to ask you, when it...when do you

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think that we'll be able to have a discussion on that? Or is that something that would occur in ESCS?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I'm going to ask somebody else. Oh, maybe Shane wants to talk about it. But today we're just talking about the positions.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There's nobody in it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So at that time they'll come --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- they'll come before--

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Nohe...GREAT --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Committee. Go ahead, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Pro Tem Kama, for that question. Yes. So once the...the group will meet, they will hire a Director. The Salary Commission has already approved the --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- salary for the Director.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then I believe once that happens, it'll come back to us for our approval.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. So I'm just watching this timeline because, you know, we have some other things that by Charter, right? We talked about in yesterday's BFED, right, about the bifurcation, and where are they at now, and the hiring of, now, staff, and...you know, and all of the process --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you just (*audio interference*) --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- that personnel has to go through. And I'm just looking at the timing of all of this, right, and to make sure that we're...we're moving in...in the way that we should be. But that's my concern, Chair. So I didn't know how to verbalize that or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- reiterate that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think what I hear you saying is that we need to have, like, a picture of how this all fits together. So James, let's...let's put that together and provide it for the Committee...because we have steps forward, right, in order for this water authority to move forward. So my question that I do have, Department...Maria Zielinski...Director Zielinski, is so we have these three positions, and the Water Authority is not only East Maui. So what's going to happen when we have other authorities that kick in? Are you...are we changing the name of the Department?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. And I believe we...I...I believe you actually had asked a similar question in your...in the letter that was sent to us. Or maybe not. Or maybe we just addressed it, I'm not sure. But I know that we did say that as different areas are considered to be made, you know, for the...for a water authority, we can do one of two things. We can have a new department...yet another department, or have just a water authority department, and then have subsections of each of the areas. So it would be East Maui, or West Maui, or whatever it might be. I think that's...that's kind of where we were...we were thinking. We haven't made a definitive decision on that. Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And what's going to happen to the Board of Water Supply or the Board? It's not on the agenda. Okay. Let's not talk about it. Sorry.

MS. MILNER: Oh, that's okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll send you a...we'll --

MS. MILNER: Okay. I was just going to say this will have no impact on the Board of Water Supply.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we'll send...we'll send a correspondence. All right. So at this time, Members, anybody have any more questions? Seeing none. So Members, at this time, I would like to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 136, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR '24

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BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI, OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM; AND EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY," and incorporating any nonsubstantive revisions. Is there a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: *(Audio interference)* --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So moved by Member Cook, second by Chair Lee. All in favor...oh, any more discussion? Seeing none. All in favor, raise your hand, say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Paltin? Oh okay, so that would be eight ayes and one excused, which is Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, who should be coming any moment now.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

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

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FIRST READING** of Bill 136 (2024) by C.R.

ITEM 72: **BILL 8 (2024) AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET: OFFICE OF THE MAYOR (ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM) (BILL 8 (2024))**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So next we have --

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: *(Audio interference)* --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- also from the Office of the Mayor. And this is Luana Mahi. Is she logged in? Okay. The next item is Bill 8 (2024), which amends Fiscal Year '24 Budget: of The Office of The Mayor, Administration Program by leading...by deleting conditional language, setting aside up to 600,000 for watershed management planning and implementation, and deleting the 200,000 appropriation for Ho'āhu Energy Co-op Moloka'i, and reappropriating that 200,000 for the new appropriation for the Maui Family Youth Men's Christian Association, better known as YMCA. To assist us with this item, we have Director Mahi and Budget Director Zielinski, and Ms. Milner for opening comments.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Would it be possible to wait for Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez to come --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we could.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- for this item?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We could. Okay. I'm going to...I'm going to take up the last item first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, she's waiting to be let into the meeting, I believe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Keani?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. Can you let Keani in? ...Okay. Is she in? I don't see her. Is she? All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, mai Moloka'i nui ahina. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office. There's an unnamed minor with me on my side of the office. E kala mai for my tardiness. Teams...Teams is not...not participating or working out very well right now; not happy with it. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. We hear you, yeah. We should have gone...gone to Zoom. Anyway, Members, so I did read off what I did. So I--Keani, I have opened up this item, and...okay. You're fine. So at this time, I'd like to have any comments from our resource. So Member--is Luana Mahi on? She is. Okay. Luana, you're up.

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MS. MAHI: Hi there. Good morning. So deleting the environmental protection money that was set aside, 600,000 for water...watershed management...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

MS. MAHI: ...this is a line item for Maui Environmental Consulting. They received a line item for the same amount in Fiscal Year '23, and that was to complete a watershed plan, which they completed in June. When they submitted their final report...I'm sorry. It took them a little bit longer. Their final report was actually received by our office on December 14th, 2023. There was two grants that was involved in this. Grant Number 5804 and 5803. So, we actually don't need the 600,000 for another plan since it's already completed. And I believe that this may have been where we may have just continued with it as a line item from the previous Administration's budget and kind of cut and pasted it into Fiscal Year '24's Budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that it? Or --

MS. MAHI: For that particular --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MAHI: -- section. Do you want me to continue about --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please.

MS. MAHI: -- oh...Ho'āhu?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please.

MS. MAHI: Okay. In regards to Ho'āhu, we have...so Fiscal Year '21, they received an award of 74,000. They received a grant advancement and did not submit quarterly reports. They...they sent in one final report. All of the reports were...that were submitted was incomplete, and no invoices were provided. In Fiscal Year '22, they were awarded 200,000. They had a partial payment of 50,000 that was an advancement. And they still have not submitted the required receipts. No reports have been provided to date. There is no recorded activity following the advancement, and we've made multiple attempts to contact them on...at...regarding both of these grants. So we have decided not to give them Fiscal Year '23 funds, as well as Fiscal Year '24 funds. So we would like to use that for something else. And I did speak with Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, and we could use it for another Moloka'i project if she would like to submit something for someone, some organization.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So I'm going to keep...ask Ms. Mahi to be a resource. So if we could save questions for later. Is that all right? Okay. Next, we have the Budget Office.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. No additional comments. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So do we have any public testimony?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, Staff has not received a request for testimony on this item. If anyone would like to testify, please raise your hand by clicking the raise-your-hand button or following the prompts via phone. Last call for testimony; three, two, one. Chair, seeing no individuals wishing to testify at this time. And, Chair, if I may--can we please ask the resources turn their cameras on, if at all possible, just for *Akakū* to have their footage while they're speaking? Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. What about on the...this side doesn't have that camera. Or is there? Oh. You're on. Okay. I can't see because there's this big block on my camera. I mean, on my screen. Okay. So, at this time, I...I really want to hear from Member Rawlins-Fernandez as it relates to the Moloka'i portion, if you want.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair. Apologies. Could...could you just ask to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: -- if testimony could be closed?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Can we close public testimony? Or is there...there isn't anybody, right? Did you already ask? Okay. Can we please...please close public testimony, receive written testimony on this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- at this --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is there any way to get Michael Reyes who's the MEC...gentleman representing MEC, can we get him on the line and maybe have him as a resource too? I don't know how to...I can try to find his number, but this is his project. I figured he would be here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I know he's in American Samoa. So I communicated with him yesterday, so he's not available at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is that it? Yeah. Okay. So Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, before I go to Member Kama, would you like to say something about this? Yeah. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I think Miss...Director Mahi kind of summed it up well. We...she and I did meet when I saw the budget amendment agendized and...yeah. So there...there currently aren't any shovel-ready projects for that funding on...on Moloka'i. But there...and this project is a...is a good project. My preference would be for that funding as a...the 200,000 for...that was one of my budget priorities to benefit Moloka'i, specifically, but there...there wasn't enough time to kind of get the word out, so...and it's...it's already February; more than half of the fiscal year has gone by. So yeah, that's the position we're in right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Member...Vice-Chair Kama, you have any questions for the resources?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...yeah, so I just...I just wanted to be clear about what I heard from Ms. Mahi and the Budget Director in terms of the \$600,000 that...that the...that that 600,000 isn't...wasn't needed because they had already gotten funding previously. And this may have been...it look like it may have been just cut and paste from the previous years, and that's why that ended up in that category. And then that's how we're ending up today with now looking to take that money and then fund other projects that would fall under this. But...so my question is the 600,000 was for Maui County wetlands, right? So, does that mean that all the projects that we're going to use that money for have to be a part of wetlands? Or can it just be for something else out there? That's my question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Miss...Ms. Mahi.

MS. MAHI: So the money was actually for watershed protection. So not...not wetlands. And that's...we can definitely use it for that. We have a lot of help needed in that area.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, go ahead, Ms. Milner.

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Sorry. So just for a little additional information. Once that condition is removed, the 600,000 will be available for anything that falls under that environmental protection header. So that could be watershed management, that could be wetlands. So it will just return to the general pot for competitive grants.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Teams does not want to agree with me. Okay. So I...I...I've been looking into this and, you know, this 600,000 was added in 2022 during the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget season. I want to emphasize the importance of these plans. These plans...these watershed plans are really important in getting State and Federal funding. Right, they're a mechanism to get the big, big pots of monies. And that's why, I think, it's a grave mistake to take them out. I...I...I certainly would love to support Moloka'i in their endeavors for their energy, and anything they need, of course, full support. But I also don't think we should be cutting these guys' funding. I mean, that was a line item we put in there. I...I think we need more watershed plans. You know, this is...I don't...I don't think this was any kind of mistake. Let's see here. I got a bunch of notes I took on this. They...they told me they could take on new implementation projects. The...the MEC told me they could take on new implementation projects and draft new watershed plans. So...and the...some of these plans are...are really in grave areas, like South Maui and they...they flood, like, every rain event. One big difference between this item and the watershed grants under Department of Water Supply is that these plans are Department of Health and EPA approved, meaning they would qualify for State and Federal funding. So I...I'm going to say there...there's several...several areas the--I'm sorry, if I don't have the pronunciation right--Kūlanihāko'i and Waipū'ilani Reparation Rehabilitation Watershed Implementation Project that MEC put out. That...that area floods all the time. I...I think they don't qualify for funding without the plan. So we really need to get these plans in. Let's see here, some more notes I put in here. Approved DOH plans are important because they must follow a specific process that engage stakeholders in the watershed. Approved DOH plans also allow the use of EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 funds. So I'm really curious why the Administration would like to take these out because it...it...it allows them to have access to bigger funds. The correspondence that would...came with this Bill 8 stated that the project with 600,000 was complete is actually incorrect, according to my research here. So the...and deleting the line-item funding after it's been approved and secured by the Council in the budget ordinance is...is bad practice. You know, I don't --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- I don't think we should do that. All right. I'm...I'm...I'm done. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's going to be referencing a letter that we all got from Michael Reyes. I'm going to...three minutes is what we're asking for. I got Michael Reyes. He's listening to this meeting in American Samoa. And, Staff, I sent you his contact, can you get him onto the call? Yeah. Okay. Okay. Thank you. So Member Cook, you had a question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I was just going to state that I know that South Maui has the ongoing shovel-ready projects, and I was going to refer to Michael Reyes Malama Haleakala work --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. He does mention working with you in his letter. Are you able to get Michael Reyes on the...you want me take a short recess? You need time?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we're...we're...we are trying to reach out to him right now. We're having some difficulty getting a hold of him at the moment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yes, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. My understanding is that watershed management is so critical in so many different areas that it would not behoove...behoove us to start using portions of it or all of it for a project that we do not have information on. And that the OED does have information when people apply for the funding. So I think it...the funding should remain for watershed management. And at this point, I don't think we...do we have the authority to...to take away that money and use it for something else? Can we have Corp. Counsel? --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Corp. Counsel?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Or budget?

MS. MILNER: Chair, the...the funds have not been encumbered or awarded, so we wouldn't be taking them away from any organizations.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, not from an organization, but from the use of that funds. The...we can change the use of that funds, not...in other words, watershed management is what it was intended for. So we can change it to buying three vans for the office? I mean, you know what I'm saying.

MS. MILNER: Chair, you can...we can propose amendments to the budget to reallocate funds as needed throughout the fiscal year. Whether that's to return watershed management to environmental protection or to reallocate \$200,000 from one

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organization to another. We can propose that throughout the year; it doesn't have to stay for the exact same purpose. I will, of course, defer to Corp. Counsel for additional information, but we can propose it. But it's up to you guys if you want to approve it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Members...great.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But the question was not if we wanted to approve it, so we can change it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They're recommending to change it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, that and then we can change what they're recommending?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. That was the question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, cannot.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just up or down, right. So Members, because you're having questions regarding speaking with Michael Reyes and we're having difficulty getting him on, I'm going to recommend at this time--I...I really would like to give Moloka'i an opportunity to try to go after these funds because I think it's so important what they're trying to do. And so would you like to speak to Michael Reyes? He's trying to call in. You do. Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, Michael Reyes is on the line.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So we can ask him questions? Okay. Michael Reyes, did you...can you hear us?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair. Apologies. The...the body should probably designate him as a resource person before engaging in questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, as a resource...can you designate him as a resource? And as you know, he is...he is part of the Mā'alaea Bay Watershed --

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No objections, Chair. Can I --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Watershed Plan. Surface Water Protection --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Branch letter references this. Okay. Who is that?
Gabe Johnson. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Just a point of information, Chair, that this grant will
be in my Committee on...on Thursday. Thank you, just point of information.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Which grant?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The grant --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The \$600,000 grant?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well I told you --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- it's a portion of it. Okay. Thank you very much,
Member Johnson. And, Member Cook, you have a question for Michael Reyes?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My question was the status of their request for funding and
this...their flood mitigation efforts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mr. Reyes, did you hear that? I can't see.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, in case he needs his assistance, you need to press star 6
to unmute on your end.

MR. REYES: Thank you, Councilmember. Sorry, I was...I was trying to figure out how
to unmute myself. Can...can everyone hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you now.

MR. REYES: Okay. Wonderful. Thank you for...for dealing with me. I'm...I'm in
American Samoa with limited cell. So if...if...if I break up, or anything,
that...that's why. We submitted our grant proposals for Fiscal Year 2024. I
believe everyone...all the (*audio interference*) those proposals. We inquired a few
weeks ago about...we...we hadn't heard anything from the Mayor's Office. I
believe these are...we thought they went through the Office of Economic

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Development, but it's actually the Office of Innovation and Sustainability. And we just --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Office of what? --

MR. REYES: -- we never heard anything from them. And so --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning.

MR. REYES: -- the first we've heard of this was through Councilmember Johnson's office was notified that Bill 8 was being proposed to...to remove us from the line item. So that's...that's all the information that I have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Cook, you have any more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No. Maybe Councilmember Johnson could give us an update, if appropriate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Member Johnson, before you ask your question, if I could...so it sounds like the...the Mayor's Office of Innovation, which is different than Office of Economic Development, put out a RFP for grants. And Mr. Reyes, did you apply for those grants? Is that's what's going on?

MR. REYES: We're actually a proviso. We're a line item, which I...I believe is...is why they're...they have to...to remove us as the conditional language. So we did submit all of our grant proposals, you know, within...you know, within the...the deadline to the County. And that was...you know, that was back in the summer of...of 2023. And we just never heard anything back. And then a few weeks ago we just inquired because we heard that other entities were finally receiving their contract.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. REYES: And that's kind of when we were...when we found out that this bill was being proposed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

MR. REYES: Are...are --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

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MR. REYES: Sorry, all I...all I was going to say is that, you know, the grants that we propose were for the *(audio interference)* to Kūlanihāko'i High School in Kīhei and, obviously, for the watershed plan close to Kula, Pukalani, and then down into...you know, to the airport.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So question for Budget. Office of Sustainability funds is different than the Office of Economic Development. So is there another...a whole other pot of money that Mr. Reyes can apply for...is applying for?

MS. MILNER: Chair, I know that OED is working with the Office of Innovation on their grants at the moment, so I will defer to Luana on how they're handling the different pots of money between the two programs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Ms. Mahi, did you hear that question? Oh, there you are. Yeah.

MS. MAHI: I am . . .*(inaudible)*. . . oh, okay. Hello, sorry, my--so yes, we have different pots of money. OIS has their own budget, and OED has their own budget. All of the OIS grants came to our Department in October, and then the rest of the OIS staff has transitioned to my office as of January 1st of this year. So, I do understand that MEC's final report regarding the watershed plan was received in December . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and he did submit an application, I believe it was in July. And I will get back with the Grants Management Specialist who's handling Mr. Reyes' particular application and find out what's going on with that. I don't have that...

MR. REYES: Excuse me, do you know who the Grant Management Specialist is?

MS. MAHI: I'm sorry, what was that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who's the Grant Management Specialist --

MR. REYES: Do you know who the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- with Office of Innovation?

MS. MAHI: Oh. Maria Ornellas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Okay. We know Maria well. I guess the confusion is, is it same pot or we have to create a whole other pot with this change of Office of Innovation Management over OED.

MS. MAHI: No, it's...it's two separate pots of money. OIS has their own --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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MS. MAHI: -- and OED has their own. But I'm overseeing it all within my office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So Mr. Reyes' grant that he submitted to Office of Innovation is same, same with this pot.

MS. MAHI: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you're trying to cut the pot out for somebody who thinks they have live money in, now, Office of Innovation? With this deletion in the...in --

MS. MAHI: Yes, so this particular...yeah, this particular item was submitted by the OIS Grants Management about removing it. And I believe she said that they did get another--I guess the way that it was worded was because it was a watershed plan that he had already completed. So did not want to fund another watershed plan if it was, my understanding, the same area.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Who had their hand up? I think Ms. Paltin did, and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I guess this is a reason why we shouldn't cut and paste from previous budgets. But I just wanted to clarify, so is the \$600,000 a line item to that Maui Energy Consulting? Or is it just for Environmental Protection? I think that's a...should be an easy question to answer. Is it a line item to somebody? Or is it just to be used for Environmental Protection?

MS. MAHI: It says for implementation by Maui Environmental Consulting, Inc. or Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So it's just for Environmental Protection then? Because I was going to suggest...I know about 1,000 cars in the watershed that's mucking up the wetlands, and it's on County property, so we should clean it up. But, it looks like, that this money is already committed to two separate, specific folks. Okay.

MS. MAHI: Well, it's for planning and implementation, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, okay. Members, this is...oh, Member Kama, sorry. I'll make a...I'm going to make a recommendation.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: If you're going to do a recommendation, then I think I'd like to hear that because --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- I have a whole bunch of questions, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this is what I'm hearing from you, right, Member Johnson, if you will let me do my recommendation. I'm going to recommend we file this because --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- then we can get this all squared away. We cannot change it. It's either up or down, right? So I do not --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- So I do want to see Michael Reyes with the work that he's doing continuing. There's confusion because he submitted a grant. He thinks that he has a line-item grant, which it looks like, to me and now the Department, which I don't know if they oversee it, but OED is thinking that it's already done. So there's some confusion for us. If it could be clarified and come back with a clearer recommendation. And I hope then, at that time, Moloka'i can start applying and doing whatever you're doing, because I thought that the work that, you know, was being done on Moloka'i was important, you know, for a small island to get together and do that work. And for whatever reason grants need to be...or the...you know, accounted for. Those kind of things sounds like there might have been some little changes that you probably need to tighten up, but I would love to see they continue their work. I also really value the YMCA, so don't get me wrong. I think it was grow some good. But that, you know, we can always grow good another fiscal year. So, that's my recommendation, to file it and come back again.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So thank you very much for the motion by Member Kama. Second by Chair...Chair Lee. And discussion before we vote. Discussion? Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Member...sorry. Member Paltin, and then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering if our discussion...like, how...how we come back to this to be cleaner. Would it be

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discussing it right now? Or like, how...how are they going to come back with something we approved? They're going to meet with us each individually --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or...? Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So what I'm hoping they do is clean up this bill, come back to us at a budget amendment, and have all the...this disconnects that we're seeing in place. Because we can't change it, right? It's up or down. So the way it reads right now, I...I don't agree. So that's why I recommend filing it, and then they can come back. Or --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess I'm just wondering, in what form would you like it to come back that you would agree...to be...just to be...so we're all on the same page?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. I think taking it to...what I'm hearing, from what the Members are saying, is not enough information about what the organizations that are impacted--because we had Michael Reyes, as well as we got another...a letter from the other organization that is being impacted, which is Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project. And then, of course, with Moloka'i, you know, Keani can figure out what is the communications that need to happen and maybe get that in order too. Is that right, Member Rawlins-Fernandez? You...you...thumbs up. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I'm asking for a whole new budget amendment. I think this budget amendment as it stands, I don't agree. So therefore, it's a down for me, and that's what I'm recommending. And they can come back with another budget amendment. Are you thinking that we shouldn't?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, no. I...I just wanted that clarity. I wasn't sure, like, if the Administration knew what we were expecting of them. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I just wanted that kind of clarity. I...I wouldn't mind to plant the seed that the County owns land in O'ahu...I mean, Olowalu that is littered with thousands of abandoned vehicles, and that falls into Environmental Protection in...in my category just to clean up our own mess. That's kind of watershed areas. And it...it's been kind of let go the last three years over COVID. So that would just be my plug for...for a new budget amendment that I would fully support.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So that is not on the agenda, but we hear you. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And when you...I...I guess you'll be in communication with the Administration. Maybe you can get some clarification on the removal of the conditional language. And that's something I believe the Council put in, conditional language, for environmental...the Environmental Protection Fund. So I just want the Members to realize that what we put in, the Administration is now suggesting that they...we change. Okay, this...it's nothing that they're...they put in and change...want to change; it's what we put in and they want to change.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just want a clarification on that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we'll talk to Luana Mahi outside of this meeting and get it clarified. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Am I on? Okay. Sorry, Teams is slow. I...I support the filing. I...I think...I...I would like to, maybe, set up a meeting with Director Mahi. Because I feel like a lot of our (*audio interference*) have been singing the same song of, we reached out, and we're not getting feedback...we're not, you know, hearing back. And I think a lot of the proposals that are...or a lot of...a lot of interest in this money, such as Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez and Moloka'i (*audio interference*), and clean up in Olowalu, County lands, I think this answer is yes and all of those. Right, we...we can't just do one of these things. All of these things need to be addressed. So if the Administration comes back and thinks...comes back with a new...a new bill, maybe address all the things that are so important that we just mentioned today. Because for...those are...it's...first off, it's important work for those grantees. The problems we've had are only going to get...be compounding. So we need to address all of these things. And we have to make it this...I get this feedback a lot from our grantees, that working with County is really hard. They're...they're struggling to...to understand our processes. So let's make it clear and easy for them. And...and that way we can get these monies out, and these plans written, and these projects fulfilled. So, I just want to support the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- idea of filing. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So at this time, Member Kama, then, we'll take the vote.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So...so thank you very much, Chair. I am totally in support of the filing of this motion. I like the idea of expanding...maybe...and informing Staff as to what we're looking for. One of the things that I got stumped on was the...the...the funding that didn't need to be done because the work was completed. But was it the completion of the plan? Was it the completion of the implementation? And I was kind of confused. So I think that added to the confusion too. So I want to make sure it's very clear, you know, that when statements are made that--well, what are we talking about? Because that might have probably jolted, I think, some of our grantees. But I would be very much in support of looking to see. In terms of Environmental Protection, I...I liked what Member Paltin had to say. Of course, we're not talking about that today, but those are the things that should be considered, I think, as Staff goes forward. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Johnson, second and final.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: *(Audio interference)* Sorry, yeah. Yeah second and final. I...I made a mistake there. It was OIS I wanted to have a meeting with because they're the ones having the grant. Sorry, Ms. Mahi, I didn't mean to say...you guys are doing a lot of great work over there. I'm just saying OIS is the ones who I want to have a meeting with because they're in charge of these types of grants. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So I support...Luana Mahi, you can text her 7 o'clock at night, she answers you; 6 o'clock in the morning, she answers you. Very accessible. So I want to just add that the reason why I'm asking to file it is that Michael Reyes, with his management planning watershed, he has in there the Kula Watershed Alliance, which was impacted because of the wildfires. So he has some very current information in his grant application. So I don't want to see his money disappear because it affects my community directly, which has just gone through this wildfire disaster. So more so we got to get this clarified. Members, all in favor, please raise your hand and say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I think this is going to be nine ayes. Every...everybody's here. Okay. Thank you. Motion carries.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FILING** of Bill 8 (2024)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to file this, and then please come back with a cleaner bill. Thank you. So the last item on the agenda, which we're going to change out now. So give me...2:17 to 2:20...2:18, 19. Two minutes. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: 10:19, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . Yes, 10:19.

RECESS: **10:19 a.m.**

RECONVENE: **10:24 a.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay. Welcome back, everybody. It's now 10:24, and we're back at the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee.

ITEM 70: **BILL 6 (2024), AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, ON THE HAWAII BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM INITIAL PLANNING FUNDS (BILL 6 (2024))**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're on the last item. This is the ninth item, thank you very much, and...which is Bill 70...I'm sorry, BFED-70, Bill 6. And this is a

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Intergovernmental Agreement with UH...University of Hawaii on the Hawaii Broadband Equity Access and Deployment, which is BEAD Program and the initial planning funds. So this is regarding \$100,000. So the final item authorizes the Mayor to enter into that agreement. As part of the agreement, UH will provide \$100,000 to the County for community...community outreach to better identify and understand the community's technology priorities and needs. These funds are already recognized in Appendix A, Part I of Fiscal Year '24 Budget for the Office of the Mayor. Members, I have corresponded with the Mayor relating to this request, and my letter to the Mayor and his response are available in Granicus, item number 3 and 4 for your review. As part of our correspondence, the Mayor has provided a revised bill to account for the Administration already creating an outreach plan, which is required by the MOA, Memorandum of Agreement, attached to Bill 6. If the Members are agreeable to moving this bill forward, I'll be asking for the substitution in this bill, so look at Granicus number 4. To assist us with this item we have...from the Office of the Mayor we have...we don't have Cynthia Lallo anymore. So we have Laks Abraham and Jolie Jenkins. And would you like to say a few words?

MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you, Chair. Aloha. Aloha, everyone. Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Vice-Chair, Committee Members. Thank you for hearing us today for Bill 6. I just wanted to start off explaining that this work started last year, as far as moving the BEAD Program forward and supporting the efforts on a statewide level to bring BEAD funding into the County of Maui. We were derailed just tentatively last year due to our response to the wildfires. However, we have gotten this work back on path, and we have designated Ms. Jolie Jenkins, an Executive Assistant to the Mayor, to continue this work. And she has been working in partnership with our consultant, Skog and Rasmussen. And they are carrying out the engagement piece of this work and making sure that we're in compliance to support the work of BEAD, and to ensure that this funding does come into the community. So without any further ado, I'd like to introduce Ms. Jolie Jenkins, who will provide opening remarks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. JENKINS: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Vice-Chair and Committee Members. So working with the University, the County created a Community Engagement Action Plan, also known as the Outreach Plan and the MOA. And this was to be incorporated with the State's Five-Year Action Plan. This is required of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which is the entity administering the funds coming from the Federal Government. As Laks stated, that engagement plan, from June through December 2023, was put on hold to account for the August 8th wildfires. But community engagement resumed in October, and we held five events through that period. We held BEAD and DE presentations on Moloka'i and Maui. We also conducted outreach at the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement Convention. And then this past

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January, we launched the Maui Nui Digital Equity Coalition, which is aimed at uniting partners across Maui Nui to bridge the digital divide and achieve digital equity. As stated in the MOA with UH, a community engagement report is due to them, and that was submitted to UH last week. Also stated in the MOA, a Community Action Plan is to be revised every six months, and the County Broadband Team is currently finalizing that plan and will be due this Friday.

MS. ABRAHAM: I will also add, as far as community engagement is concerned, in addition to the engagement action plan that you see attached to this bill, we are...we have just convened, as Jolie pointed out, the MDEC committee, the Maui Digital Equity Committee here on Maui. But to ensure that all voices are heard throughout the County of Maui, we are going to be convening another committee on Molokaʻi and then also a committee on Lānaʻi to oversee their broadband needs as well. We are in the process of working with Molokaʻi to put together a committee that is representative of their broadband needs there, and the broadband players that are in that community, and will be doing the same thing on Lānaʻi as well. Those are all in progress. But we're poised to move forward and continue engagement to support the needs of the broadband work that we're going to be doing on behalf of the County. So we're open to any questions. And we thank you for your time today. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Appreciate that. Members, we shall take public testimony, and then you can ask them questions.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have anybody signed up?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, there is an individual signed up to testify, Blair Beekman.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Beekman (*audio interference*) --

MR. BEEKMAN: Hi. Blair Beekman here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Beekman.

MR. BEEKMAN: I spoke yesterday for the first time at your beginning public comment period. I now have a more appropriate time to speak on the work that I do and that I'm a part of here in California, San Diego. And I was originally from the SF Bay area. Tech accountability. Where...where is that part of the...this digital equity planning? It sounds like you have a really good group working on this issue. And you had some...have some really good, you know, for...backing from University of Hawaii and Federal funding agencies; a really good start. Now, within that process, are you talking about a holistic approach to the future of

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digital equity in terms of accountable practices with community? Will broadband companies be learning how to give very direct and...and open, clear notifications when they'll be placing the future of broadband in the future of local communities in Hawai'i? That's an important concept. People often leave that fuzzy; broadband companies and then Government doesn't check up on that. And there has to be a clear process of notification. That's just for beginners. That's just a starting point. There...there's a...there's a whole series of accountability. It has to be a part of the future of our sustainability ideas that I hope you guys are taking into account. And I...I...I hope I can talk about it better at other times. I'd like to learn to, as well. So good luck in how to develop those concepts...accountability with the concepts of equity. It's...it's an important one, too, for our future and about what is positive sustainability, and community sharing, and...and building that better future. So thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody have question for the...questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you very much for coming back and speaking on the bill that you intended to. Appreciate it.

MR. BEEKMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, Staff has not received any further requests for testimony. At this time if anyone would like to testify, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button or following the prompts via phone. Last call for testimony; three, two, one. Chair, seeing no individuals wishing to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So at this time, then, I'd like to close public testimony and receive any written testimony with your permission.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So we are--thank you. So closing public testimony.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so now we can go into deliberations. Members, anybody have questions for the resource? Member....Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Oh, exciting times. We've been waiting for this so long. I feel like...oh my gosh. Okay. So my...my great concern is in terms of the engagement piece. So...and I see that we have a budget amended for 100,000. I'm thinking \$100,000 to do all what is mentioned in the agreement. And I'm just wondering if this is sufficient for what the contractor is going to have to do in

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terms of engagement. Because part of the...the great part of the engagement is making sure that they're engaging with all the different groups that we talked about. I think was a couple of months ago when I first went to one of the broadband meetings, and they're talking about engaging our rural community, individuals who are in under-served locations, individuals who are disabled, individuals who are incarcerated. And I'm just wondering what is...what does that look like in terms of...of...of...of engagement, in terms of all of these, to ensure that all of the people that are listed...I think the nine groups that are listed are going to be able to be participants and get their feedback?

MS. JENKINS: Chair, is it okay if I speak?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes. Please...please proceed.

MS. JENKINS: So in terms of the first part of your question on is \$100,000 a sufficient amount of funds to conduct this community engagement. The University has told us that we can go to them and apply for more funding if that is what the County needs. \$100,000 isn't the final number that we are eligible for. If we announce that there is a need, they will provide what they can. And then in terms of making sure we engage with the covered populations identified in the digital equity plan, that is what the coalition is for. We've brought to the table a lot of nonprofits who work directly with these covered populations. And so since they know that community best, they are representatives of what the needs are. They work with us in the coalition to identify that...create action steps to implement strategies that will bring digital equity to those residents.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Is it possible to get a list of all of these coalitions who will begin working with the nine groups?

MS. JENKINS: Yes, of course.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we're going to send you a letter requesting for that information for Miss...Member Kama. So we'll send that. Okay. Any more questions? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your opening remarks. I really appreciate it and very exciting times for broadband access. I have a question about the cap, the community...the outreach you guys are planning to do. You said you're going to...every six months you're going to do it all over again. Is...can you clarify that timeline of the six months with the cap?

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MS. JENKINS: So we're not...or recreating a community engagement plan. We're just revising. So in coordination with the State's five-year action plan, in their initial proposal there's all these steps. And so for this spring term a lot of it is going to be revolving around the challenge process. So in this revised community engagement plan, we are incorporating that into the activities we want to hold in the communities and on the outer islands. And so what I foresee for the July through December 2024 community engagement plan is to work with nonprofits, local government, and those types of entities to go after competitive and...yeah, competitive grants and things like that that will be released from the NTIA.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. This is just a side note. Thank you for your response. I...you know, there's very few companies that know this type of topic. And I...I tell you, Mark Harmer from Harmer Communications...I don't know if you guys have been in contact with him, but he comes to Lānaʻi and works on our broadband, and he's--I met him in conservation when I was up on the mountain doing work, and he's up on the mountain. And I just think that those kind of folks who really know our community and the broadband needs--include him if you can. His name's Mark Harmer of Harmer Communications. I think he...he would have a lot to say. And maybe he would be...would help you in your outreach. So just letting you know. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Johnson. Anybody else have questions? Okay. Oh go ahead, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair, and mahalo for that presentation. Real quick, I know that Hawaiian Tel is currently working on some...putting up fiber optics on the backs...the east end of Maui. Are you guys part of that? Or would you guys be working with such agencies?

MS. JENKINS: I know that they've had a few projects already underway, and we do stay in communication with them as it does relate to the work that we're doing. For instance, in terms of understanding the priorities of Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi, we did not have to put as much attention towards broadband infrastructure since Hawaiian Tel just went onto those islands and put in fiber optics. So having...in regards to them being unserved or underserved, that was not an area that we had to focus on. We're pivoting to focus more on the digital equity side with getting them affordable internet service plans, technology, digital literacy classes, and things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Good work Hawaiian Tel is doing, as they presented. Member Paltin, did you have a question?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just was wondering if part of the outreach is when the systems fail, because that's what we experienced in Lāhainā. Like, we had pretty good coverage, and then nothing at all worked, and there was no communication. Like, is that being addressed as part...part of the outreach?

MS. JENKINS: Yes, in the digital equity plan, that was one of the strategies for making everything that's coming to the State more resilient. And in the...at the launch of the MDEC meeting, we actually broke people out into groups and had everyone look at the seven strategies that were highlighted in the plan. And that strategy was one that was very favorable given the recent tragedy in Lāhainā and in Kula. And so that is something that will continue to be kept in our minds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kula lost telephone and internet as well?

MS. JENKINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then how are you doing your outreach to Lāhainā residents?

MS. JENKINS: Yes, I remember corresponding with you over email a few weeks ago. We did want to hold...well, we have a meeting tentatively scheduled for next week, Tuesday in Lāhainā. And at first UH really wanted to hold the meeting with residents. But, internally, we felt that to keep the sensitivity around what all those residents just lost, we decided that we didn't want to ask people to take speed tests or see if their residence is unserved or underserved on our map when they no longer have a home. We just felt that was not the best strategy. So we are reaching out to nonprofits, the Lāhainā Advisory Team, to better engage what the priorities and needs of Lāhainā are in this next...or in this challenge process that is about to start in April.

MS. ABRAHAM: And I'll also add, part of the function of the MDEC Committee is to help us identify ways to engage. So the MDEC Committee is meeting next week, and that's definitely something that they can discuss as far as what would be the best way to engage with Lāhainā. Because there is certainly the sensitivity around what...what they're dealing with. And we don't want to take away from the...the overall impact of what a lot of people are experiencing there. So with that said, we do want to do engagement work. Councilmember, if you have any suggestions of ways to engage with the community there, we'd certainly be open to your suggestions. And we'll also work with the Committee to look at ways that are in respect to the situation that people are dealing with out there, the best ways to engage with that community moving forward. But we do certainly look to get feedback from Lahaina. That is a very big piece of what...what...of the work that we're doing. And we're open to any suggestions that you have as ways to engage other than what Jolie mentioned.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just would say that the Upper West Side still has houses. So maybe through Maui Preparatory Academy, or Citizen Church, or something like that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. JENKINS: Yes, they're all on our list of groups that we're reaching out to.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Good questions, right. So anybody else have any questions for the resources? Okay. So if not then, I'm going to make my recommendation and--oh, I'm sorry. What? Somebody else. Oh, sorry, Member Kama, I didn't see your hand. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. So...so similar to what Member Paltin was asking in terms of how do you access...or how do you look at engaging in the Hawaiian homestead communities across our county?

MS. JENKINS: So we have been working with Department...of Hawaiian Home Lands, and they are doing their own engagement out there, as they have funds that's been given to them from NTIA to conduct community engagement and...and also deploy broadband and digital equity projects in Hawaiian Homesteads and Home Lands. So we're partnering to sort of have a like...yeah, collaboration on that piece.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So will they be submitting a report to you folks so that you can fold it in to your folks' report?

MS. JENKINS: I believe they're sending a report to NTIA.

MS. ABRAHAM: Councilmember Kama --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- I'll...I'll address that --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- as well. I believe that a lot of that work with DHHL is happening at the State level. So the --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- the outreach that they're doing, across the state, with DHHL will be shared at --

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- the State level and folded into the overall plan moving forward. So those pieces will definitely be addressed as they trickle down to the County. But as far as --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- DHHL engagement is concerned --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- I think it's --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- kind of twofold. It's happening at the State level through their own outreach, but also there's ways --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- that we'll engage with that community through our County outreach as well --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- and just --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- our everyday outreach and also like surveys. --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. ABRAHAM: And there's ways that that will be folded in as well.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. Thank you so very much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Next, we have Member Sinenci, then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just a question for Ms. Abraham. So can...will this group be working with the County's Planning and Public Works, as far as permitting? I think the County permitting process is where we need to help

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some of these broadband installations get passed, or if we can prioritize broadband infrastructure with the permitting process.

MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you for that question, Councilmember Sinenci. Yes. So what's happening right now is we are in the phase of engagement. So right now we're trying to identify, specifically, what the issues are that need to be addressed. The piece that you're talking about will come later in this process, when we start to identify actual projects that will address the challenges. So when we get to that point --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. ABRAHAM: -- obviously, yes, we will be working internally with our Administration on ways that we can address certain projects that are going to be needed. And that will be likely utilizing this funding to address different broadband needs. So we're a ways off from that, at this point. But, yes, down the road I see that that will definitely be an issue as we start...as we start working on, you know, specific broadband infrastructure and those types of projects moving forward.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. This...these discussions made me start thinking about folks who are ALICE, which is Access Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed. How...how...how are you folks working with the ALICE population? It's about half of our County households that don't earn a household survival budget. Are you factoring affordability into the questions about the access?

MS. JENKINS: Yeah. So all of those are addressed in the strategies that's located in the digital equity plan as part of one of the goals for MDEC. It's coming up with action steps to address those issues and implement those strategies into the communities. And that's where some of our partners come into play who work directly with those covered populations, can lend their expertise and knowledge, and sort of help to lay the foundation for addressing that.

MS. ABRAHAM: And I'd just like --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Some of those--oh, go ahead.

MS. ABRAHAM: Sorry, Councilmember Johnson, I just wanted to add that early on, even before Jolie came on, one of the things that the...that our committee...our Statewide Broadband Committee was looking at is we did take the ALICE report and implement that into everything included with our strategies around

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engagement. So that is very prevalent in the work that we're doing. And was, initially, one of the guiding documents that we utilized to identify disadvantaged or disconnected communities in our efforts to make sure that we're reaching out to everyone.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's wonderful news. Thank you so much. You mentioned some of your partners. I would assume MEO, or any...who...who are some of your partners that are reaching the ALICE population?

MS. JENKINS: Yeah. So currently we have around 35 partners who have come to the table and have agreed to be a part of the coalition here on Maui. MEO is one of them. We also have representatives from healthcare, those who work with people with disabilities. We have someone covering every covered population that was identified in the initial digital equity research.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 35 partners, that's substantial. Thank you so much for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Any other questions before I go into recommendations? Okay, seeing none. So at this time, Members, I would like to entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 6 (2024), entitled A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, RECOMMENDING [sic] THE HAWAII BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT, which is, BEAD, PROGRAM INITIAL PLANNING FUNDS, incorporating any...any nonsubstantive revisions. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So move.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So moved. Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So motion made by Member Cook. Second by Member Kama. And at this time then, I'd like to entertain a motion to do a substitution of Bill 6 ('24) with the revised version provided by the Mayor in his correspondence dated February 2nd, 2024.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So move.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So moved. Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by...second by Member Kama, and thank you. And it is in Granicus number 4. As I mentioned earlier, this new version of the bill accounts

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for the Administration already developing an outreach program, which we heard about. Also that they also submitted a report, which I think they said was last week, some of the things that they needed to do that we didn't do because of what you heard them say, because of the wildfires. So Administration, you have anything else you would like to add about the substitution bill?

MS. ABRAHAM: Not at this time, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion, Members? If not, then, I'd like to take a vote on the amendment. All in favor, say aye. Aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Member...Chair Lee left, as well as...who is not here? So is that eight ayes and one excused? Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. So eight ayes. Motion passes.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Lee.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE amendment to main motion

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So now we'll take the main motion, as amended. All in favor say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. This...this is eight ayes and one excused, which is Chair Lee. Motion carries.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Lee.**

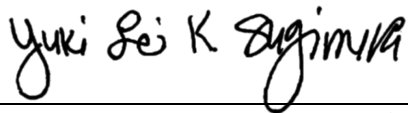
MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending **FIRST READING** of Bill 6, CD1 (2024) by C.R.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, we are done with our long agenda. Thank you very much for coming today and appreciate your hard work. Thank you very much, Laks. And thank you very much, Jolie Jenkins. Good job. You look like you've been doing this for a long time. So Members, at this time, I'd like to adjourn this meeting. And it is now 10:52. And thank you for allowing me to go on and without taking a break. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 10:52 a.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

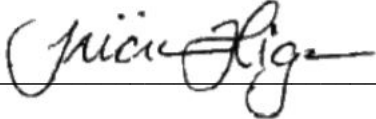
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CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 43 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 18th day of February 2024, in Mililani, Hawaii



Tricia Higa